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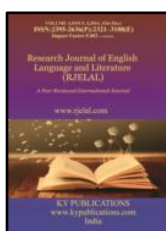
2395-2636 (Print);2321-3108 (online)

## WISDOM IN SHAKESPEARE'S LITERATURE

MARYAM MOHSIN JEBUR

M. A.English, Department of English, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nagarjuna Nagar

Email: [Maryam1992ma92@gmail.com](mailto:Maryam1992ma92@gmail.com)



### ABSTRACT

In universities and somewhere else, might we examine Shakespeare to find out about wisdom and how to become smarter? I say yes, however in the language of one of Shakespeare's most noteworthy fools:

And thus do we of wisdom and of reach, with windlasses and with assays of bias By indirections find directions out. (1)

Wisdom for Shakespeare has significantly more to do with the heart than the head. In spite of the fact that it is reasonable to be watchful and not naïve, and it is adroit to be aware of the risky methods for the world (the flesh, and the devil), what is still more basic is a valid and reliable heart, brilliant with love, care, and commitment, overflowing with sympathy and forgiveness. Those among Shakespeare's characters who are most splendid, smart and clever (such as Bolingbroke, Iago, Edmund, and to a degree Jaques and Puck) are ordinarily dispossessed of kindred feeling, without liberality, and profoundly unnatural in their unkindness (since family relationship is the pith of nature). Accordingly, when we look out wisdom in Shakespeare's plays, we look for but rather for hard heads delicate hearts, however ideally both—those qualities best exemplified in Viola, Rosalind, Desdemona, Cordelia, Kent, and incipiently in Prince Hal. Regardless of the significance and wisdom of different journalists, it is, in any event for readers of English, Shakespeare's works that best show how writing can add to wisdom. We can look at what Shakespeare can add to such wisdom.

### Introduction

When we discuss wisdom we signify "the capacity for judging rightly in matters relating to life and conduct; soundness of judgment in the choice of means and ends"(2); An author like Shakespeare, can help guide us, frequently in a roundabout way, toward more shrewd elucidations of what we encounter among their characters. Each great idea is valuable for humanity and in the advanced world of quick blurring substances and declining esteems; the precious fortunes of satisfaction and wisdom that we have gotten from Shakespeare turn out to be all the more valuable.

### Discussion

Shakespeare wrote many dramas; in fact Shakespeare was recognized as one of the greatest dramatists of the world. His literature is famous for its worldly-wisdom. Shakespeare's writings help a person how to be alert in worldly affairs. How a king and how an ordinary person should go ahead in the life of this world. He writes about jealousies of human beings, especially in royal palaces. Drama "As you like it" is an example for this kind of behaviour. About murders and murder politics, he wrote vividly in "Julius Ceaser" and "MacBeth".

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy." (3)

The vast majority of the Shakespeare plays reveal a significant theory as well as a remarkable wisdom. This wisdom gives the essential structure of the plays. Like the geometry that underlies an architectural edifice, for example, an established classical temple or Gothic cathedral, so this wisdom underlies the plays. It is in certainty a similar wisdom or truth that underlies all nature, all life. This, combined with the wonderful aptitude of the author, is most likely to an expansive degree why the Shakespeare plays are so fruitful and significant, and keep on being so from age to age, broadly and universally. It is a remarkable wonder—a capable enchantment.

As *Hamlet* says in Shakespeare's play, addressing the performing artists, the motivation behind playing (i.e. acting, performing) is "to hold as 'twere the mirror up to nature: to show virtue her feature, scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time his form and pressure."(1) along these lines, dramatization can demonstrate to us what we are and what we may be, and indicate the way what we presumably ought to be. This is in truth an old method for getting the hang of, having its sources in the established riddle schools, as a past Lord Chancellor of England, Richard de Bury, a standout amongst the most learned men of the fourteenth century, brought up: "Accordingly the wisdom of the ancients devised a remedy by which to entice the wanton minds of men by a kind of pious fraud, the delicate Minerva secretly lurking beneath the mask of pleasure."(4) Francis Bacon moreover, in alluding to show as being of astounding use, composes that "the care of the Ancients was that it should instruct the minds of men unto virtue"(5)

