

**A Marxist reading of Fitzgerald's Novel: *The Great Gatsby* and *The Beautiful  
and Damned***

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**Inspiring Excellence**

**BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**A Marxist reading of Fitzgerald's Novel: *The Great Gatsby* and *The Beautiful  
and Damned***

**A Thesis**

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*I would like to dedicate this work to my beloved parents, because I believe that without them I would not have been able to reach at this stage*

*Shahana Sulatana*

*And*

*Maj. ATM. Mostafa*

*Thank you for giving me the opportunity to study the field of literature. It is your colossal blessings and inspiration that have made me what I am today.*

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### **Abstract**

Francis Scott Fitzgerald's great novels *The Great Gatsby* and *The Beautiful and Damned* are at the heart of my thesis. Tales of Romantic love and unfulfilled passion on the surface, these two novels are based on a capitalist world, American in the 'Roaring Twenties' where each character's single purpose in life is money and material pleasure. These two novels are basically Fitzgerald's critique on materialism and corruption of the American society evident in 1920's and ironically still to this day. Money, wealth and class are recurring themes of these novels and the characters constantly fight the feeling that they are limited by the amount of money they make. Most importantly, their values and morality, if any, are blinded with the pursuit of money and material accomplishments. Central to this is the concept of 'American dream, myth to some and an unattainable reality to others. Through the narratives of Nick Carraway and Adam Patch these novels track the evolution and deterioration of the concept of the American dream and how the concept of 'self reliance' and hard work was completely replaced by the reliance on short cuts, as such bootlegging, gambling and smuggling. Ironically, extreme pursuit of money fails to provide them with a fulfilled life and in turn often causes fatal consequences as seen in these two novels. But what interest me most is that other than critiquing the materialistic attitude of his contemporary society, Fitzgerald seems to provide an account of self criticism through works as he was known as the star of the 'Jazz age'.

I have organized my paper into four chapters and the novels are examined from a Marxist lens with important autobiographical facts of the author. The novel *The Great Gatsby* and *The Beautiful and Damned* are the primary sources and I have used different books, articles to balance the discussion and provide a valid analytical perspective. Together it explores how

Fitzgerald has used the theme of American dream as a means of social criticism to show the fall of human values in the modern era.

## Introduction

*The Beautiful and Damned* and *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald are considered as one of the most important historical documents of the 1920's. These two novels are the representation of the post war situation, damning society and decaying picture of American dream and its accompanying imperative of ruthless, consumerist class ambition. F. Scott Fitzgerald is known as the spokesman of that era or 'Jazz Age'. Some critics assert that Fitzgerald included many autobiographical elements in many of his works, including *The Great Gatsby* and *The Beautiful and Damned* as a great deal of the adulterous and scandalous behavior described in these two novels was reflective of Fitzgerald's personal life.

Fitzgerald's novels especially *The Great Gatsby* and *The Beautiful and the Damned* are known as novels of love and human emotion and relationship. But I believe behind the surface they are also novels with strong social criticism, novels which talk about money and class struggle as Marx would say himself in Communist Manifesto: The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles. Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guild master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, that each time ended, either in the revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes.( Marx 79 ) which means everything is money and class at the end of the day, who believed that the main reason behind conflicts in history was the attempts by the lower class to obtain power, and the effort by the upper class to retain what they already had. However Marxism analyzes history specifically in terms of the conflict between economic classes. In addition, Marxism is based on the theories of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. This theoretical approach helps us to study a literary work in Marxist, capitalist lens to uncover the conditions of



the time and socio-economic milieu in which they are written. *The Great Gatsby* and *The Beautiful and Damned* are set in New York City and Long Island during the Prohibition era. The prohibition era was a time in which alcohol was illegal. That era, known for unprecedented economic prosperity, the evolution of the Jazz music, Flapper culture, and bootlegging and other criminal activities, is plausibly depicted in this novel. People wanted to live glamorous lives and have a chance to be a part of the upper echelons of society. Taking advantage of wealth and status seemed to be the best way to accomplish any variety of objectives. The novel's main characters exemplify a true understanding of America's obsession with money.

The Marxist reading of this novel is important because it represents the capitalist society of America, who were extremely disillusioned and lost everything in World War I. They became so much materialist where material possession became their only pursuit of happiness. As William E. Leuchtenburg, mentioned in *The Perils of Prosperity* "World War I . . . destroyed faith in progress, but it did more than that—it made clear to perceptive thinkers . . . that violence prowled underneath man's apparent harmony and rationality." (Leuchtenburg 142) It destroys the real vision of American dream where people changed their ideology and pleasure became the ultimate goal. President Woodrow Wilson's unforgivable decision was to put the United States into the Great War for utterly no good reason of national interest. Wilson government declared war against Germany. The famous declaration "The world must be made safe for democracy" said Woodrow Wilson in his April 2, 1917, speech asking Congress for a declaration of war against Germany (Wilson 1917) excited the American mass populace to participate in the war. With a spirit of idealism Americans entered the war in 1917. This war shook the whole America and the political, social and economical impacts were unbelievable. The First World War destroyed loads of things. It badly affected the economy, the political situation, psychology of

people and also the personal life of individual. It was a huge loss; loss of the mental state of every individual. When the war ended, it left an entire generation in a state of melancholy and suffering. Although, after World War I extreme industrialization and the government initiatives to boost money, which later was known as the Laissez faire economy, geared up American industrial production, leading to an economic boom throughout the 'Roaring Twenties' as there were no state interventions in money making. There were extreme capitalist values due to Laissez faire economy, also free market economy introduced rising international capital flows. People of America started to hanker after money and wealth, no matter from where this money comes from; whether it's fair or unfair which sharply contrasts with the characteristics of American dream, though success is all but the success should be in fair mean. The societal and psychological changes were so drastic that it violated the dream and replaced its values with blind cynicism, hedonistic pleasure and insensitive materialism.

This paper aims to speculate themes of money, power and the dysfunctional relationship that is vividly depicted the novels of Fitzgerald. Furthermore this paper will also attempt to contemplate the excitement, violence and the spirit of the 'Jazz Age' which overlaps and is intertwined with the aforementioned themes, and how these issues are intrinsically encapsulated in the narrative of Fitzgerald which shows the age he belonged to, and the generation of which he was inevitably a part of. The advent what is known 'The Jazz Age', or Post World War I came and brought with it extensive social changes, and these complex changes are vividly manifested in Fitzgerald's America.

