

Reflection of Death in the selected poems of Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath

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A thesis submitted to the Department of English and Humanities in partial fulfilment of

the requirements for the degree of

Bachelor of Arts in English

The Department of English and Humanities

BRAC University

September 2021

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Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The thesis submitted is my own original work while completing degree at BRAC University.
2. The thesis does not contain material previously published or written by a third party, except where this is appropriately cited through full and accurate referencing.
3. The thesis does not contain material which has been accepted, or submitted, for any other degree or diploma at a university or other institution.
4. I have acknowledged all main sources of help.

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Approval

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Abstract

Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath are the well-known poets among all greatest American poets. Death is a prevalent theme of both Dickinson and Plath. The poets expressed the trauma of their lives and thoughts of death according to their sight. Death is an unabated touchstone for life according to Dickinson's perspective. She reflected the most crucial reality of life "Death" in majority of her poems. She was concerned about the supreme rituality of death. A panoramic sight of different issues such as God, life, religion, Nature, love, immortality, afterlife was investigated by both Dickinson and Plath's poems. There will be analysed the sorrows, sufferings and experiences of their life that reflects throughout their death-themed poetry. However, death is such powerful reality that reveals not only the contradictions, absurdities of the author's life, but also directly connected with ours. Throughout study of this theme in this paper, it will be mentioned that death is such a painful aspect, that always stay beside us like a friend. So, the aim of this paper is to examine and critically analyse these images and thoughts of death in some selected poems of Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath very closely and faithfully.

Keywords: Sylvia Plath, Emily Dickinson, Death, Life, Trauma, Personal Enemy, Suicide.

Dedication

I dedicate this paper to the Almighty Allah

Acknowledgement

All praises belong to Allah, The Most Gracious, who has allowed me to complete this dissertation with much more ease than I had ever expected. I can never be grateful enough.

My utmost gratitude goes to my supervisor, Ms. Anika Saba, without whom I cannot imagine completing my thesis. Thank you so much for having patience with all my silly questions, for helping me throughout every step of the process and for always encouraging me, even when I was on the verge of giving up. I could not have asked for a better supervisor and mentor. I send you all my heartfelt love and gratitude. I would also like to thank all my teachers at BRAC University, from whom I have learnt so much. It was a privilege to be their student.

To my friends, my emotional support system, thank you a thousand times. Without you all, my self-doubt and anxiety would have eaten me up. All the difficult days were worth it, because you all were a part of it.

And lastly, to my parents; I would have never imagined making a career out of my hobby, if it wasn't for the both of you constantly pushing me to do what I love most. Thank you for always understanding me and being there for me, and of course, for all the special edition hardcovers. But, thank you is too small of a word for all that you have done for me. Love you to the moon and back, and then some more.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

“Death is an art, like everything else, I do it exceptionally well” (9), this line has been written by the American poet Sylvia Plath in her poem named “Lady Lazarus”. Though the theme “death” is exceptionally not interested to all of us, the idea of the theme death has been prevalent in literature. Many poets often tried to avoid this subject but along with Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath many other poets embraced and upheld their life's trauma and the theme of death in their writings. This theme is sometimes portrayed as a haunting complex phenomenon or else gateway to eternal life. Death has been represented by the poets digging into the dark side of life, death and afterlife. Their personal life's trauma also has been impacted on their poems of death.

1.a Life of the Poets

Emily Dickinson was one of the most significant and influential figures in the time of nineteenth century. Dickinson was born in Amherst on 10th December, 1830 in Massachusetts. She born in a prominent family with strong ties to its community. After studying at the Amherst Academy for seven years, she briefly attended the Mount Holyoke Female Seminary before returning to her family's house in Amherst. Additionally, Dickinson lived much of her life in isolation. Dickinson and her sister never married. She was a respected eminent intellectual. She played a significant and multifarious role that made her creations more Supreme than other contemporary American poets. Her genuine, powerful and imaginary mind made her works more mysterious which were considered iconic in American literature. There are so many reasons prove that her works had much hostility against tradition and some religious dogmas. The age of Dickinson became complex and burdened one by conflicting against tradition during the declaration of independence of the United States of America from Great Britain in 1776. There is no doubt that her poetry had

extraordinary meaning from any other models of her era. Emily Dickinson used to write poetry of great power questioning the nature of death, God, lives, immortality, religion, love, nature and so on (13). She also had to see numerous tragic deaths of her friends which eventually force her to seek solution and lead a sorrowful life science was less developed than and the people died from simple symptoms. These predestination situations let her arise encouraging writing the poetry of death. However, the other poet, Sylvia Plath was an American novelist and poet. Plath committed suicide for the first time in 1963. In 1982, Plath became the first person to win a posthumous Pulitzer Prize. She was born on October 27th, 1932 in Boston, Massachusetts (3). Plath was a gifted and troubled poet known for the confessional style of her work. Her interest in writing emerged at an early age and she started out keeping a journal. After publishing a number of works, Path own a scholarship to Smith College in 1915. Plath spent time in New York City during the summer of 1953 for working Mademoiselle Magazine as a guest editor. At her young age, she tried to kill herself first time by taking sleeping pills of her mother. Later on, she recovered receiving treatment staying in a mental health facility. Plath returned to Smith College and finished her degree in 1955. Then, she met Ted Hughes there. Plath and Hughes got married in 1956. They gave birth to her first child, a daughter named Frieda in 1960 (11). Two years later, life and Hughes welcomed their second child, a son named Nicholas. Unfortunately, the couple's marriage was falling apart. She is still a highly regarded and much studied poet to these days. Plath experienced a very troubled life and had eventually a tragic death.

