

RESEARCH ARTICLE

HUMAN PSYCHE OF EDMUND IN “*THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE*”

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**Abstract**

The main objective of this paper is to analyse the character of Edmund The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe on the basis of psychoanalysis literary theory more specifically on the Freud’s division of human psyche into the id, ego and superego. Edmund is fulfilled the stereotype of the other typical middle child role. From betrayed beast to Narnian knight, Edmund is an example of a middle child who overcame inferiority and matured. The paper analyses upon premises in which that how id throughout a person’s life tries to overpower and struggles to win over by negating all the laws and restrictions, how ego keep contesting to maintain a balance between the id and the superego, and how this complexity of relationship between psychology and morality.

**Key words:** Human psyche, Stereotype and transformation.

**Introduction**

Freud’s single most and important idea was the human psyche has more than one aspect. Freud’s personality theory (1923) saw the psyche divided into three parts, id, ego and super ego, all developing of different stages in our life. These are systems, not parts of brain or in any way of physical. In Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalytic theory of personality, the id is the primitive and instinctual part of the mind that contains sexual and aggressive drives and hidden memories. The superego operates a moral conscience. The ego is the realistic part that mediates between the desires of id and superego. Although each part of the personality comprises unique features, they interact to form a whole, and each part makes a relative contribution to the individual behaviour.

“Freud sought to explain the unconscious by proposing a classification of the unconscious into three psychic zones: the id, the ego, and the superego. The id is entirely unconscious and that only small portions of the ego and the superego are conscious” (Savarimuttu 133).

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**Human Psyche of Edmund**

Edmund's character was probably the most ambiguous one in the book. In the first half of the novel, Edmund was in evil path and it was possible for a young boy to be, but his character transforms halfway through the novel. By the end, Edmund was fair and brave, and he was just as admirable as Peter. This was the whole purposes of Edmund in the novel. The Witch was on the evil path She had no capacity for goodness, possibly because she was not born with capacity for both good and evil that human beings possess. Edmund was human, however and no matter how evil he was acted while in the service of the Witch, he was never so far gone that he cannot redeem himself.

The Witch's enchanted box Turkish delight initially seduced Edmund. The magical candy was the cause of greed and Edmund fixated on the candy to a high degree. Edmund saw more and more evidence of the Witch's cruelty and heartless behaviour. Originally Edmund was a traitor because of his greed for Turkish delight. Later, it was evident that Edmund was corrupted by a desire for power and by the lavish promises of the Witch.

Edmund did atone for his sins and transform his character.

The first change was happened when the Witch treated Edmund like a slave

rather than a prince. Edmund expressed his empathy and latent kindness when he was witnessed by the Witch purifying a happy group of small forest animals. Eventually, Edmund was fully realized the Witch's intention and the benevolence of Aslan. A discussion with Aslan seemed to his change yet it was not until battle and helped to kill the White Witch that he showed his true mettle. Most of Edmund's conversation was occurred due to external factors of the Witch's cruel behaviour and petrification of the animals at least on the conversation with Aslan. Ultimately, it was up to Edmund to redeem himself and complete his transformation.

This change was taken with a tremendous force of will and courage, but in the end, Edmund found freedom. Lewis never really told us what made Edmund this way perhaps it's was insecurity brought on by being the middle child perhaps it's nothing more than simple immaturity.

However, it was the immaturity that makes him the perfect victim for the White Witch, who easily exploited his vanity and his longing to feel superior to his siblings, particularly his brother. His discovery of what the Witch was really like proves to be catalyst for his redemption, and he realized his siblings were in the right all along and no his enemies after all. Throughout the rest of his appearances in the novel, it was clear that his time spent with White Witch leaves

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a lasting impression on him. After she was defeated Edmund, like his siblings of Narnia. His title was king Edmund "The Just": it was mentioned that he grows into a wise and thoughtful man. From the beginning, there was sensed that Edmund was not inherently good as his siblings. He was rebelled even in simple tasks such as shutting the door to the wardrobe. His interactions with Lucy were especially telling of his character.

Edmund treated her as if he was more worthy, showing his feelings of superiority as a male: "And Edmund gave a very superior look as if he were far older than Lucy (there was really only a year's difference)" (Lewis 52).

He was failed to fulfil his duty as an older brother by being rude and condescending toward Lucy. Edmund's mistreatment of Lucy was simply minor sibling rivalry compared to the bigger "sin" Edmund committed. When he entered Narnia and met the White Witch, he was taken the Turkish delight and betrayed his siblings. Edmund's pleasure in the Turkish delight was the weakness triggered by insecurity. Edmund the struggled, middle child, against the other three, as he strived to be his own little man. In his insecurity and his desire for position, he eventually betrayed his siblings for a few mouthfuls of candy. Out of insecurity and jealousy,

Edmund were chosen sweets and a Witch over his siblings.

Edmund's betrayal was not entirely his fault; he was manipulated by the most powerful figure in Narnia, the Witch who controlled grown creatures. Edmund's initial jealousy drove him to a situation in which could not escape. In this cycle of mistakes, Edmund was not entirely to blame, but he was also not without fault. In the clutch of the White Witch and even before meeting the evil rule, his negative character traits were displayed as he was made his shared of conscious choice and mistakes. Edmund was driven by the negative effects of jealousy. As the White Witch manipulated Edmund, his ill opinion of his siblings was also displayed. "It will make your brother a Duke and your sisters Duchesses. There's nothing special about them" (Lewis 45-46).