During Fitzgerald's life time America's social and economic equilibrium was changing rapidly. A polarity in social classes and relationships also came into existence. With post war trauma known as disillusionment and with the sense of spiritual morbidity came excessive pursuit of material wants and illegal activities. These resulted in violence as well as an excitement which created a diverse aura of 'The Jazz Age'. It can be argued that no other writer apart from Fitzgerald was acutely aware of this, and his works were fully sentient of a variety of complex phenomenon which occurred in 'The Jazz Age'. This paper aims to look at two novels of Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* and *The Beautiful and the Damned* are emphasize upon how his narrative flamboyantly and accurately recorded the decadence of Fitzgerald's age in relation to money, power, greed and relationship. This paper will channel this analysis through a Marxist lens and try to identify the nucleus of various events which takes place in his novels involving money, power, greed and material pursuit and how inescapably all these have an adverse effect upon human relationship and bonding. The novel includes characters from several different socioeconomic classes and also shows the relationship between these social classes. I will examine the presence of social class and the class struggle in the novel and the effect it has on the relationships between the different characters

## **Chapter One: Evolution of the concept of American Dream and its deterioration**

America, the land of prosperity is the juxtaposition of two dreams, one which the founder has envisioned and another the people who re- envisioned it with their own sight, simply who misunderstood the American dream. St. John de Crèvecoeur is considered the first person who explored the term or the concept of American dream, in his imaginary *Letters from an American Farmer* (1782) defining America as a dream land - the asylum of freedom, the cradle of future nations, and the refuge of future Europeans (Crèvecoeur 7). In a nutshell, the author imagined himself as settler in America, the promise land; and how different it is from Europe. As he says in contrast of British European colonies “We have no princes for whom we toil, starve, and bleed. We are the most perfect society now existing in the world. Here man is free as he ought to be . . . (Crèvecoeur 2) by this he meant there is no hierarchy and monarchy in America, small gap between the poor and rich where all people can achieve success though hard work and honesty also he describes the mixture of people as people come to America from all over the world which is a great melting point and it would be the one and only unique country where a person may have parents and grandparents all from different cultural backgrounds. In other word, he meant America as a best place to live and improve a person through hard work which is rooted in individualism, self realization and spiritual fulfillment rather materialism or class discrimination.

The Literary term American dream has been expressed by many other writers ranging from Benjamin Franklin in *The Autobiography* and Thomas Jefferson to Ralph Waldo Emerson’s *Self-Reliance*. The famous speech by martin Luther King “I have a dream” and Thomas Jefferson’s “declaration of independence is also the embodiment American dream in terms of freedom, equality and democracy. The term American dream was first brought into light and popularized by James Truslow Adams in his book entitled *The Epic of America*, which was

written in 1931 where he says: But there has been also the American dream, that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. It is a difficult dream for the European upper classes to interpret adequately, and too many of us ourselves have grown weary and mistrustful of it. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position” (Adams 404). Adams meant that these values are embedded in self actualization and self perseverance where people are able to fulfill their desire and destiny by dedication, no matter what social class you belong to and the dream is based on moral and ethical values not material possessions.

*The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* is one of the important texts of American national literature which promotes individualism. It is basically a memoir to his son William, where he tells the ‘Rags to Rich’ story of a young and passionate man who was so determined to become something in life through hard work and persistence, from poverty to prosperity. As Nian-Sheng Huang and Carla Mulford further discuss the meaning of Franklin’s Autobiography with regards to the theme of the American dream by explaining how “Franklin represented the possibility of personal success to aspiring common people who were as passionate about individual (political) freedom and personal (material) success...Franklin was the personification of American national character in a world of change, where an individual’s hard work and self-determination for upward mobility were as important as all citizens’ collective striving for independence and self-government” (Mulford 151) By this, Benjamin Franklin wanted to show and exemplify the formation of character which is ideal for all and

formulate success possible and achievable if one choose to be sincere, self independent and dedicated.

After *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, another text emerged by one of the founder father of America, Ralph Waldo Emerson. The title *Self Reliance* itself depicts the essence of the manuscript and expands the perception of American dream by portraying a self dependant American who believes in purity and distinctiveness which exists in each individual that emphasizes true fulfillment through intuition. Emerson also encouraged to trust themselves and choose the correct path: Trust thyself, every heart vibrates to that iron string. Accept the place divine providence has found for, the society of your contemporaries, the connection of events. Great men have always done so, and confided themselves childlike to the genius of their age, betraying their perception that the absolutely trustworthy was seated at their heart, working through their hands, predominating in all their being. And we are now men, and must accept in the highest mind the same transcendent destiny; and not minors and invalids in a protected corner, not cowards fleeing before a revolution, but guides, redeemers and benefactors, obeying the Almighty effort and advancing on Chaos and the Dark. (Emerson 177) Emerson strictly recommends trusting in integrity of their individual instinct which is the central spiritual principle and values of the American dream that resides in everyone.

American dream in short entails a good life, and the common characteristics are freedom, democracy, honesty and hard work but unfortunately the vision changed drastically ranging from a positive to negative side from generation to generation. As Henry Steele Commanger, describes the alteration in *The American Mind*: On one side lies America predominantly agricultural concerned with domestic problems; conforming intellectuality to at least, to the political, economic, moral principles inherited from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. On

the other side lies the Modern America, predominantly urban and industrial, inextricably involved in a world economy and politics troubled with the problems that had long been thought peculiar to the old world; experiencing profound changes in population, social institutions and technology trying to accommodate its traditional institutions and habits of thoughts to conditions new and in part alien (Commanger 41) which clearly demonstrates that the earlier values formed by founder of America during seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were misplaced by the extreme aspiration for wealth, material pursuit, corruption and self-indulgence which is why the traditional America started to lose its identity and become alienated in the modern culture. Especially, after the great depression of World War I, American dream started to lose its innocence and simplicity and became equated with social status and money because it brought about a sharp socio-economic change which not only bankrupted people financially but also morally. The war ironically brought an era of isolation and give rise to post war era and a new civilization where the generations become too cynical, disillusioned, decayed, and violent who lost their meaning of life and existence as they saw immense death and felt cheated by the principles of dream as Maxwell Geismar said: The year 1919 was a breaking point in American life. It marked the end of an epoch of social reform which had sprung from the Populist and Progressive Movement at the turn of the century .It opened a decade of social anarchy under the mark of normalcy -- of pleasure seeking and private gain, of material success and trivial moral values. (Geismar 68). Materialism becomes so tightly attached with the sense of loss and despair of American people that the old values and morality started to fade away and turn out to be backdated. Moreover, 'The Jazz Age' 'Age of the Flapper' 'Roaring Twenties' found its perfect expression in this era as American people rebel against the past and tradition and plunged into new fashion, lifestyle, recklessness, alcoholism and wild parties.