1.b Dickinson and Plath's Impression on Death

Her death poems talk about death and immortality. Also, she reprinted the personification of death and physical aspects of death. In some of her poems, some pathetic notes can also be seen by the readers. Although the theme of death has been a subject of scrutiny for many literary authors and other philosophers. Rather than representing death in its traditional

mundane outlook, it had been made fascinating, cryptic and fantastic according to Emily Dickinson's perspective. She was so attached with death that she one fourth of her poetry revolves around the theme "Death" and she had a life full of traumatic with her illness. Dickinson got ambitious to capture the tragedy of human life throughout her death poetry. Therefore, Emily Dickinson treated the theme very specially in her poetry that had been regarded as one of her fabulous contributions to American literature. More than five hundred poems of Emily Dickinson were written. All these death poems display a sincere attempt understanding the true nature of death and trauma of life. She repeatedly confronted with the cycle of human existence. She used to believe from birth to death and birth again to afterlife. The attitude towards the theme death of Dickinson different from poem to poem. Though she commonly portrayed death as a very welcoming and escaping period from life's tension, death has been shown in every possible perspective. She used her deep ideas and imaginary power taking different contradictory images and personalities such as a king, a lover, a cunning courtier, a democrat, a coachman, a brutal killer, a wild beast and so on. On the other hand, Sylvia Plath is a famous American author who also considered the theme death exceptionally. Death is one of the major themes of this female poet Sylvia Plath, since she led a very traumatic and depressive life with full of sorrows and sufferings. Though the theme of death in Sylvia Plath's poetry is the only theme in which modern reader can find discomfort and pain, many of her poems elaborated explorations of the concept of death. It also can be said that this theme was her major preoccupation which can be seen from the evidence of her life story that traumatised her badly. In her life, she had so many ups and down and various intervals in her life. She attempted suicide for tree times and eventually death by suicide. She seemed very happy and charming but over the course of time she had been gone in severe depression and breakdown inside for so many worldly reasons. Her poetry gives the readers the depth insight of treatments of death and suicide. Before she killed herself, she wrote her

last poem where she was reflected with enticing that can help her achieve some end. To her, death is sort of a cruel allure that torture her plain to see. She took death as more like a treatment that can arrive her to the final destination. She wrote about death as if it is nothing but an insistent fixation. At first, trauma of death came to her poetry after the sudden death of her father. Plath felt the difficulties of her emotional life which influenced her negatively. However, after losing her father she got married and found a motive to live happily. Along with their children they got a successful life with their poetic improvements. But her husband, “Ted Hugh’s love affair with another woman completely broke down Plath.” (10)

Eventually, she left her husband and wrote so many vengeance, despair and love poems. These poems accepted slowly and eventually, she killed herself putting her head in an active oven. This type of tragic death of her also reflects such techniques as imaginary, tone, language and structure of her poems. The confessional poetry of Plath has drawn the readers that they also sink into her emotions which can be uncomfortable sometimes.

1.c Purpose of the Thesis

The purpose of the thesis is to analyse the trauma of the lives of the poets “Emily Dickinson” and “Sylvia Plath” that made them think about death so deeply. The paper is divided into distinct chapters including this brief introductory chapter, literature review, methodology, the textual analysis that will emphasize on Dickinson and Sylvia's death-themed poems, analysis focusing on their lives trauma about death and, finally, a conclusion. This paper will examine the thoughts of death of both Dickinson and Plath which also reflects their life’s trauma they experienced in their life. Similarly, there will have some analysis of some of their death poems to understand their impression about death more deeply.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

Many things own and lost in Emily's mind from time to time, but always death was a reminded issue of Emily the great dictator. It is a huge to deal directly one-sixth poems with death while approximately fifteen hundred poems survive. Her father was died when she was 43 years old and after eight years of her father's death, her mother died. She (her mother) died after having an invalid for seven years following a paralytic stroke. After losing her (Emily) friends, relatives, father and mother, she herself was grieving over the loss. At the hands of implacable death, she started writing more consciously.