In nature (human and normal) is epitomized the wisdom—the laws that plan and represent all types of life. As Bacon calls attention to, there are both physical and magical laws. He alludes to the higher laws as being moral laws and states that the rundown law, or law of laws, is Love, as comprehended in the fullest feeling of love in real life—"the work which God works from beginning to

end"(6)— the heavenly work of love. Bacon additionally portrays this Love or outline law as "the work which God works from beginning to end"(6)— the divine labour of love. Bacon further describes this Love or summary law as "that impulse of desire impressed by God upon the primary particles of matter which makes them come together, and which by repetition and multiplication produces all the variety of nature".(7) This want, which is Love, is likewise that which is known as the Will of God—our will, for example, being what we need or want. To influence our will to the Will of God is to want what God wants, and this is love or philanthropy (i.e. love in real life). Hence Bacon urges us to think about and become acquainted with our wants and feelings: "For the principles, fountains, causes, and forms of motions, that is, the appetites and passions of every kind of matter, are the proper objects of philosophy."(8)

As far as the poet Milton is concerned, his great literary works, "Paradise Lost" and "Paradise Regained" are very important. Poet Milton is a very important poet. Milton uses good words in his writings. His vocabulary is vast. He guides us to recognize God's greatness and mercy. We should fear God, at the same time, we should be thankful for his countless blessings showered up on us. Milton was a Unitarian. Unitarianism is a sect in Christianity. Unitarians believe that there is only one God for all and for this entire universe, that means as the Muslims, they believe that there is only one God for all. That is, they are Unitarians. Unitarians also believe that there are heaven and hell in the life after our death. Heaven is permanent and everlasting, but Hell is not permanent. After some long period God will extinguish and finish Hell. It is the mercy of God. God generally forgives sinners, if they pray to forgive them and show mercy. Unitarian sect of Christians also believes that "Jesus Christ" is Messenger of God, like there are so many other Messengers. All Messengers received God's message and conveyed to their people. They are all human beings and they are good human beings.

So, Unitarians give preference to good behaviour, honesty and morality. They say all these

are necessary to get success in the life hereafter, after our death.

All these good beliefs and morality influenced poet Milton's English literature. So his English literature was regarded as other-worldly-wise. Milton encourages us to try to be good and get heaven after our death. It is a good way to save ourselves from hell, in the world, that comes after our death.

So, by reading literature, especially in the English language that is English literature by reading Shakespeare's literature we will become worldly wise. This is also important and by reading Milton's literature, we will become other-worldly-wise. This is also very important, thus study of English literature helps a lot. The Holy Qur'an also supports this. God says "Walakhirathukhairunwa Abqa" i.e., the next world is better than this world and more permanent (More everlasting) than this world.

Likewise, in different ages different forms of English literature helped people a lot. In other ages also so many other poets like Tnnyson, Dryden, and Wordsworth made their contribution to English literature.

Recently, novels, short stories play an important role in English literature, about these, in a next essay, I will try to explain it may be safely concluded that English literature, has a special place in the history of literary activities of the world.

**Wisdom in Shakespeare's Literature:** God created this wonderful creation. Among his creation human beings are the wisest beings. Since times immemorial wise sayings have been spreading in the world. Though there are much more ancient languages are in the world when compared to the English language, since the last four hundred years, the English language also played a very important part, as far as literature and politics are concerned. For this, we have to remember Shakespeare's poetry and Dramas.

**"BE thou familiar but by no means vulgar".**

- Shakespeare's: Hamlet Act1, scene3, page3.

The wisdom is; yes, we should be familiar. This is one of the most important pieces of Shakespeare's literature. When you can be familiar? - When you are good morally, when you help others,

when you are a Good Samaritan. When you behave well with fellow human beings. When you are good to your parents, children, relatives and generally all human beings. Even the holy book, the book of God, - the Quran says" WA BILWALIDAYNI IHSAANA". i.e., God, the creator says, "you should be extremely good to your parents." All religious books support this sentence. 'Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar' - Here, we have to see and consider one more important point, that is - "By no means vulgar" - think over it, vulgar language and vulgar behaviour bring you bad name. People do not like vulgar people or vulgarity. It will bring you, only bad name. Remember bad name will bring you troubles. People will not come to help bad people, when they are in difficulties. All stories, novels, dramas and also history books show us how bad people were not helped during difficulties and thus they brought their downfall. Only good people with good behaviour, they got help from many people and they overcame their difficulties and became successful. All this happened, because they are good and because they are familiar. They are familiar because of their good deeds and good behaviour. The Quran, The Bible and the Bhagavathgita and many other books say "Good behaviour brings good to us and God likes good people. So, Shakespeare's words, "BE THOU FAMILIAR" are very important. These words indicate Shakespeare's wisdom. Thus English literature also got good name in the world languages. Thus Shakespeare was recognized as a writer with wisdom and worldly affairs-knowledge.

**"The evil that men do lives after them".**

- Julius Caesar Act3, scene2, page 4.