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and *The Beautiful and Damned* is clearly a commentary on American society and reflection of American dream at the time of 1920's. In this novel, the genuine principle of American dream that defines optimism has been misplaced by the corruption of self indulged value. While Ralph Waldo Emerson asserts "There is nothing at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind," as the main pillar of achieving American dream, Fitzgerald illustrates how the essential idea of success and achievement becomes contaminated when it is stimulated by focusing on acquiring financial wealth and objects as John Rohrkemper said in *The Allusive Past* : Fitzgerald seems to suggest throughout the novel that, in pursuit of our dreams, we have abandoned that element which connects them with the larger dream, that identifies them with the strivings of mankind, that gives them a grandeur larger than personal success or glory (Rohrkemper 157). During, Jazz Age, the American dream was completely based on materialistic perception; it was a dream of becoming rich by any means as quickly as possible. *The Great Gatsby* is so much associated with the utopian converted American dream during 1920's that Fitzgerald wanted to name it *Red, White, and Blue* which are the colors of America's national flag but unfortunately the production begun and he had to stick to that name. The main character Jay Gatsby wanted to be successful and rich consequently he did but not in an honest way rather he chooses bootlegging or illegal production of alcohol as a mean of his income. Though his American dream was rooted and inspired form Benjamin franklins thirteen virtues to a certain extent which proclaimed in his *Autobiography* but paradoxically there is no mention of moral improvement. On the other hand, the protagonist of *The Beautiful and Damned* Adam patch wanted to achieve his American dream by waiting for his impending fortune that he would possibly inherit from his grandfather. Like Gatsby, Adam patch was also passionate about a girl named Gloria Gilbert, eventually they married but their marriage was absolutely based on



the plan of inheritance money. By this two novels Fitzgerald mirrored America's disordered, greedy and chaotic bunch of people with teeming humanity who misunderstood the true essence of American dream.

## Chapter 2: Depiction Class struggle, hype of commercialism and materialism in *The Great Gatsby*

*The Great Gatsby*, written during the post world war can be seen as a story of American dream or capitalist dream. Unfortunately it fails to fulfill the actual dream and portrays the dark decaying imagery of personal equally societal value. In 1925 the publication of *The Great Gatsby* marked a new step in history and reflected the American society shortly after World War I. *The Great Gatsby* is the quintessence of this period of Fitzgerald's work which suggests the romanticism and starting of a new era the 'Jazz age' that began with the end of World War I. This era significantly marked the advent of woman's suffrage, the prohibition era and collapsed with the great crash of 1929 years drenched in bootlegging and roars of generational rebellion. Fitzgerald's book epitomizes the headiness, ambition, despair, and disillusionment of America in the 1920s, its ideals lost behind the trappings of class and material success. In other words, he particularity criticizes a post-war American culture that defines status by excessive consumption. In order to observe this novel in the light of social capitalism, one of the Marxist methods is to "explain the nature of a whole literary genre in terms of the social period which 'produced' it. For instance Tragedy speaks for 'the monarchy and the nobility, and the Ballad speak for the rural and semi-urban' working classes" (Barry 158) same as *The Great Gatsby* speaks for the post world war era, flappers, leisure class as well as the emergence of tremendously cynical generation that were produced in 1920's.

*The Great Gatsby* is Fitzgerald's amazing piece of writing, which highlights the circumstances of America after the First World War. Also showed the extravagance lifestyle of the 1920s in the novel; and how the whole concept of American dream exploded and celebrated

wrongly, and its transformation from American dream to material dream. American Dream is attainable by everyone no matter what class you belong, but has different meanings for different people. In *What Social Class is in America* (2006), Warner, Meeker and Eels describe the concept of the American Dream as follows: “In the bright glow and warm presence of the American Dream all men are born free and equal. Everyone in the American Dream has the right, and often the duty, to try to succeed and to do his best to reach the top” (Warner 67). *The Great Gatsby* portrays the golden age of American history. It was a time of prosperity and material excess. Through hard work and dedication anyone could achieve the American dream. It was also a time of incredible hope, and suddenly everybody started to strive for the American dream. The Americans during that time were so passionate about fulfill their desires that they became crazily devoted into achieving a particular class or a lavish lifestyle. They considered happiness to be concealed inside the American Dream without which life is incomplete. This time period became complete with all those people, who had so many things to show off. It was all about money, jazz and alcohol instead of hard work, determination, honesty. As Lois Tyson says: “One of the most effective ways *The Great Gatsby* criticizes capitalist culture is by showing the debilitating effects of capitalist ideology even on those who are its most successful products, and it does so through its representation of commodification” (Tyson, 69) especially, it depicts the ambivalence of American people who are surrounded by luxury into which they shrouded themselves after World War I. The novel presents the idea that how few things influenced individual economically, rationally, and in every other plausible ways. Fitzgerald portrayed the American Dream as a brutal reality of people’s life and shows the circumstance of the society where people were misled because of the influences of the Great War that turned them into stern materialist.

The novel *The Great Gatsby* is mainly centered upon Gatsby's obsession to gain his lifelong romantic interest Daisy Fay later Daisy Buchanan, whom he could never be with due to the lack of money and social position. However Gatsby did not give up. He tried heart and soul to be with Daisy even after she was married to another man, Tom Buchanan. Ethics, morality, social convention, nothing could stop him from his persistent pursuit of Daisy which shows the complete decline of values. Gatsby in many ways is the embodiment of American hedonist culture. Gatsby's love which seems selfless on the surface is not a pure romantic love. Rather it is marred with the sense of achievement, money and identity. Gatsby unconsciously has taken it for a fact that his identity and social acceptance is dependent on his gain of Daisy. Gatsby is spiritually and mentally broken since the day he had been rejected by Daisy. He says to Nick "Her voice is full of money" (Fitzgerald 120). After that traumatic experience, a notion of incompleteness always haunted him and he used to think without daisy he will not be a complete man. It represents a complete lack of the essence of pure love as Gatsby viewed Daisy as the cherry on top along with money. Perhaps it is not wrong to say that Gatsby was in love with the idea of being with Daisy, of having an upper class, sophisticated belle as his partner. By this idea of Gatsby, Fitzgerald shows that all the characters of his novel loved each other for some reason whose minds are centered only upon their own benefit where there is scope for unconditional love. In this analysis, I will overview the novel using Marxist theme of commercialism and materialism in relation to Daisy Buchanan and other characters.

