



Description of Parental Influence in “East of Eden” by John Steinbeck

Ganieva Orzigul Khayriddinovna, PhD ¹

¹ Associate professor, Bukhara State University

Abstract: John Steinbeck's novel “East of Eden”, celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, has been the subject of many literary studies for several years as one of the works that skillfully illuminates interpersonal conflicts along with human virtues. This article analyzes one of the main aspects in highlighting the influence of society on a person is the image of a harmonious relationship between father and son. In the novel, families with a positive environment are contrasted with families with an unhealthy environment. By this, the author emphasizes the importance of the social environment in the upbringing of children, and how important it is for them to develop as a mature person in the future. John Steinbeck reflected various social problems through the diverse world of his characters in the novel. The author's unique approach to this work is reflected in his composition, the development of each character in the course of events.

Keywords: John Steinbeck, novel, reality, image, literary critic, society, character, humanity, social, relation.

I. Introduction

Every literary work is a product of the author's inner feelings and life experiences and shows the face of the world. Naturally, the truth of life is embodied in it. In addition to depicting the truth, a real literary work can also deeply embody the feelings of a person, their fate, the processes of their psyche, and the depths of their hearts. Commenting on the content of works with real artistic power, literary critic M. Bakhtin notes that there are works related to the word "universe" in the literary context but not related to the universe. "The examples of such creations are born, live, and die on the pages of modern periodicals," says the critic [1; 35]. Even if years and centuries pass, works that do not lose their literary value and can serve as a basis for reaching conclusions such as living rightly for people and remaining loyal to humanity are immortal.

The novel "East of Eden" by John Steinbeck, whose seventieth anniversary is being celebrated this year, is one of those examples of word art that skillfully illuminates interpersonal conflicts along with human virtues. The novel "East of Eden" is a story about Americans, and the events cover the period from 1860 to 1918. The author chooses his native Salinas as a place. The novel depicts the lives of Samuel Hamilton (maternal grandfather) and the Adam Trask family, the fate of three generations. John Steinbeck comments on the meaning of life and human nature and tries to find answers to questions related to the "happy way of life" that arose during his life. The novel is figuratively called "East of Eden." The name of the main character of the work, written on the basis of the biblical story of a son who was exiled to the eastern part of paradise due to the conflict between the sons of Adam, is also figuratively called Adam (Adam). The writer tries to explain that there is a bond that unites humanity; that everyone is the child of one father and mother. The work, published in 1952, is an appeal to humanity by the author, who witnessed the negative consequences of two world wars.

II. Literature Review

The novel "East of Eden" was the result of John Steinbeck's five years of tireless and painstaking work. The work strengthened his position as a true novelist [3; 234]. The author expressed his philosophical attitude to life based on the experience he has accumulated over the years through the example of the fate of his characters in the novel. It was skillfully depicted that the human race has been in the middle of the struggle between goodness and evil since the day it was created, and it is in his hands which path he chooses during his life, and he can find strength in entering the right path. The fate of people who were victims of the irreconcilable conflict between good and evil, who won, and managed to preserve their true human virtue, was embodied in the example of the Hamiltons and the Trask family. If we pay attention to the novel, it would not be an exaggeration to call it a novel, because in the last parts of the work, the sibling rivalry between Caleb and Aaron, who will become the main characters, is described. The novel can be called a story about human destiny. In his work, John Steinbeck stresses that it is important to preserve the qualities of humanity that are disappearing among people and emphasizes that mutual loyalty, trust, and sincere ties are important in life. The development of such qualities in a positive environment is rare. On the contrary, the increase of villains in a negative society was shown by the example of the fate of the heroes. In "East of Eden", the happy marriage of Samuel Hamilton and Lisa Hamilton, the upbringing of conscientious children in a family built on the basis of sincere relations, and the benefit they bring to society become important. On the contrary, Cyrus Trask's fraud and self-interest will be "inherited" by his son Charles.

III. Results And Discussion

In "East of Eden", one of the main aspects in highlighting the influence of society on man is the image of harmonious relationship between father and son. In the novel, families with positive environments are contrasted with families with unhealthy environments. With this, the author emphasizes how important the social environment is in the upbringing of children, and how important it is for them to develop as a perfect person in the future. "East of Eden" follows the lives of three generations of the Trask family, Cyrus Trask - Adam Trask - Caleb Trask. At the beginning of the novel, Cyrus Trask does not treat his sons Charles and Adam the same way, the disparate attention given to Adam makes Charles angry. "*Adam's father Cyrus was something of a devil - had always been wild*" [8]. The cruelty of Cyrus, sacrifice of any person for his own interests, selfishness is conveyed to the reader from the beginning of the work. It is not difficult to understand this not only in his behavior and attitude towards the people around him, but also from the author's opinion about him. The writer shows in the case of Charles that family ties are important in a person's life, that qualities such as attention and kindness can lead a person to a good path and save him from evil. "*His dark face took on the serious expressionless of a man who is almost always alone. He missed his brother more than he missed his mother and father. He remembered quite inaccurately the time before Adam went away as the happy time, and he wanted it to come again*" [8]. Cyrus Trask's selfishness, stubbornness, and lack of interest in his children's opinions make Charles, a rough and hot-tempered person, a more cruel and unloving person. A warm and sincere feeling in the heart of the hero, condemned to loneliness, is shown when he remembers his brother. Also, his hard work and perseverance, his love for the motherland, and skill in farm work are emphasized, that even the most evil actions do not cause the hatred of his fellow villagers. The author describes how the father's neglect or rude attitude can change the fate of the child for a lifetime, using the example of Charles's wasted life.