This comment of Shakespeare is widely discussed in academic circles, religious scholars, Moralists and philosophers. All of them praise Shakespeare for his knowledge and understanding of human beings and their vulnerability to do evil. Evil deeds draw attention of all. They spread like wild - fire all over the world. Many evil deeds of many people were recorded in history. All history books are replete with cruelty, injustice and misdeeds of various kinds of people. Thus, the evil which men do lives after them. What a good understanding of Shakespeare. Shakespeare well

understood human nature and also human history. Thus expressing his views in English literature, he brought good name and fame to English literature, all over the world - not only in his contemporary world but also in the future world, forever.

All Moralists and religious scholars quote this Shakespeare's quotation in their religious books; religious ceremonies and even philosophers appreciate this statement of Shakespeare and warn people of evil and dangerous consequences of evil deeds. Thus Shakespeare got "hats off" and good respect from philosophers of his own time and all times to come.

By saying and pointing out about evil consequences of evil, that too by saying the "evil lives after them". He encourages people to do good. Evil permanently brings to us bad name or good deeds bring us respect and good name and in history, our name will be permanent with appreciation and good respect. All major religions of the world support this opinion. The holy Bible encourages good people and exhorts people to do good. The Quran says "people who do good will get good in this world and the next world which comes after our death and also says that "INNAL ABRARA LAFINAYEEM AND INNAL FUJJARA LAFEEJAHEEM, that good people will be in heaven with all good things and blessings and bad people will go to hellfire. Almost all religions say and confirm this. Such is the wonderful knowledge of Shakespeare.

In Henry IV, Part II, Act3, Shakespeare says:

"Those who wear the crown of king have to face all worries and they have to be worrying always", again the statement of Shakespeare throws much light on history and especially of monarchy. History shows us, kings who wore the crown always lead worried lives. Prime Ministers, Presidents and politicians of today are also a worried lot, they face many tense situations. In olden days, those tensions were many and varied. Always they worried about revolts from their people, assassinations from their adversaries and enemies. They were always worried about being positioned, of course nowadays because of modern science, medicines, this problem has mitigated, in olden days it was a very serious problem and worried all kings. In fact the very responsibility of state affairs and

Government, is all a complicated responsibility. On his personal knowledge and courage one could face the difficulties with courage and endurance. Thus, Shakespeare clearly brought this fact to the notice of all people. It is a very important advantage of Shakespeare's literature. Kings and Knights thought it is very Advisable and instructive for rulers to read Shakespeare's literature. As far as possible people should worry less and think more in order to make themselves good and able rulers. Thus, Shakespeare is a good philosopher and advisor for rules, just like Aristotle.

Aristotle, the master of Alexander the great, was a versatile teacher with interdisciplinary approach. The knowledge, likewise, Shakespeare taught was famous. Thus in his writings, he expressed his worldly affairs-knowledge. Worldly awareness and general knowledge. He had given a kind of "Richness" to English language. So, English literature means, everybody, immediately remembers Shakespeare.

He expresses this general - awareness, when he says - Neither a borrower nor a lender be, for loan off loses both itself and friendship. Many people in the world, for that matter, in every age tend to evade loan, then just do not want to pay the loan-amount. The person who gives loan begins to quarrel, after a period of time. Many people want to get back their loan amount, then quarrel intensifies. Thus very friendship becomes thin and thin and in some cases enmity, so he says, it loses itself and friendship. If any person does not pay back his loan amount, he actually commits an act of unthankfulness and this is a moral turpitude. Muhammed, peace be upon him said;

"A person must pay back his loan with gratitude and if he has the great intention to pay back his loan. Then God will help him in paying back his loan amount, in other words if he has intention to pay back his loan, God will make him rich. But what Shakespeare says is - Try to be, so rich or resourceful not to take a loan - (Neither a borrower nor a lender be), only to be on safer side. But anyhow, his observation that a good number of people do not pay back their loans - is a reminder to us to recognize the truth. Shakespeare observer's society and people's behaviour. Thus his literary

writings about general human beings behaviour, in his famous beautifully written drama "MACBETH", he writes and exposes the internal clash of a murderer and about the sorrow of crime i.e. crime of a murder, - he writes very effectively that all perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this. All perfumes of Arabia were famous, in those days of Shakespeare, perfume has a very good effect had environment and it spreads pleasant smell. Good smell is used to neutralize the.... bad smell, good smell is compared to good act, bad smell is compared to bad deeds. Really it is a good figure of speech in every important language of the word use of good and effective figures of speech, is an art itself. Figures of speech powerfully convey various views and description of a situation. To a great extent, English language has acquired its good name in the world literature because of its figures of speech. Shakespeare uses good figures of speech and suitable figures of speech, so he has become one of the greatest literary figures in the world.

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