Before going to the analysis, the concept Marxism is an economic and social system based upon the political and economic theories of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. As Lois Tyson explained: For Marxism, getting and keeping economic power is the motive behind all

social and political activities, including education, philosophy, religion, government, the arts, science, technology, the media, and so on. That is, all human events and productions have specific Material/historical causes. An accurate picture of human affairs cannot be obtained by the search for abstract, timeless essences or principles but only by understanding concrete conditions in the world. Therefore, Marxist analysis of human events and productions focuses on relationships among socioeconomic classes, both within a society and among societies, and it explains all human activities in terms of the distribution and dynamics of economic power. (Marx 54). Marxist perspective is primarily focused on the struggle between upper class and lower class .The foundation of this perception is economy, which is the powerful element of society. Marxist perspective examines economical features and social classes in the texts which is highly associated with the novel *The Great Gatsby*, a parable of a poor boy chasing his dream, driven by economy and society who becomes a millionaire and marked his failure because of social class.

The first method that the Marxist critiques use is “They make a division between the 'overt' (manifest or surface) and 'covert' (latent or hidden) and then relate the covert subject matter of the literary work to basic Marxist themes, such as class struggle, or the progression of society through various historical stages, such as, the transition from feudalism to industrial capitalism” (Barry 156). Overtly, the story primarily concerns the young and mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and his idealistic passion for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan. Covertly, the story deals with class struggle, materialism and commercialism and its brutality and also betrayal, of one's own ideals and of people. Using elements of irony and tragic ending, the novel also delves into themes of excesses of the rich, recklessness of youth and most importantly the

absence of values and their fatal consequence. It shows the harsh reality of society which puts money, social status above everything.

Marx also divided the capitalist society into two major classes; Bourgeois and proletariat which is evident in the novel; different character belongs to different social classes. Gatsby's real name was James Gatz. He came from a terribly poor background. In the novel, Nick says "His parents were shiftless and unsuccessful farm people- his imagination had never really accepted them as his parents at all" (Fitzgerald 105) though later he changed his destiny and socio-economic status through hard work. Much like Marx, Weber believed that class was related to wealth but also believed in social mobility. However, Weber separated status and class in his theory, and status was not necessarily dependent on wealth. Regarding social class, Weber points out four social classes and they are: "a) the working class as a whole... b) the petty bourgeoisie c) the propertyless intelligentsia and specialists... d) the classes privileged through property and education" (Weber 305). This means a person does not belong to a same economic status forever because he can change the situation by hard work, determination and wealth but in comparison to social class, money does not guarantee or buy a certain status. The Buchanan's and Jay Gatsby belong to the class privileged through property and education, Nick Carraway could be considered to be a member of the middle class representing American Middle West, and the Wilsons are members of the working class .

In this novel, Fitzgerald has beautifully shown the differences between Black money- White money and Old money-New money, Especially, Tom Buchanan; Daisy's husband was a privileged person and heir to one of America's wealthiest family. All he was, a good Polo Player. He inherited his money and wealth from his family, and lived across the bay in old moneyed East egg. Everybody knows that Tom was from an old moneyed family. However, nobody knows

where Gatsby's money came from. On the other hand, Daisy was a very confusing and careless character through out the whole novel. She knows that her husband is corrupt, having an extra marital affair. Knowing all these, she decided to stay with Tom forever. It's not because of she loves Tom, it's just because Tom had old money and social class and Daisy was so obsessed with these two things. According to Benjamin Franklin "There are three faithful friends- an old wife, an old dog and old money (Wilson 419)." Perhaps Daisy used to believe in that. She was so careless she lets Gatsby take the blame for her unintentional killing of Myrtle Wilson. Daisy's careless actions eventually result in Gatsby's death, of which she shows no concern. She commits adultery, but she had no real intentions of leaving her husband. After she learns Gatsby's shady background, she quickly runs back into the arms of her equally self-absorbed, corrupt husband. Moreover, Daisy is an extremely commercial character because all her life was centered upon what people can do for her and by whom she can be benefited.

Commercialism simply means the maximization of profit. Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby* meticulously shows how the relationships are also based on commercial transaction. Daisy's marriage with Tom, who comes from an old moneyed family, and belongs to a bourgeois background, is the biggest example of commercialism. Daisy exchanges her youth, beauty and social standing with Tom by accepting \$350,000 string of pearls, whereas Jay Gatsby was just a penniless soldier at that time. Their marriage certainly took place in exchange of value, not because of love, or any other pressure. Daisy married Tom because of his exchange value benefits since he was rich, old moneyed and most importantly this marriage would allow to fulfill her dream by staying in the upper class and enjoy the glamour of capitalist greedy society. Covertly, Daisy married to him in part of because her "Unquestionable Practicality" (Fitzgerald 159) which clearly depicts her selfish behavior and reveals her mind which was full of money

that takes hasty decision without thinking about her love relation with Gatsby. Rather she thinks marrying Tom would be perfect for her and it is a practical decision since he can give her every kind of facilities that she wants and pries the most. Commercialism is clearly noticeable in her wedding. “She groped around the waste-basket she had with her on the bed and pulled out the string of pearls. ‘Take ‘em down-stairs and give ‘em back to whoever they belong to. Tell em’ all Daisy’s change’ her mine. . .’ She began to cry- she cried and cried. . . She wouldn’t let go of the letter. She took it into the tub with her and squeezed it up into a wet ball, and only let me leave it in the soap-dish when she saw it was coming to pieces like snow. . . Next day at five o’clock she married Tom Buchanan without so much as a shiver, and stared off on a three months’ trip to the South Seas” (Fitzgerald 76). ; Though she loved Jay, but within some hours she becomes ready to marry Tom. According to her commercial view, the best thing in her life would marry Tom over poor Gatsby, in order to attain Tom’s wealth she must have to engage herself into questionable marriage to Tom.

Interestingly, Daisy’s child is also to some extent presented as a commodity. The child was only mentioned while she was talking to Nick about her birth. “I’m glad it’s a girl. And I hope she’ll be a fool – that’s the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.” (Fitzgerald 24) In terms of social standing, if she is beautiful, she will be desired by men of a higher class, but if she is a fool she won’t realize that she’s being used for her beauty but nothing else, and ironically she would be happier with that all her life. As Daisy possessed an exchange value, her child is only the reflection of her high status and security, nothing more. She uses to think that having child from a prominent person like Tom could help her to reach sophistication. In turn, this too could lessen her sense of insecurity as she can get money and property from her husband because of the child, even if they get divorce by any case. In addition while re-telling of



her child's birth to Nick, he also referred back something indirect about Tom "Well, she was less than an hour old and Tom was God knows where. I woke up out of the ether with an utterly abandoned feeling. . ." (Fitzgerald 17). Daisy stayed despite knowing that Tom was unfaithful to her, again because of the value their marriage.