2.a Misery of Death

She said about her mother. "She slipped from our fingers like a flake gathered by the wind, and is now part of the drift called 'the infinite'." (203) She also continues it saying "We don't know where she is, though so many tell us." (203)

"I believe we shall in some manner be cherished by our Maker - that the One who gave us this remarkable earth has the power still farther to surprise that which He has caused. Beyond that all is silence....

I cannot tell how Eternity seems. It sweeps around me like a sea...." (204)

Here she used the word "dirt" and again "sea". It seems her analogous to which means the concept of the "float". It is a bit strange that that are such two different poets writing. The similar ideas of life and death has been found on their thoughts, although they were completely unknown to each other. It has been found that their death and the nature of universe writing are quite similar. Meanwhile, Emily was not a professed Christian. She was not the member of any church like Whitman. That is why when death came to rob her, she

could only accept its tyranny questioningly saying “A soft ‘Where is she?’ is all that is left of our loved mother.” (204)

Emily Dickinson replied her beloved cousin named, Louisa and Frances Norcross with showing sympathy.

“Thank you, dears, for the sympathy. I hardly dare to know that I have lost another friend, but anguish finds it out. ... I work to drive the awe away, yet awe impels the work.... Till the first friend dies, we think ecstasy impersonal, but then discover that he. was the cup from which we drank it, itself as yet unknown.” (205)

Here, Emily made death synonymous with delight. This passage is obviously a vague one where she ended up the line with the word “unknown”. The answer of the last statement of this passage is sort of mystic. But it is certain that, the thought “unknown” is such answer as a refrain through all her three hundred and more poems and letters on death. Emily expressed her cousin how he died saying, “His big heart shot away by a ‘minie ball!’” (205). She also added in the letter that the Amherst boy was killed at Newbern during the civil war and how his (the boy) family and friends reacted around his funeral.

2.b Mystery of Death

“I tremble when I think how soon the weeks and days of this term all have been spent, and my fate will be sealed, perhaps. I have neglected the one thing needful [*italics are Emily's*] when all were obtaining it, I may never, never again pass through such a season as was granted us winter. Abiah, you may be surprised to hear me speak as I do, know that I express no interest in the all-important subject, but I am not happy and T regret that last term, when that golden opportunity was mine, th did not give up and become a Christian. It is not now too late, so my frie tell me, so my offended conscience whispers, but it is hard for me to give

up the world. . . / Am one of the lingering bad ones, and so do I slink a and pause and ponder, and ponder and pause, and do work without know why, not surely, for this brief world, and surer it is not for heaven, a I ask what this message means that they ask for so very eagerly. You know of this depth and fulness, will you try to tell me about it?"

This letter was sent to Emily's schoolgirl friend by Emily when she was Only 18 and attending the Mt. Holyoke Female Seminary. This quoted passage obviously shows that Emily's wavering attitude towards the church all through her life. A sincerely a typical part was expressed in this passage. In the last sentence that ended up with a question. She placed herself in the category of the "Lingering bad ones". It seems so a typical idea. Emily puzzled over the mystery and miracle of her life, time, eternity, God and death to the end of her life. When she grew up, her faith in immortality that commonly define the term in the Christian manner, was seemed to grow.

The curiosity about death was remarkable in Emily Dickinson's mind from the very early age of her. She used to observe that "People went away and never came back" (208). It has been also told in one of her earlier poems. Her letters and the poems are the evidences that, interest about death continued throughout her (Emily) her life.

"The poems on death fall into four classes" (208). At first, she often described in minute that has been detailed about the act of dying along with mentioning he physical fact of death imagining herself as dying. Secondly, she talked about the funeral procession that is dramatized the pageantry of death- "the bustle after death." (208) Finally, she showed death with imaginatively description of the grave saying the "apartment deep". And sometimes she talked about afterlife, which Emily so longed to believe in, yet could not be completely sure about that. (208)

2.c Rage of Plath

"Heat," "The Attic View," "The Brink," "The Dark River," and "East Wind". All of this verse is bearing the theme of her first novel "The Bell Jar". Which can be considered as a bouquet of madness and feminisms. Linda Wagner analysed this and said "fears of never finding a suitable career, a worthy husband, or her own mental health. Plath's interest in defining health and madness seems, too, to stem from these earlier fragments of stories, for all of the women characters here are at least unusual rather than normal" (9).

Sylvia actually wanted to represent the women in her society who don't get the love they deserve; they have always been neglected and deprived. This thought brought her into a phase where she had once been. Many poets pass a thought that this deprivation comes from the feeling of losing people and their loved ones in her life. At the age of eight she lost her father, though she always had a mix feeling for her father but this hurt her so badly that she started to feel deprived. She thought that her father's love was deprived from her. Then an incident, when her close friend died, she also broke down and started to relate the symptoms of her friend. Symptoms her friend was having before dying. It became clear to her that she will also die. If she lives, she will loss people around her. That was the first time when she attempted suicide in the thought of being free after death.