He consciously known his actions were wrong, but his jealousy fuels him to acted anyway. Negative characteristics, many of which were often associated with middle-born children, were personified by Edmund Pevensie. In the end, he was reunited with his siblings after talking with Aslan and was well again. He was able to forget his jealousy, pride and desire for revenge when he was gazed on Aslan. Though Edmund seemed predetermined to had a less than desirable personality. He was changed for the better when his

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circumstances changed. At last Aslan made him as knight in the battle. Edmund was very important character in this novel. Because he was an example to show how he developed from having a bad temper, being gluttonous, revealing his siblings to White Witch who wanted to kill them, and changed his behaviour to become a noble person. In first half of the novel, Edmund was in the human psyche of id. In second half of the novel, how he maintains a balance between id and superego in the human psyche of ego. In the human psyche of id, Edmund was mainly focused on instinctual drives and desires in unconscious level. According to Freud, it was the behaviour of slave, pleasure and addiction for desires.

In the beginning of the story, Edmund was only an ordinary boy who had bad temper to his siblings. In meanwhile in Narnia, he was one of the members of Narnia's army which was prepared to fight the White Witch. When he decided to apologize and reunite with his siblings, it was also indicated that he wanted to join the army to defeat the White Witch. His role as the member of the army motivated him to be brave to fight the enemy. His personality of human psyche in ego was slightly different from he was an ordinary boy in his family. The ego was engaged in secondary process thinking, which was rational, towards problem solving. According to Sigmund Freud, the ego was

the part of personality that mediated the demands of the id, the superego and reality. Freud described the id as the most part of personality that urges people to fulfil their most primary needs.

I am going to compare the Edmund character with the three parables in the Bible Luke chapter 15. The three parables are about the lost sheep, the lost coin and the prodigal son. Jesus loved to tell the people about God's forgiveness. But Jewish leaders complained about his friendship with sinners. Jesus told three stories to show that God is happy when sinners are sorry for their sins. The first story was about a man with a hundred sheep. One had lost. Right away the ninety- nine and went out to find the missing sheep. The shepherd searched and searched until he found the sheep. Then he put it on his shoulders and carried it home joyfully.

"And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost. Just so I tell you there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance'" (Bible 61).

Jesus' next story was about a lady who had ten silver coin, perhaps her whole life savings. An awful thing happened. She lost one of her coins. The lady looked everywhere by sweeping. Finally, she found

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the lost coin. She was very happy and she told all her friends. Jesus said, "There is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents."

The third story Jesus told was the saddest. It spoke of a boy who left his father's home. In far country the boy spent his money foolishly. To make matters worse, a famine came. The boy could starve to death. Desperate with hunger, the boy got a job feeding pigs. But no one fed him. He would have eaten the pig's food gladly. Perhaps he did! Finally, the boy came to his senses. "Back home even the servants eat well," he thought. "I'll go home and tell father I'm sorry for my sins. I'm not worthy to be his son anymore. I hope he'll hire me as a servant." While the boy was still a long way from home, his father saw him coming. Joyously, the father ran to his returning son. He kissed the boy, and hugged him. "Father, I have sinned. I'm not worthy to be your son." The boy wanted to ask his father to hire him as servant. But Father interrupted. "Bring the best robe, sandals, and a ring for my son. And prepare for a great party." There was a wonderful party because the son who was lost had been found. Jesus told this story because it shows how God loves to receive sinners who repent and come again.

Edmund is exactly similar to prodigal son. Because he is also in evil path and repent for his mistakes asked

forgiveness from his father. Edmund takes decision to join with the White Witch exactly like prodigal son who joined with his friend instead of his father. After the two of them also repent from his mistakes and regretful. But all things had reason behind it. Edmund learned about the White Witch only when he betrayed his siblings. He is in transforming his character when he is with White Witch. He is preparing him as good king and fighting in the war only because of his decision with the White Witch. His siblings did not know about the strength of the White Witch. Only he takes decisions to break her wand because she killed many Narnian. According to me, Edmund is very important character than his siblings. Because without his repentance, they could not able to kill the White Witch "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and his found.'" (Bible 62).

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe is very interesting with many moral values.

C.S Lewis tries to describe how human can be tempted easily by wealth and position. He also wants to describe that to be jealous of something can bring the person into unhappiness. By understanding his work, we are able to gain deeper knowledge of human life. In future the

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researcher can conduct the research on analysed the motivation of Edmund pevensie to be a king of Narnia or analysed on moral values revealed in the novel. Another suggestion is about the Christian values depicted in the novel since the writer is famous in including Christian values through his works.

“Freud attributes the origins of communal superegos to the influence of great personality such as Jesus; what is interesting is his acknowledgment that his acknowledgment that the demands of an individual’s superego will “coincide with the precepts of the prevailing culture of superego” (Habib 586).

**Conclusion**

Edmund had the concept of id in the beginning of the novel and he became a slave of his pleasures and desires unconsciously. But he slowly developed the human psyche in the concept of ego by analysing good and bad things. It was the ego’s job to strike a balance between these two often competing forces and to make sure that fulfilling the needs of the id and superego conforms to the demands of reality. Here also Edmund achieved a balance between id and superego, while the ego operated in both the preconscious and conscious. The ego operated based on reality principle, which worked to satisfy the id’s desires in a manner that was realistic and socially appropriate way. Finally, he achieved desires of id to be

king, but not in a wrong way by doing good things to Narnians. The ego helped him to control his desires in morally appropriate way.

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