Daisy always objectifies man for specific reasons because she never has true passion for anyone. The only reason earlier Daisy took an interest on Gatsby and dated him because "he had deliberately given Daisy a sense of security; he let her believe that he was a person from much the same strata as herself—that he was fully able to take care of her" (Fitzgerald 156). Unfortunately Gatsby could not provide Daisy with wealth and socioeconomic status which she desired during that time. After five years, when the mysterious wealthy Gatsby return into her life she was more astonished with his wealth, mansion, money, dress and party. Her reaction was simply stronger towards his wealth than the feelings she had for her old lover. It seems the more riches he reveals, the more Daisy would love him. When Daisy visits Gatsby's house for the first time, he throws his shirts on the ground of his bedroom "Daisy bent her head into the shirts and began to cry stormily" (Fitzgerald 98). "It makes me sad because I've never seen such—such beautiful shirts before" (Fitzgerald 98) it can be assumed that Daisy might be sighing for not marrying Gatsby, if she would only then she could own things as luxurious as Gatsby's shirts. Even if, her extra marital relation with Gatsby understandably based on commercialized view of life.

Throughout the novel Daisy made Gatsby to believe that she would choose him over Tom but the scenario changes after the Plaza incident which shatters the illusion of her new wealthy life with Gatsby, especially when Tom begins to tell the truth about Gatsby's source of income. Eventually, Daisy begins to draw "further and further into herself" (Fitzgerald 142). Since Tom

knows Daisy in her marrow, he purposefully creates the chaos to make her realize that his money is secured and respectable than Gatsby's. For a temporary moment, out of infatuation and blind possession to Gatsby's material Daisy was "flattered by Gatsby's monumental efforts to regain her, but when pushed to act, she looks at Jordan and Nick 'with a sort of appeal, as though she realized at last what she was doing—and as though she had never, all along, intended doing anything at all'" (Korenman 578) when it was her turn to take decision, she stepped back and once again rejects Gatsby. Daisy's decision to stay with Tom exhibits her submissive nature as well as her aspiration to be with the man or prey who can provide her with the most wealth, security and a good social class in which artificial need will benefit her more. Much to the contrary of Gatsby expectations, Daisy chooses Tom and her marriage which provides her with the sense of social security. We see how money is not the only factor. Identities are built around money and social acceptance which is much contradictory to American puritan notion of freedom and respectability. At the end daisy makes decision which is based on capitalist gain rather than the intrinsic value of humanity or love.

The character Tom Buchanan is the perfect example of the Marxist stereotype of the capitalist bourgeois who exploits the working class in order to fulfill his own end; he does not care about others feelings or thoughts which is one of the most obvious behaviors of high class people. "Nowhere in *The Great Gatsby* is commodification so clearly embodied as in the character of Tom Buchanan. The wealthiest man in the novel, Tom relates to the world only through his money: for him, all things and all people are commodities." (Tyson 70) Being an old moneyed bourgeois, he has seen everybody as his commodity including his wife. Money and social class is heavily used by him to obtain sexual favor from Myrtle and various other women from lower class working background which clearly depicts that he sees and uses people from

working class as his commodity. Moreover, Tom also used George as an exploiting master by utilizing his wife for sexual pleasure and most importantly by invoking him against Gatsby to take revenge indirectly after which he has no longer any business with George. George's condition is similar to how a bourgeoisie is interested in a worker only to the extent that he can use the worker for his purpose, what happens to the worker at the end of the day is not their concern. This behavior can be related to Karl Marx's *Das capital* Labor and workers theory, "The very same bourgeois mentality which extols the manufacturing division of labour, the life-long annexation of the worker to a partial operation, and the unconditional subordination of the detail worker to capital, extols them as an organization of labour which increases productivity - denounces just as loudly every kind of deliberate social control and regulation of the social process of production, denounces it as an invasion of the inviolable property rights, liberty and self-determining genius of the individual capitalist. It is characteristic that the inspired apologists of the factory system can find nothing worse to say of any proposal for the general organization of social labour, than that it would transform the whole of society into a factory." (Marx 374) which basically means the capitalist cannot behave differently with the working class, they will always exploit them for their own purpose, and the very essence of the capitalist is to get the surplus value, nothing more or less. In all, Tom was successful to pin everything on Gatsby, the affair with Myrtle, the hit and run and everything by his power of old money and social class.

On the other hand "For Myrtle, Tom Buchanan represents a ticket out of George Wilson's garage. Through Tom, Myrtle hopes to acquire permanent membership in a world where she can display the "impressive hauteur" (Tyson 43) Myrtle's relationship with Tom once again illustrates the waste of human spirit due to commercialism and materialism. Fitzgerald specifically highlighted her purchase on the way to apartment, such as the dog, magazine, and

perfume. Myrtle use to think rising in society is apparently keyed into the growth of material goods. If we see her from a different light, she represents the character of Daisy, but from a working class background. Both the characters sacrificed everything including their marriage and love to satisfy their limitless desire for money and class. Myrtle once said Nick “All I kept thinking about, over and over, was ‘You can’t live forever; you can’t live forever’” (Fitzgerald 36) by which she means enjoying life by any means is her main priority, and all she keeps thinking about is money. Money is the ultimate epitome of American society, where every person’s desire is money. As people live once so they don’t need to bind their lives with typical ethics rather they should enjoy. This type of thought is very common in Fitzgerald’s every character which clearly represents the deterioration of human value during 1920’s.

Even though, the relationship between Nick and Jordan was also very professional. It is not clear that whether they been in any kind of romantic relation or not but Nick obviously falls for Jordan baker at a certain point. But there were no strong urges seen from any side. It is merely a loveless affair which does not consist of strong emotional feeling or any significant moment.

*The Great Gatsby* can also be seen as the manifestation of unequal society based on class differences. Class differences are shown in the setting of the novel. From the beginning of the novel Fitzgerald beautifully showed two divided societies with two luxurious neighborhoods; the East Egg and West Egg. The two Eggs represent the value of two different class and different type of wealth and power. “Instead of rambling this party had preserved a dignified homogeneity, and assumed to itself the function of representing the staid nobility of the countryside – East Egg condescending to West Egg, and carefully on guard against its spectroscopic gayety” (Fitzgerald 47). The East Egg symbolizes the ‘Old moneyed’ people that

look down on West Egg the 'New moneyed' or nouveau riche people. In the novel, the Buchanan's are the classic resident of East Egg who possessed old money, social class and heritage of a blueblood line. On the other hand, Gatsby is the new resident of West Egg who himself is a mysterious figure with unknown social class and no legacy of old money. Focusing on their socio-economic background Fitzgerald sharply contrasts those different inhabitants.