Again, she wrote some poetry on women's violence where they only achieve the degree and then get married. But Path thought that this is the worst part of their centuries, it's the death of women's freedom. Axelrod notes that Plath "projected her struggle for textual identity onto the figure of a partly Jewish young woman who learns to express her anger at the patriarch and at his language of male mastery, which is as foreign to her as German, as 'obscene' as murder, and as meaningless as 'gobbledygook' " (Axelrod 52).

Poet here create a magical aspect to show the evil side of male from her own voice. Aired said the poem as a light verse with "the strong, simple rhythm, the full rhymes and subtle

half-rhymes, the repetitive, incantatory vowel-sounds [which] sweep the poem along in a jaunty approximation to a ballad" (70).). Again, Alvarez believes that the poem is conveyed in a tone that "like its psychological mechanisms, is not single or simple, and she [Plath] uses a great deal of skill to keep it complex. Basically, her trick is to tell this horror story in a verse form as insistently jaunty and ritualistic as a nursery rhyme" (65). Poet here shows a story of revenge where she tried to kill herself but still back to him (father) again, but as she wasn't accepted before again, she will not be accepted that's why she devotes herself in her real-life work.

The poet maybe wasn't happy with any kind of love so as she writes "Daddy" against the speaker's father she also writes "Medusa" which was against the maternal affection. This two-poem delivered quietly same theme. She wanted to create a human character which she wanted to be but can't because of her mental instability. She always been taken care after her first attempt of suicide. It could be, that her father loved her so much and he wanted her to be safe always but that care makes her felt insecure. She thought everyone is trying to control her to bind her as she was mentally unstable. But this all perception is an imagination because not Path is alive to describe that, not her father. "Medusa" is a poem of a monster-mother, "a bitter, brutal attack on the mother of inner myth, Electra's rival or daddy's love, but at the same times her actual mother" (Stevenson 468).

Here a deep difference is shown that Sylvia Path was quite emotional about her mother but never could have any close communication. Which is also seen in some of her verses. In real life she was suffering, issues with her husband who had an extra material affair too, still being so hurt she showed a happily married couple they are in front of her mother. She repeatedly expresses this hard feeling in her poems like in "Medusa" and "The Disquieting Muses" and throughout her novel "The Bell Jar" that how much aloofness were there in between her mother and her.

2.d Self-hurt and Suicidal Attitude

Sylvia Plath used to write letters and a letter found (to her brother) where she comments on their mother's personality - "She is an abnormally altruistic person, and I have realized lately that we have to fight against her selflessness as we would fight against a deadly disease" (Letters 12 May 1953). On this topic Jung commented "The Development of Personality". As William Freedman's explanation, maybe Sylvia was inspired from the of Jung's poet's theme and said

"Set themselves the fanatical task of always "doing their best" for their children and "living only for them" this claimant ideal effectively prevents the parents from doing anything about their own development and allows them to thrust their "best" down their children's throats. This so-called "best" turns out to be the very things the parents have most badly engaged in themselves. In this way the children are goaded on to achieve their parents' most dismal failures, and are loaded with ambitions that are never fulfilled". (153)

In "Lady Lazarus" here she chose herself as the same victim as the Jewish victim. Here she said she only come back to hurt her ("enemy"¹¹, 66), she indicates the person who tortured her by saving her. She compares her with their and been aware of that. As Eileen Aird explains:

"In this poem a disturbing tension is established between the seriousness of the experience described and the misleadingly light form of poem. The vocabulary and rhythms which approximate to the colloquial simplicity of the conversational speech, the frequently end-stopped lines, and the repetitions which have the effect of mockingly counteracting the violence of the meaning, all establish the deliberately flippant note which this poem strives to achieve. ... At time that tone is hysterically strident and demanding. (36)"

Where she means a violent woman was commanding on behalf of women who had prepared herself by committing suicide several times. She was very close to explain her personal life. She lived in an imagery world where she found living in a dead woman's body is normal. "Soon, soon the flesh/ the grave ate will be / at home on me." (16- 18) As Aird's speech,

"The real world that entrapped the women is the worlds of real which is ruled by the rules of patriarchy; it is a world of holocaust and dehumanization; the women's body is depicted as divided into parts the nose, the eye pits, the hands, the keens, are shown to the peanut-crunching crowd that mocks the act of striptease and the notion of female body in the male dominated system." (Aird 37)

Again, Path said something where she mentioned that women can be monster too. After reading the "Lady Lazarus" Oberg said, "the entire symbolic procedure of death and rebirth in 'Lady Lazarus' has been deliberately chosen by the speaker. She enacts her death repeatedly in order to cleanse herself of the million filaments of guilt and anguish that torment her... these attempts at rebirth are unsuccessful until the end of the poem." (Oberg 125).

