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THE IMPACT OF ADOLESCENCE IN CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE'S DRAMA, THE
TRAGICAL HISTORY OF DOCTOR FAUSTUS

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ABSTRACT

Dr. Faustus is about the thinking of an adolescent. From the beginning of his adolescence towards its end. As an adolescent, he doesn't want to be an engineer, doctor or lawyer as he wishes to be all, not just one. His developing body, mind, thinking led him to think that he is the god father, so why just be an individual having one quality, one art or one identity. But with the passage of time, as adolescence passes away, the reality appears to him slowly. He feels that the system i.e. prevailed in this world doesn't let him to be the person who have all the qualities, instead of this he has to choose a particular field or a particular way& this despairs him. But the cry for power never blurred from his eyes. Actually the logic behind to achieve all the knowledge is to resemble to god with the knowledge of many fields. So that no one should challengehim in the field of knowledge. As knowledge is the only thing resembles with one of the feature of god. As god is one who has the knowledge of everything.

Keywords: knowledge, God, Adolescence, Resemble, Adolescent.

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Dr. Faustus is an allegory of the experiences of Christopher Marlowe from one perspective. As Christopher does not belongs to rich family and his father was mere a shoe maker, but despite of this, he never quit and got educated from the prestigious university i.e. Cambridge, about whom every one desires, so this led him to proud over himself. He feels that he defeated every one, whether poor or rich & even defeats the god, who creates him as a poor fellow. His education and his hard work led him to think, that he was in combat with god and Marlowe emerges as winner, as he don't let god to remain Marlowe illiterate, uneducated, because of the conditions that Marlowe suffer.

On the other hand Marlowe was highly religious, he believes in god & in religious rituals, but highly affected by his age, particularly by the period what we call adolescence, led him to feel as he is the rebel of god's religion & is standing against god.

Because of this he always curses himself, but on the other hand his age, his education, his knowledge, his hardwork makes him to feel superior than anyone & comparable to god. What we all feel & experience when we are adolescents. We never want to commit a sin, but our desires, which dominates us at that instant does not let us to go without fulfill them, without to live them & without to feel them. But the turning point in an adolescent begins after the accomplishment of the sensual desire. Because afterwards, he start cursing himself, even abuses himself, but just for one day,as in adolescent effect remains just for one day. Then on next day,an adolescent wish to full fill his desire in a new way, in a new day, in a new style, in a new environment, so to make it more interesting. But before committing the same deed, what adolescent promises to. An adolescent promise to himself, that not to commit this sin again, got reminded of his promise.

Christopher shows this as:

“Man run away, man run-away”

But the effect of his lust is more than that of the promise, as promise was made yesterday & the desire of the sinful deed is of today & as adolescent lives in present not in past or future. So he consoles himself that this will be my last sinful deed & after this, I will never again commit this & also god is great so he will forgive me.

Christopher said this as:

“No man’s sins are too great for god to forgive “

Thereafter when he accomplishes his deed, he starts again cursing him-self badly, why, why I commit. These deeds will destroy my future. I am the worst entity in this world. I don’t deserve to be the part of the society, and I don’t deserve to think that I am the best than any one. I deserve only death, as then I will stop to commit these sinful deeds.

Christopher expresses this feeling as:

“Ah Christ, my savior-save distressed Faustus soul”

But as the day passes, ultimately effect got blurred & an individual enters into same activities & faces same faith.

The last but not the least effect that Christopher shows in Faustus is interesting. As it shows how an individual, who just crosses his adolescence, ponders over his future life by reminding the life of past, what he lived once & how he is careful about his future. Since he doesn’t want, the people with whom he resides look him with suspicious eyes, because this will in turn ruin his future life & also the life of those who were going to elope him in future.The arrogance that born in an individual lasts for a very long time. The adolescent is not able to handle his knowledge, his fame, his beauty, his muscular strength & his wealth, in a right way or in a right direction& enters into the activities, where he want to make others to feel inferior, in front of him & teases others.

Christopher shows this as:

Sweet Mephistopheles, thou pleasest me.
Whilst I am here on earth, let me be cloy’d
With all things that delight the heart of man:
My four-and-twenty years of liberty
I’ll spend in pleasure and in dalliance,
That Faustus’ name, whilst this bright frame doth stand,
May be admir’d thorough the furthest land.

For an adolescent, there is no limit of arrogance & it increases day by day. He feels that his arrogance is because of his any quality he possesses like because of his knowledge, muscularity, beauty etc. So he wants increment in that particular quality, which he feels, is responsible for his fame & admiration. Thus puts additional efforts to increase that specialty, for showoff & for satisfaction. Being adolescent, means being childish by brain & adult by body. This double identity puts an adolescent into dilemma. He is not able to decide, who actually he is. When someone praises him for wrong doings, he got affected & feels that he done something good i.e. why he got appreciation. This led him to go wrong & wrong. To get praises from the people, he can goes up to any extent. Because his primary intention is to be prominent among the rest & for that he should be the best. So he indulged into activities, like growing long hair or to wear some odd or fast color clothes& behaves like that he knows everything despite of knowing nothing even about himself.

This thing in Dr. Faustus, Christopher expresses as:

“Had I as many souls as there be stars, “I did give them all for Mephistopheles” to him
(Beelzebub)
I will build an altar& church” “and offer lukewarm blood of new born babies”

But the reality of life is different. As the pride & arrogance is time being. A man has to get old & a man has to die. This pinches the heart of an adolescent. So he starts cursing himself by remembering his past. The eternal truth that annoys an adolescent is that, it was because of arrogance that the beloved angel of god turns into the chief ruler of all evil spirits. His aspiring pride & insolence brought about his downfall. Therefore he curses that particular thing, deed or quality which led him to be a sinner. Whether it was voluptuous pleasure or it was pride of knowledge, beauty or of manhood. He is aware of the fact that, he has to leave this world one day. Nothing is eternal except god. But he doesn't want to be among those, who were blazed by god& dejected by world. Thus he wants to surrender, but feels too late.

Christopher expresses this as:

“Ugly hell, gape not! Come not, Lucifer! I will burn my books!-Ah, Mephistopheles.
My god, my god, Look not so fierce on me! Adders & serpents, Let me breathe a while!

At the conclusion of drama Christopher advices to the world through the speech of chorus that-Faustus, the great scholar who was so dear to Apollo, the god of learning met with tragic death. Hence, all the wise men are called upon to keep away from ungodly practices. In the sensebeing humans or adolescents can't lead us to go wrong. We are the best species in the universe so we should remain the best. Our desires should not dominate us in lieu of we should dominate them. We can't let us, to be mere particles of sand whom the breeze flown from here & there. We are born as mountains by which the planet is stable. So we should understand our capabilities & our matter of creation. We can't be created for just voluptuous pleasures or to pass time here. We are the chosen species. So it is our duty to know our creation&to search the reality that belongs to us.

Let the wise people never practice unlawful things, not permitted by heavenly power.

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