Socioeconomic class is a strapping factor in Marxist theory when it comes to dividing people into different classes. The unequal relationship is clearly expressed between Tom and his mistress Myrtle Wilson, wife of George Wilson who belongs to a poor working class background. Tom is obviously dominant in this secret relation because he is the one who pays for the apartment in the city, pet dog and other needs to Myrtle in exchange of sexual pleasure. Without Tom she would not be able to lead a temporary lavish life. Tom's superiority reveals when arguing about Daisy and it ends up with him breaking Myrtle's nose which places her in an inferior position. According to Warner, "Belonging to an old family with old money generates a higher social status than self-earned money does" (Warner, Meeker & Eells 74). Though Gatsby is a billionaire but he does not belong to an 'Old moneyed' background. By fate he born into a poor family but through handwork and climbing the social ladder he changes his financial situation but unfortunately his past, upbringing and social class is undeniable and unchangeable unlike Tom and Daisy. For that reason, a sense of insecurity always discomforts him; Gatsby lies to increase his social status so that Tom and Daisy considers him as similar to them. Besides, Gatsby thinks that despite being rich and wealthy he is still misfit in the upper class society and tries to come out as an Oxford man to hide his past background. "I was brought up in America but educated at Oxford because all my ancestors have been educated there for many years. It is a

family tradition.” He looked at me sideways – and I knew why Jordan Baker had believed he was lying. He hurried the phrase “educated at Oxford” or swallowed it or choked on it as though it had bothered him before (Fitzgerald 65). This was basically his self made stereotypical thinking to be accepted in society he must have to pretend as an Oxford Graduate.

In the end of the novel, we see how selfishly Daisy leaves with his corrupt husband and let's take her run down case on Gatsby. She did not even attend Gatsby's funeral for the sake of kindness despite knowing the fact her callousness is responsible for Gatsby's death. “They were careless people, Tom and Daisy – they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up their mess” (Fitzgerald 167). By this behaviors Fitzgerald portrays the careless, ruthless, cruel and biased mentality of upper class. Regarding the situation, their mutual superiority demonstrates how little they care about people's lives, even towards the people's life they are supposed to care about.

*The Great Gatsby*, the masterpiece by Fitzgerald demonstrates the difference between appearance and reality. We see the quest for love but realize that there is no love. Gatsby is a lonely man behind his expensive parties, his dreams were just to prove himself in front of Daisy which he did but of no use, he had to die. Though lots of people came to his house to attend his numerous parties but hardly anyone came to his funeral not even his lifelong obsession. Everything was for the sake of love but there is no love exists in this story rather money and security is the most important factor. If love exists, than only between Gatsby and Nick, he stays with Gatsby, took care of his funeral, he was the only one who cared, the only person who's life get affected by Gatsby's death.

**Chapter Three: Display of extreme cynicism and consumption of the leisure class in *The Beautiful and Damned***

Francis Scott Fitzgerald is considered as the representative of 'Jazz Age' and 'American dream', who not only encapsulates the whole generation and historical situation of that time but also shows the true picture of materialist society and moral decay of human through his masterpiece novels. Most of his short stories and novels are highly autobiographical which depicts writer's perception and understanding of life, also manifestation of priceless historical and social document during the days of 1920's. Fitzgerald's second novel is also partially autobiographical where he portrays his own married life by fictional character Anthony Patch and Gloria. Unlike *The Great Gatsby*, the title of the novel itself clearly explains the notion of appearances vs. reality which proves Fitzgerald was a master of creating astonishingly beautiful but devastatingly flawed character. The story of *The Beautiful and Damned* is about a married couple and the decay of their conjugal life and utter disappointment. Anthony is the heir of an impending fortune that take time to arrive, he was a person who does not need to worry about money and wealth in life, and this sense of security paralyzed him to work hard thereby he leads a very extravagant life. On the other hand, Gloria does not belong to the same background as Anthony; she was clearly a materialist person who hankers all her life after money and beauty also become successful actress in Hollywood. Gloria's success is so much related to money, wealth, good life, achievement and fame. "I want to be a successful sensation in the movies," Gloria announces. "I hear that Mary Pickford makes a million dollars annually" (Fitzgerald 213). American dream of success is clearly related to wealth and Fitzgerald has beautifully shown the effect of wealth how cruelly it destroys Anthony and Gloria. Most importantly, from the surface it is American dream, that people long for success and achievement but underneath it is

American Tragedy where people lose everything in the name of dream, and when the dream ends people finds themselves completely shattered.

*The Beautiful and Damned* set in the years immediately preceding the 1920's that outstandingly record the establishment of Jazz Age and also the changes that later exploded and prosperously flourished. It gives the reader good opportunity to enhanced understanding of significant event of the following years. As Ken Newton said "traditional Marxist criticism tends to deal with history in a fairly generalized way. It talks about conflicts between social classes, and clashes of large historical forces, but, contrary to popular belief, it rarely discusses the detail of a specific historical situation and relates it closely to the interpretation of a particular literary text. (Newton 244) Jazz age is detected as a period which broadly resembled the faith of the twenties. In this case, the years of immense abundance, surplus in wealth and capital, and vanity must have naturally terminated in a tragedy. In 1929, The United States suffered the consequences in the form of the Wall Street Crash. Fitzgerald's personal doom also rooted in an extreme alcoholic lifestyle. His life ceased in frequent alcohol deliriums, which obviously had, in smaller or larger extent, influence on his literary production, and which, consequently, lead to his early death in 1940.

All the way through his novel, Fitzgerald demonstrates that materialism and consumerism is basically responsible for all sorrow and sufferings and that possibly lead to individual's disillusionment and unhappiness. Mostly in his novel, all the characters are busy in displaying their wealth, power, class and money and forget about the intrinsic value of life which leads to gradual moral loss and their life story comes to an end as empty as a dead carcass. According to Karl Marx "By possessing the property of buying everything, by possessing the property of appropriating all objects, money is thus the object of eminent possession. The universality of its



property is the omnipotence of its being. It is therefore regarded as an omnipotent being. Money is the procurer between man's need and the object, between his life and his means of life. But that which mediates my life for me, also mediates the existence of other people for me. For me it is the other person" (Marx 41). Money has a dual nature that can be constructive on the other hand destructive, which is mainly responsible for the rise and fall of a person. Marx's perception of commodity depicts that "an external object, a thing which through its qualities satisfies human needs of whatever kind" (Marx 125) when people lose their subject position it becomes object, as a consequence social relationship also changes from person to concrete material and depends upon exchange value. Consumerism also became common phenomenon during 1920's. "A Fourth Marxist practice is to relate the literary work to the social assumptions of the time in which it is 'consumed', a strategy which is used particularly in the later variant of Marxist criticism known as cultural materialism" (Barry 168) . Cultural materialism is a broader concept of Marxist materialism, which views the culture in both economical and productive way which shapes the society. It is because of the Jazz Age or roaring twenties when the concept of consumerism broaden symbolizing wealth, power and freedom, economic prosperity, cultural blossoming and lead a life which is based on consumption and material pursuit.