"Reflects Plath's recognition at the end of her life that the struggle between self and others and between death and birth must Govern every aspect of poetic structure . . . [its] language Poured out of some burning inner fire, though it retains the Rhythmical precision that we expect from a much less intensely Felt expression. . . . "Lady Lazarus," like "Daddy" and "Fever 103," incorporates historical material into the initiatory and Imagistic patterns." (25)

According to Jon Rosenblatt Sylvia Path was trying to connect the world of imagery and relativity both in her verse. She used too violent word to express her feeling in her "Lady Lazarus", "Daddy" and "Fever 103". Her verses were equivalent to her real life. What she was facing or struggling. Maybe she tried to relate the fact or being born and death to the

poetic verse. And create the poetic death theme. As Plath doesn't express her feeling directly to anyone so everybody just gives a thought like Jon Rosenblatt gave. He said Plath didn't get any trusted person to express the inner feelings so she chooses the poem to play her part and confess the anger through it. Though she disclosed the anger growing inside her. Still, she didn't forget the inner poet of her, she takes care of the rhythmic theory in her verse. She included the perfect structure and theory of an ideal poetry, which is also a noticeable point. This part also gives a clear indication that she actually wanted to define the poetry and all her writings with the realistic occurrence. Mainly Jon Rosenblatt says this all things depended on the lines of Plath's poetry "Lady Lazarus" it was written after her second attempt to suicide, which was actually shown as a car accident but she confessed later that, that total incident was planned by her. She writes "Lady Lazarus" by which she throws the theme of depression and anger but this anger was against those people who saved her from death.

Kathleen Margaret Lant states that the poem (Lady Lazarus) "shows how Plath's metaphorical universes collide but also how her mutually exclusive systems of representation give rise to some of the most effective and beautiful poetry she wrote" (109). Is Ariel the person about whom the poet talks so pure and clear that every single person was very corrupted inside their own. This was an inspirational poem for the women society, the inspiration of being colorful inside, and an evocation of making distance with darkness. Ann Stevenson says

"The title "Ariel," like "Medusa" carries multiple meanings; it refers to the ethereal spirit of Shakespeare's *Tempest*, but also significantly, Ariel happened to be the name of the (rather elderly, ponderous) horse on which Sylvia was learning to ride. Most potent of all, Ariel is the spirit of poetry, the romantic embodiment of inspiration or genius. In the canon of Sylvia's work, "Ariel" is supreme, a quintessential statement of all that had meaning for her." (Stevenson 20).

This poem is an indication of modern environment where a woman can also be a warrior, who can bring movements, can stand to bring a change in the world. The world in "Ariel" is a world of reality and imagination that merge to create a new spiritual world; the body of the woman- persona undergoes a metamorphosis; she leaves the world of "Dead hand" (21) and "the child's cry" (24). The persona of this poem wasn't suffering anymore. She was free like the wind blows like the sea has no bounds, like the free bird who fly all through the sky and like sky which is vast. The other person of path's poem they always fight in mind and loss the war against every negative energy and being tortured by someone who carried a black heart. She forgets the strictness of "tyrannical" poetry, releasing "herself from the 'ought's' and 'should' of her superior education, on what the right sort of people read and like" (Wagner 116). According to Van Dyne "the poems of rage polarized by the dialectic between power and deprivation, phallic mastery and erotic dependence, and speech and silence" (63). The most different perspective shown by Sylvia. Language and subject may carry the violent fiery words but the theme was serving a free liberation, where a woman won the feelings, emotions, affection, and love toward herself.

2.e Point of Departure

I have divided this chapter into two major sections. In order to accomplish, these two parts, the first section is included with the rage, violence and self-hurt attitude because of her traumatic and frustrated life of Sylvia Plath. The second part of my literature review explores Dickinson's deep observation and realization about death. This part also provides significant duration of her (Emily) life that helped her to realize about life and push her having deep thoughts about life and afterlife. It will be arranged where I have elaborated the reasons why I have chosen Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath to explore the theme death.

Chapter 3

Analysis

Though the thesis will majorly focus on the topic of death, the topic is prominently connected with the survival and tragic lives of Emily and Plath. Emily became quiet and kept herself isolated from the regular social life. On the contrary, Plath got self-violence and depressive towards her own traumatic life. They also talked about afterlife which is also related with death. These steps (life, sufferings, afterlife) of their lives, I believe, these can be found in contemporary poems.

3.a Solitude space of Emily

Emily Dickinson was one of the most significant poets of influential figures at the time of the nineteenth century. She was a respected eminent intellectual. She experienced a different life keeping herself isolated. In many of her poems, Emily Dickinson expressed her loneliness and seclusion. She discussed how wonderful these two situations can be. She used to love her loneliness and she thought she could not live without her solitude practice. She played a significant and multifarious role that made her creations more supreme which made her better than other contemporary American poets. Her genuine, powerful and imaginary mind made her works more mysterious which were really considered as iconic in the realm of American literature. There are so many reasons which prove that her works had much hostility against tradition and some religious dogmas. .