Adam Trask is the eldest son of the family, this hero with a soft nature is cheerful, but very hollow and inexperienced, so he becomes a victim of the cunning and brutality of the cruelest woman in the novel, Cathy. Adam, who is mentioned as the main character in the first part of the work, is shown to be kind but flawed, making bad decisions at several crucial moments. His biggest flaw is his gullibility and his inability to understand the true nature of people. Because of this, his father hurts him without understanding the deceitfulness of Cyrus and the self-interest and selfishness of his wife Cathy. "*Young Adam was always an obedient child. Something in him shrank from violence, from contention, from the silent shrieking tensions that can rip at a house. He*

contributed to the quiet he wished for by offering no violence, no contention, and to do this he had to retire into secretness, since there is some violence in everyone. He covered his life with a veil of vagueness, while behind his quiet eyes a rich full life went on. This did not protect him from assault but it allowed him an immunity [8]. As Adam grows up as child obedient, avoiding cruelties around him, a victim of harsh relations in his family, he tries to become a loving and happy family head in the future and raises loving children. Although at the beginning of his life he is influenced by generous people like his father and brother, he does not betray his humanity and retains his identity from the beginning to the end of the novel. On the example of Adam, the author emphasizes that a person must overcome any difficulties of fate with fortitude and preserves his qualities such as humanity and honesty.

John Steinbeck reflected various social problems through the diverse world of his characters in the novel. Although "The Grapes of Wrath" is considered the masterpiece of the author, "East of Eden" is one of the works close to his heart, and many critics note that this novel is the second mature creative product of the writer [4; 238]. In fact, we can see that John Steinbeck had a special approach to this work in his composition, in the development of each character in the development of events, and in the special language of the work. In the process of describing the details of the fate of three generations, the writer mainly points to the fact that he is the cause of good and bad people, which path he chooses is more his struggle to find his identity. John Steinbeck's complex images encourage the reader to observe. But his positive characters, even if they move side by side with their negative heroes, try to influence them by keeping their true human qualities. The Hamiltons live next door to the Trasks and influence the behavior of Adam Trask and his family in many ways. Adam's cruel wife is by Adam's side even when he gives up on Cathy's babies, sympathizing with him as he raises them as both father and mother.

In the novel "East of Eden", the character of Samuel Hamilton is contrasted with the character of Cyrus Trask. All his evil deeds are described one after the other with the good deeds of Samuel. When Cyrus bequeaths to his offspring the great sin of theft, Samuel, who has never acquired material wealth, and who possesses true human qualities, presents his children with the love of loyalty and close family ties. The author expresses his attitude about this family as follows: *"All in all it was a good firm-grounded family, permanent, and successfully planted in the Salinas Valley, not poorer than many and not richer than many either. It was a well-balanced family with its conservatives and its radicals, its dreamers and its realists. Samuel was well pleased with the fruit of his loins"* [8]. Samuel and Lisa Hamilton build a beautiful and prosperous family, in which children of different natures grow up. But all of them, as representatives of a small social stratum in America, not only benefit the society, but also cause positive changes in the fate of the people around them. In their image, the author embodies the example of responsible, caring and loving children.

An intelligent reader who reads the novel "East of Eden" will be sure that the author used all his creative potential and created a mature work of art. The novel, which has a slightly different form and content from previous works, shows that the writer has applied all the knowledge he acquired in order to describe the reality of life throughout his life [2;98]. In the novel "East of Eden" consisting of five parts and fifty-five chapters, the fate of so many characters is covered, from an ordinary hardworking person to the happy and sad moments of a successful, triumphant person. The author was able to reflect the prevailing situation and spiritual problems in the whole country on the example of the people living in the Salinas Valley. In most cases, John Steinbeck made extensive use of dialogues, gestures and facial expressions, as well as directly expressing his reaction to the actions of the characters. This can be witnessed especially in the depiction of the inner and outer world of female characters. *"It is my belief that Cathy Ames was born with the tendencies, or lack of them, which drove and forced her all of her life. Some balance wheel was misweighted, some gear out of ratio. She was not like other people, never was from birth. And just as a cripple may learn to utilize his lack so that he becomes more effective in a limited field than the uncrippled, so did Cathy, using her difference, make a painful and bewildering stir in her world"* [8].

One of the most complex characters in the novel is Cathy, who has an unprecedented negative impact on the society she belongs to. When the family in which she lived becomes disorganized, the people who showed him love will suffer and even be punished. While the mother is alive, her children grow up without a mother. The author openly expresses his attitude to his hero, admits that such people, realizing their evil, try to use him as much as possible, ruin the lives of the people around him. But we cannot say that all female characters in the novel are described in this way. Because female characters such as Lisa Hamilton, who cares for her children incomparably, Olive, who was not indifferent during the war, contributed to the cause of the war, and the kind and sincere Abra, are somewhat close to the hardworking and kind heroes in real life.

IV. Conclusion

In conclusion, it should be noted that, although it was created in a different place, in John Steinbeck's novel "East of Eden" the universal idea of humanity, mutual sincere relations and preservation of kindness and goodness in them is put forward. The author emphasizes that in the struggle between good and evil, it is important for a person to choose the right path, to live without betraying his humanity. On the example of the Trasks and Hamilton families depicted in the novel, he described the importance of interaction issues in child-parent, neighbor-neighbor relationships. The novel depicting such a real life is eternal; it has not lost its literary charm and remains among the world's masterpieces.

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