*The Beautiful and Damned* is a very important historical document of 1920's which manifests the Jazz Age, material perception, consumerism, commodification, prohibited consumption of alcohol, flowering of Hollywood industry, modern parties and most importantly people with no moral values, leading their lives only after material or things. The moral that the novel may carry is that in the world where class, money greed and fame is the main features there love and happiness cannot develop. Fitzgerald clearly shows ambivalence of American people towards wealth. Interestingly this notion is also the manifestation of his personal life,

because Fitzgerald himself was also so much associated with money as he used to lead a filthy rich life and in order to carry his life he pushed himself to write novels and short stories, it is also evident that he used to write to bear the expenditure of Zelda's hospital due to her illness. *In the Beautiful and Damned* one of the core tension according to which the story proceeds, is the protagonist's financial anxiety whose longing is to gain money from his Grandfather; instead of that he was expected to do something better than his Grandfather wanted him to do, but Anthony was way too obsessed with the notion that a great future awaits him based on the money of which he is the heir. "Much consciousness of social security from being the grandson of Adam J. Patch as he would have had from tracing his line over the sea to the crusaders" (Fitzgerald 6). Anthony was also Fitzgerald's deliberate portrayal of a brainless rich brat who was too lazy to work and think himself superior of others because of his family aristocracy or Old money. Money made him blind and dehumanized therefore he always expects his grandfather's death which would be the quickest way for him to be a millionaire which is evident "he had hoped to find his grandfather dead" (Fitzgerald 13) in this way Anthony created a world pursuing happiness through money. Money here in this novel is also interrelated with social class as Konnings pointed out "as our faith in its ability to carry meaning across different spheres of life increases, money comes to function as a master-metaphor and assumes the quality of general social validity" (Konnings10) Anthony Patch always perceived and longed for a fortune where he can guarantee his social power and legitimacy through his entire life. *The Beautiful and Damned* is also a chronicle of the terms conspicuous consumption and pecuniary emulation used by legendary American Economist and sociologist Thorstein Veblen's. The matter of getting the heritage from his father can relate to Thorstein Veblen's *The Theory of the Leisure class* as he pointed "by a further refinement, wealth acquired passively by transmission from ancestors or

other antecedents presently becomes even more honorific than wealth acquired by the possessor's own effort" (Veblen 29) Similarly, the novel shows the same attitude which is Adam Patches' family legacy and perspective towards money and wealth. This sense of security absolutely damaged Anthony Patches' viewpoint towards life and instead of working by his own he waited for the "Golden Day" when he would inherit money from his Grandfather and partly he used to believe that his old money will make his fortune and high class status in society, that is why he does not understand "why people think that every young man ought to go down-town and work ten hours a day for the best twenty years of his life at dull, unimaginative work, certainly not altruistic work" (Fitzgerald 65). Interestingly, Gloria Gilbert was also the reflection of Anthony throughout the novel, being his wife she was no way better than him, for her "This is life! Who cares for the morrow?" (Fitzgerald 70) this is how they neglect their future and indulged in seeking momentarily pleasure in present. Without being realistic, believing that their dream will come true one day they continued their life as they were leading through glamorous parties and other materialistic thing. This lifestyle undoubtedly poised their mind to be determined in their sluggish position.

On the other hand, Conspicuous consumption is an integral part of American culture; they used to display their luxury and wealth in order to ensure their social power and class as Veblen explains "The leisure class stands at the head of the social structure in point of reputability; and its manner of life and its standard of worth therefore afford the norm of reputability for the community" (Veblen 84) Anthony used to show off his wealth by leading a luxurious life in most desirable kind of apartment which Fitzgerald explains "he slept, breakfasted, read, and entertained" (Fitzgerald 11). During that time, Consumerism leads people to a complete materialist where they used to find their happiness in consumption of materials

which *Corina Grosu* explained in *The Roaring Twenties and the Effects of Consumerism in Fitzgerald's Novels* "Consumerism as a cult of the late twentieth century invades people everyday life and structures their everyday experience, being settled in their mind as the answers to all their problems, an escape from the mundane realities of their everyday life" (Grosu 236) For example, when Anthony and Gloria decides to buy a car which will not only fasten their transportation system but also rise their status, they both temporarily forget about personal problems due to that excitement as in instant satisfaction which they prior the most.

Another most common feature of Fitzgerald's writing is obsession of women. Like Daisy in *The Great Gatsby*, Gloria is one of the influential characters in *The Beautiful and Damned*, by which actually Fitzgerald portrays that women at that time were mainly responsible for the downfall of men, it can be assumed that the title depicts the beauty of women damned men. Gloria Gilbert is also the representation of typical American greedy women who used to entice men with her beauty to hold her comfortable position and succeed in life. Gloria is being presented as "was a sun, radiant, growing, gathering light and storing it—then after an eternity pouring it forth in a glance, the fragment of a sentence, to that part of him that cherished all beauty and all illusion" (Fitzgerald 62) she was obsessed with her immortal beauty so as Anthony. Her only one goal was to marry a high class person as she says her marriage that will be a "live, lovely, glamorous performance" (Fitzgerald147) and be happy with money, name and fame, and work when they become poor as she says "I don't care about the truth. I want to be happy" (Fitzgerald189) she was a pure materialist who wanted to spend her life by shopping and throwing parties, also utterly class conscious. Comparing to Daisy, she is no way better than her as one of her integral need was to settle in a high class society through a men who must have secured money, for example, Bloeckman got refused by Gloria even though he can give her "everything from a villa

in Italy to a brilliant career on the screen” (Fitzgerald 114). Maybe this is because Bloeckman does not come from an aristocrat family like Anthony and is simply just a self-made man with American dream who can give her success, money and fortune but not social status and legacy. Even the narrative voice renders that Gloria marries Anthony for different purposes and one of which she was obsessed and overwhelmed by the wealth and social status of the Patches’.

The darker aspect of the American economy is also embodied in Adam and Gloria Patch. After their marriage, their only occupation is partying and consuming alcohol as a way of passing the time until his grandfather passes away. The year 1920 is also considered as era of prohibition. As Green says in *The American tradition*: The Prohibition meant a ban on manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors as well as on buying and drinking it. (Green 484). He also stated as per The Volstead Act that: any beverage containing one-half of one percent alcohol was to be considered intoxicating liquor.(Green 484) Alcohol use to be the symbol of luxury and leisure for upper class people, though it was prohibited but seems to be everything for them. As James West III demonstrates in his contribution to the *Cambridge Companion to Fitzgerald*, the characters in *The Beautiful and Damned* evolve “from young adulthood to a kind of early senility, brought on by too strong an attachment to money and too great a fondness for alcohol” (West 50) which ones again shows the filthy picture of voracious American upper class with no moral values.