At the same time, there is no doubt that, her poetry had extraordinary meaning from any other author of her era. She chose a small mysterious world throughout her poems keeping herself isolated from society. She used her deep ideas and imaginatively power taking different contradictory images and personalities such as a king, a lover, a cunning courtier, a democrat, a coachman, a brutal killer, a wild beast and so on. Moreover, the loneliness and routinized life at home of Dickinson allowed her to be calmed down and notice everything. she was able

to observe the slant of light on winter afternoons. She got to feel funerals in her brain by letting herself be isolated. She showed us how we need quarantine to know the deepest insight of our life in different ways. She made this unusual decision in order to free herself to be a great poet. She chooses to stay alone willingly as permanent lifestyle. She thought that, time alone was essential to her to write quality writings. She considered that as a new form of freedom to live a life. she found her isolation so comfortable.

3.b Mystery of Death

There is a poem of death are discussed by Emily in the following,

Dust is the only Secret –

Death, the only One

You cannot find out all about

In his "native town." (1-4) loop

In this stanza, poet claimed a incapable of vague interpretation. She said that, dust is a secret. Using the word “secret” represents that nobody knows about it. Death has been represented as a mystery here. Emily took a playful approach by saying “native town” (207). She expressed that, we can search for so many things but death is the one, that cannot be found around us and it cannot be seen as well.

Regarding this mystery, a question can be raised that “Was Emily devoutly and mystically religious or was she an avowed agnostic? (207)

The author answered that, she was a person who had doubt true of religion, neither she was a non-believer. She did not deny the possibility of God ever in her life. Rather, she expressed in so many of her poetry and letters that, God calls us back to Him through death. Emily

Dickinson, never afraid of death. She used to believe in eternal damnation. She always wanted to have reunion with all her friends, relatives and specially with the man she loved.

3.c Fear and Imagination about Death

“I heard a Fly buzz – when I died –

The Stillness in the Room

Was like the Stillness in the Air –

Between the heaven of storm” (1-4)

This poem is metaphorically spoken by a death person (Emily) who described how she felt when she was dying. It represents the transition between life and death. Like Donne in “This is my playes last scene,” (333). Emily was interested in the mechanics of the moment of death. She talked about the last motion of a soul before the soul gets its calmness. The poet portrayed in the last part of this stanza that, she felt the room still and calm that can be felt in that calm settle between storms.

Farther, the shocking imaginary and dark ideas of this poem is similar to “Because I could not stop for Death” and “I felt a funeral, in my Brain”.

Dickinson never shied from discussing about critical topics throughout in her poems. She highlighted the different aspects of life that made her poems aesthetic and apart from other poets.

Emily chose a small mysterious world throughout keeping himself isolated from society. She worked on so many poetries about death such as, “I Felt a Funeral in my Brain”, “It was not Death for I Stood up”, “Because I could not stop for Death”, “I Heard a Fly Buzz when I died” etc.

On the contrary, Sylvia Plath was also a great poet who wrote about death and got a deep feeling about death. There were so many ups and downs that can be detected in her life. Death of her father and to be cheated by her husband Ted Hughes were the most shocking incidents in her life that made her to be depressed. She was clinically depressed most of her adult life that made her to kill herself. She poetry so well because she saw death very closely. She attempted suicide for three times. Soon after, Plath tried to kill herself by taking sleeping pills. She eventually recovered, having received treatment during a stay in a mental health facility. In addition, she lost so many friends and relatives along with her father from her life forever because of seat. So, she had that deep impression about death. To express herself. Throughout her poem. She expressed. Her pain depression. Funeral betrayal. These aspects of her poem made her poetry more powerful and realistic. She wrote her poems keeping the idea of death in her mind in poems such as "Daddy", "Lady Lazarus", "Ariel", "Edge" and so on. "Edge" is the poem that Sylvia Plath wrote before her death which is a moving and dark poem that depicts the death of a woman who committed suicide after killing her children, the poet something executed like this,

"I was ten when they buried you.

At twenty I tried to die

And get back, back, back to you.

I thought even the bones would do." (64)

When she thought she will get rid of her father another person with the same black heart entered into her life and that was her husband. In the verse she said "A man in black" (65); his shoe is black; he" stand[s] at the blackboard" (51) and has a "fat black heart" (76). Again, somehow the father's black character was relevant with the historically, Nazism and Fascism thought to be the king of brutality of war and censorship, as the father was German Nazi

officer. The paternal side was so cruel and rude that even wanting a lot the daughter could create a good relation between them. The daughter "confronts a symbolic order in which the relationship between the fragile 'inch' and the overpowering national and linguistic authority of Daddy frustrates any autonomous self-definition" (Susan Gubar 101).

At the very end we can find the women understand that death will again bring her back to her husband or to her father so she takes a chance tried to save herself from her father/husband.