Ironically, in *The Beautiful and the Damned*, a sacred relation like marriage is also very commercial. Their deliberate marriage took place most likely with the possibility of getting money after a certain period of time. When his grandfather disinherits Anthony because he keeps on wasting his life, the couple is left in complete despair. The marriage begins to deteriorate, the couple had no idea how to live a life with less money and this sense of tension and dissatisfaction

led them to become more and more alcoholic and also infidel. Their downfall happened due to materialism, extreme sense of individuality, drinking and money issues, the very essential characteristics of America during Jazz age. Eventually, they got what they craved for the whole life, but this journey left them totally shattered, disoriented and completely exhausted to be able to enjoy the money now that they have got it finally, and they end up learning that money cannot buy happiness.

#### **Chapter Four: A Marxist glance on Author's personal background.**

“Show me a hero and I will write you a tragedy.”

– “The Crack Up”, F. Scott Fitzgerald

Social class warfare and money was always the main tension in Fitzgerald's novel as I mentioned in previous chapters. It is because Fitzgerald personally experienced all those reality. One of the methods that have been used by Marxist critics is to relate the context of a work to social class status of the author and their analysis of class relations from the point of view of the class they come from. Fitzgerald born in a mixed family as his parents belongs to different classes. According to Scott Donaldson In *Class Snobbery and Education* (2008), Fitzgerald's father came from an old American family while his mother, on the other hand, was the daughter of an Irish immigrant who had made some money through his wholesale grocery business (Donaldson 17). In 1908, his father Edward Fitzgerald was fired from his sales job and become completely broke and he's a failure rest of his life, as Fitzgerald's mother Molly Fitzgerald came from an affluent background she manages to send Fitzgerald to St. Paul Academy to carry out his education and there he realizes himself as a poor boy amongst the rich class fellow but he found that he has a special gift of writing and used this way to impress people and win social acceptance, since he experienced this trauma in real life that's why he has been able to skillfully present American society during that time and his own life through fictional work, "That was always my experience," he wrote near the end of his life, "a poor boy in a rich town; a poor boy in a rich boy's school; a poor boy in a rich man's club at Princeton.... I have never been able to forgive the rich for being rich, and it has colored my entire life and works." He told a friend that "the whole idea of Gatsby is the unfairness of a poor young man not being able to marry a girl with money. This theme comes up again and again because I lived it." (Stern 164). Fitzgerald

always wanted to recreate himself as superior. As being a member of middle class society by birth, Scott was always been a desperate social climber seeking for recognition, something that the world would admire. During the year of 1913, in Princeton University, he fell in love for the first time with 16 years old Ginevra King who was a beautiful and wealthy debutante from Lake Forest, Ill with whom Fitzgerald had a romantic relationship from 1915 to 1917. Fitzgerald explained her as someone, who was 'unattainable' and later he portrayed this character in *The Great Gatsby* as Daisy. The word 'unattainable' indirectly reflects Fitzgerald's own social and economical inability at that time. Due to lack of his socio economic background he was unable to continue relationship with Ginerva as her father supposedly, told Fitzgerald that "poor boys shouldn't think of marrying rich girls" (Donaldson 18) Eventually Ginerva went to someone more suitable to her social standing .This situation later emerged in his novel *The Great Gatsby* where Gatsby was unable to marry Daisy because of his financial situation and social class. On the other word it can be said that this novel is the parallel between his own life of dream of success that both drives Jay Gatsby and Fitzgerald also the characters are equal to each other whereas Gatsby has the money but no background, class and education and Fitzgerald on the other hand have education and class but not money. It reflects his own negotiation of class that caused melancholy that is related to contested relationship with women also involved a deep frustration about the hopelessness of his dream or desire.

In June 1918 Fitzgerald was assigned to Camp Sheridan, near Montgomery, Alabama. There he fell in love with a celebrated belle, eighteen-year-old Zelda Sayre, the youngest daughter of an Alabama Supreme Court judge, which was another challenge for him. In order to marry her, he went to New York City to search his fortune and got a job of \$35, unwilling to live on his small salary which was insufficient for Zelda, she called of her engagement. Due to this



shock, he quit his job and returned to St. Paul to rewrite his novel *This side of paradise* as a last chance to win over Zelda again and fortunately it was accepted by the editor of Scribner's, and by the publication *This Side of Paradise* on March 26, 1920 made Fitzgerald famous overnight and finally he married Zelda a week later in New York.

Fitzgerald was an autobiographical author, whose writing was partly fiction and inspired by his personal experiences. His second novel *The Beautiful and Damned* is often considered as the representation of Scott and Zelda themselves, also the over alcoholism that destroys their conjugal life has been portrayed by Adam and Gloria. All his life Fitzgerald faced different problems such as social status crisis, less financial wealth which is deeply reflected through his novel. Even in his personal life, he was so much associated with money that he writes in *My Lost City*: "distrusting the rich, yet working for money with which to share their mobility and the grace that some of them brought into their lives." (Fitzgerald 147) evidently, he used to indulge himself into too much drinking whenever he faced money crisis. Moreover, Fitzgerald's crave for wealth, social aspiration, climbing the social ladder was so much identical and highlighted both in his life and work.

## Conclusion

Fitzgerald in both of his novels shows the real picture of American society during 1920's; a war affected nation whose extreme sense of disenchantment led to material blindness. He portrays people's illusion and desire for beautiful and unattainable things within which money and social class are the most driving force to achieve that. The characters of his novels were stereotype and pictured typically in a negative light. High societies were mocked because of their double standard attitude but at the same time ideal, while poor lifestyle was also directly ridiculed by Fitzgerald, as being aware of Fitzgerald's own socioeconomic background it is obviously helpful in understanding his view towards society. Commercialism has just become the trigger of greed and lust as the American Dream was to achieve the equal status and rights for all of the society members in the beginning, but declined into the commercialism and materialism in the last, as well as what were happened to the characters of *The Great Gatsby* and *The Beautiful and Damned* that is prior in the materialist way of thinking than pure heart of conscience to share other people opinion and consideration to create a peaceful condition, not the wasteful and anarchic condition that led to the destruction of family member in both the novels. Although all people have their own dream, people shouldn't forget about the social condition of their family, as well as to their environment. The dream that is only driven by the capitalism and materialism without initiated with the sense of belonging of caring to the others will lead into destruction and failure as what Gatsby and Anthony experiences is evident at last.

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