This time she will born as a vampire, the substance who drinks human's blood for living, "There's a stake in your fat black heart" (76). This could produce two thought one is vampire couldn't be hurt by any living being as it is thought to be so powerful. So, after coming back to life her father or husband can't harm her with the black hurt, they have. And the second thought it delivered is maybe in the want of revenge she wanted to be the vampire, who will live upon the human's or living beings. She will kill her father or husband mainly the person who tortured her. There will be no tyrannical ruler and no tamping and she will be free. She says, "The black telephones off at the root / the voices just can't worm through" (70).

According to Susan R. Van Dyne, "[t]he aggressive back talk of the poem is aimed not merely at the patriarchal of the construction of masculinity". (49)

From her perspective the male world deal with the freedom, tyrannical character, terror, monster. She also wanted women to join that world, in her many poems she expressed this conflict between love and hate. Axelrod again said on this basis,

"For Plath, as later for Adrienne Rich, the Holocaust and the patriarchy's silencing of women were linked outcomes of the masculinise interpretation of the world. Political insurrection and female self-assertion also interlaced symbolically. In "Daddy" Plath's speaker finds her voice and motive by identifying herself as antithetical to her Fascist father. Rather than getting the Colossus "glued" and properly jointed, she wishes to stick herself "together with

glue," an act that seems to require her father's dismemberment. Previously devoted to the patriarch...she now seeks only to escape from him and to see him destroyed (55)"

A difficult struggle Plath helped to throw a poem toward the audience being the speaker of her every poem, and to describe the real perspective. And that's the main reason why everyone thought that she maybe confessing sometimes but her poems were always about being complex and difficult to understand. Axelrod mentioned that "Daddy" she sought "to demonstrate the existence of her voice, which had been silent or subservient for so long. She wrote it to prove her 'genius'" (57). A speaker here somehow turns to child, again adult, again violent. As Axelrod explains, "[t]he tensions between erudition and simplicity in the speaker's voice appears in her pairings that juxtapose adult with childlike diction: breathe or macho, you're Luftwaffe, your gobbledygook, and the other words, ancestor, Aryan, Meinkampf (57). Axelrod continues, describing Plath's technique by characterizing Plath's use of language in "Daddy" as "careful intellectual discriminations, conventionalized description, moral allegory, expressing regressive language, exhibiting regressive fantasies, repetitions, and inarticulateness" (57).

3.d Expressions of Emotion

Moreover, Sylvia Plath wrote about her own story of taking attempt to suicide.

“Out of the ash

I rise with my red hair

And I eat men like air...” (67)

It was just a real fact that happened to her. She was dying and as that was a suicide attempt, so she was happy to collapse to the death but some people saved her. This story she said as

'out of the ash' as if she became ash and was saved so she rises again to kill that person who or those who saved her life, here the word 'eat' was a metaphor term of 'kill'.

Ariel is known as the best metaphysical poem of Path, where she evolved her hatred, anger, dejection, melancholy emotions and disappointments toward her father, her husband and her mother. The poem of rebirth, death, transcendence, movement and so many actions.

3.e Death, Through the Lens of Poets

First of all, Emily Dickinson considered death a problem of her life. According to her death poems, it reflects her religious beliefs. It indicates the basis of her preoccupation with death. She was really curious about the nature of death. That she also talked about afterlife along with death. The attitude of her poetry says that she carried the idea that it is not the end of life if somebody dies once, she used to believe. She expressed that death is a beginning of new life in eternity. In the poem, "I heard a fly Buzz" motioned a state of existence and her own physical death. Death was an enemy, excitement, immortality friend and so on. Eventually, she suffered from severe hypertension, which might have led her to heart failure that caused her death. Whereas, Sylvia Plath had a view on death as being something horrible. She considers death as very dehumanized which is lack of emotions as well. At the same time, Plath connects death to life and makes an assumption that it is impossible to understand life without knowing that death exists.

I believe, Emily's idea of living alone was so helpful to observe and examine the life, death and afterlife thoroughly. It helped her to think everything so deeply. She was very much interested about death. I think, living a lonely life was important for her because, it was sort of a practice of being death as we all have to stay alone after death. Welcoming death again and again also indicates that, Emily was frightened about it. Her terrified mind made her to think about it a lot. Since she had no option to avoid death, she took it as fun for making

tension of death a bit lighter. But Sylvia Plath was more like suicidal and unrest. Depressed Plath had a lot of tragic incidents in her life. Her life was fully dramatic, that kept her soul restless more often. She was abused, cheated, deprived and so on; that urged her to hurt her own self. After having several attempts of death; at least, she successfully killed herself. It reflects that, her life was too hard to survive. She got such bad experiences from life that she did not even have any sympathy for her own life. Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath's death theme has been chosen because of their traumatic life experiences and deep thoughts about this theme. They also used their deep ideas and imaginatively power taking different contradictory images throughout their poems. They broke the boundaries of traditional writing style.

3.f Joke about Death

Le rire, Bergson posits a mutually dependent relationship between "tension and elasticity: the mutually complementary forces that life puts in play" (14). Similarly, this principle also can be found in Emily's death poems. In her case, misery and detachment are shown in a comic vision. Her profound experience of pain helped her to express the tension of this duality that she reveals throughout her poetry. On the other hand, she had the understanding of the limited nature of pain.

In 1858, Emily Dickinson broadened the view of death to her friend in a letter. Sometimes her friends did not reply to her letters. She wrote,

“Good-night! I can't stay any longer in a world of death.

Austin [Emily Dickinson's brother] is ill of fever. I

buried my garden last week—our man, Dick, lost a

little girl through scarlet fever. I thought perhaps that

you were dead, and not knowing the sexton's address,

interrogate the daisies (LI95).” (10)

She joked indicating her friends who did not reply to her letters. Emily used to think that death means not seeing and hearing. That is why, she made a joke of saying “Because I have not heard from you, I have gone to look for you in the grassy graveyard” (11). She used to joke to lighten the sad nature that she could not control.

Emily Dickinson had such enthusiastic mind, who had a habit of reading widely. She used to read Plato, Sir Thomas Browne, Shakespeare, the Brownings, the Bronte sisters, De Quincey, Keats, George Eliot George Sand, Hawthorne and Emerson were among her favourites. She studied many other Subjects and got a lot of knowledge from talking with her brother. Her father was a lawyer and she acquired Disraeli and Gladstone (Book by Robert Blake) from her father. Most of her death poems, were inspired by news stories of tragedies such as drawing, men buried in mine shafts, Men killed in battle. Likewise, Literary magazines such as, Atlantic and Scribner's were read by Emily.

Sylvia Plath wrote the dark parts of her life a lot. She always chooses the theme of death, violence, anger, fear or confessional. This did not help her carrier; she was a topic of criticism all her life. Many poets said that the person (Sylvia Path), who had attempted suicide and tried to hurt herself; only she can write this kind of dark part of life and promote depression to represent her life trauma. This full article is how other poet described her theme from their perspectives.

She was very young when she started to write. Moreover, she was way too young for those themes she had chosen to write on. She was only a school girl when she started to write verses with the theme of melancholy. She wrote short stories that was finely covered with loneliness. She selected herself as the person who was neglected and never got any sympathy

when she expected. If we observe a little specifically then it's very clear that, she was in depression and maybe living an abnormal life; where everything she wrote was the result of her imagination.

Conclusion

To conclude, it can be said that the motives of Emily Dickinson and Sylvia Plath concentrate on their writings specially, on loneliness, self-hurting tendency and death that also reflect the traumatic experiences of their lives. The ways of their thinking, feature the most important social relation and effects that made them see life from one main negative aspect. The meaning of death to both of them was pleasant and releasing, at the same time. Additionally, Dickinson was always frightened about death and she used to live alone in a cemetery-faced room. Therefore, she saw death more closely and felt deeply about it. She expressed that death is a welcoming aspect of life as well. On the other hand, Plath became so depressed, losing his nearer and being cheated by her husband. She also convinced herself with the idea that, death and the end is better than leading such sorrowful and painful life. The ways, these poets, built up their personalities, left them aside from regular social life. Dickinson chose her own isolated freedom life searching for his happiness. Next, she started writing to express her thoughts about life, death and afterlife. The depressive Plath always wanted to escape from life's trauma that encouraged her to choose having the final destination since she was not liking the incidents she was going through. Throughout their poems, Dickinson and Plath used the first-person narrative technique to tell their readers indirectly that they were actually the main victims of their crucial life. They believed that the trauma of their lives would not have any end until death comes towards them. Similarly, Plath was such depressed that, she completely loses hope in life. Her poems are the real evidence of her hopelessness. It cannot be said that her life was worst, but it was not enough to satisfy her, according to her efforts. Depression is the main enemy of Sylvia Plath and it is prominent in every poetry of her. Neither she could find satisfaction of her life, nor she was felt secure by anyone. All this trauma and hardship of her life made her hopeless and ultimately, she chose to destroy herself.

These two poets wrote about the concept of death that personalized in their poems. Both of them had a belief in death as a natural end for every human being. Eventually, it is worthwhile concluding this chapter by stating that, both Dickinson and Plath worked with similar motives, although they lived in different eras. Both of them evoked certain concepts that were significant and very essential to talk about.

After all the thesis no one could understand the exact perspective what Sylvia was carrying inside. She committed suicide several times. It's because she lost all the hope from life, she doesn't want to live in such a life where the surrounding things are being a burden for her. She wanted to be free for herself. That's the main reason of her suicide attempts. She thought her father, husband, mother every single person she knows betrayed her and that thought devour her and make her to do this heinous crime. But she very cleverly made her every writing related to the incident she faced once in life. She expressed and expressed, the 30 springs she saw, the 30 summer she was warm ins, and the 30 winter she restricted by someone or something. So, both of them were a wonderful poet after all this time because in her every poem she maintains the figures of speech, meter, stanzas, rhyme, scheme and so on.

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