



“MAGGIE - A GIRL OF STREETS” - PROBLEMS BETWEEN HUMANKIND AND ENVIRONMENT

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Annotation: This article is devoted to the problems of studying the problems between humankind and environment by the American writer Stephen Crane in "Maggie- a girl of streets". The author of the article tried to write based on the articles of many scientists and his own scientific researches to cover these issues.

Keywords: naturalism, critical realism, impressionism, existentialism

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqola amerikalik yozuvchi Stiven Krenning “Maggie – a girl of streets” asarida insoniyat va atrof- muhit o’rtasigi muammolarga bag’ishlanadi. Maqola muallifi shu masalalarni yoritishda ko’plab olimlarning maqolalariga hamda o’z ilmiy qidiruvlariga tayanib yozishga harakat qilgan.

Калит so’zlar: naturalizm, tanqidiy realizm, impressionizm, egzistentalizm

Аннотация: Данная статья посвящена проблемам изучения литературных направлений, использованных американским писателем Стивеном Креном в “Мегги- уличная девушка”. Автор статьи попытался ответить на эти вопросы на основе статей многих ученых и собственных научных исследований.

Ключевые слова : натурализм, критический реализм, импрессионизм.

Stephen Crane's work "Maggie a girl of the streets" is recognized by many critics as the first American novel written in the direction of naturalism. He tried to write real life as he saw and knew it, unlike the works written in the direction of romanticism and realism created before him. While reading 'Maggie', the life style of the entire population living here is vividly embodied in this work. In addition, the writer tried to describe the Bowery area of New York at that time. In fact, in naturalistic works, ideological themes such as the close connection of man with nature, his helplessness in front of external forces, and the futility of trying to get out of the environment in which he lives are put forward. Therefore 'Maggie' also promotes this idea. The tragedy of the heroes of the work is that they do not try to improve their living conditions, they get used to bad habits and these things did not make them worrying. Only Maggie tries to leave her home and start a new life because of her horrible situation, her mother's stubbornness, and her poor living conditions. She is deluded into the idea that life outside is beautiful and that only Pete can save her from this hell. In my opinion, Maggie's tragedy lies in her inability to adapt to the environment in which she lives. Like other women, she could not imagine living in such an abandoned cage for a lifetime and eventually died.

The novella is set in Manhattan, the most densely populated of the five boroughs. It can be subdivided into Lower, Midtown, and Uptown regions. West-bound the Hudson River divides the city from New Jersey and East Manhattan is separated from Long Island by the East River. Maggie and Pete visit several places located in and around the borough of Manhattan:

First of all, there is the Bowery, the home of Maggie and her family, "a dark region where, from a

careening building, a dozen gruesome doorways gave up loads of babies to the streets and gutters”¹ Then Pete promises Jimmie "to take him to a boxing match in Williamsburg",² a part of Brooklyn. Furthermore, East River, the place of Maggie's death, is mentioned: "At their feet the river appeared a deathly black hue" In Midtown Central Park and the Fifth Avenue are locations visited by Maggie. Rich people tended to settle in Midtown and the poor workers lived Downtown at Maggie's time The title of Jacob Riis's book *How the Other Half Lives* illustrates clearly that this was only one side of the coin. "The poor tenement dwellers had to live in areas ...made up of cheap, unsafe, wooden shacks or brick houses lacking proper sanitation and adequate heating "³ This development came about when America changed into an industrial nation with successful factories and the establishment of the transcontinental railroad. The cities became bigger and the so-called "Gilded-Age" started. According to H. Spencer, only the fittest would survive this change, which fostered an elbow society in which old morals and values collapsed. But due to a growing number of immigrants to the United States, the first slums came into existence, which stood in great contrast to the nouveaux riches, who displayed a life in wealth.

New York around the 1890s consisted of a "wasteful social chemistry" This is in contrast to what is promoted by the American people, that New York is a "city free from social economic distinction". What we find here is the exact opposite, a city divided into two parts by an invisible line: Midtown accommodates the rich, Downtown is the home of the underprivileged people. The place, the novella *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* is set in, derives its name from the Dutch word "bowerij" and means "farm". During the 17th century, it was a farming area north of the city, whose governor was Peter Stuyvesant. It remained on the outer fringe of the city until about 1800. At that time, the Bowery was a very fashionable place and well known for its entertainment program. The streets were full of taverns, oyster bars, minstrels and theaters. It even housed the largest auditorium on the continent. After the Civil War, the Bowery had to compete with Broadway and Fifth Avenue as new addresses and so, it was more and more associated with cheap entertainment. When the new elevated line was placed over 3rd Avenue, the once so popular boulevard was doomed. The pedestrians were showered with oil and coal and from then on avoided the street and went along Broadway. This event, and the great number of immigrants from Europe and Asia, who could not find enough room to live in, made the Bowery the place like we encounter it in Crane's story.

Throughout the novel, the impression is conveyed that Maggie's life is inevitably determined by her social circumstances. Maggie and her family live in a shabby tenement While reading this books first chapter few lines give the reader a short glance at how people used to live at the end of the 19 th century. It is a dark place with children playing in the dirt. It does not smell very pleasant and the reader can only hear from reading the lines the creaking and noise of the place. But there is more to the Bowery. It is depicted by other images, as well. Reading the first three chapters of the novella, it opens with a street battle between rival gangs in the impoverished Bowery. Nothing less than the "honor of Rum Alley" is at stake, led by Maggie's brother, Jimmie Johnson. A small boy, "livid with fury, Jimmie hurls invectives against the Devil's Row mob". The scene is at once interminably violent and blindly savage. "On their small, convulsed faces there shone the grins of true assassins." When Jimmie finally ends up at the bottom of a pile of attackers, it is the angry and arrogant Pete, "with an air of challenge over his eyes," who comes to his rescue. "Between his teeth, a cigar stump was tilted at the angle of defiance." But his "rescue" notwithstanding, Jimmie is soon embroiled in a far worse struggle when his abusive father arrives on the scene, only to bring him home to an equally destructive domestic situation. In the larger context of this novel, it is simply not possible to be rescued from the devastating effects of urban poverty in New York's Lower East Side. From the beginning of the second chapter of the work; the reader begins to understand about Bowery. When Jimmie and his father return home, we enter the terrifying world of the Lower East Side tenement.

"Eventually they entered into a dark region where, from a caring building, a dozen gruesome doorways gave up loads of babies to the street and the gutter. A wind of early autumn raised yellow from fire escapes. In all unhandy places there were buckets, brooms, rags and bottles. In the street infants played or fought with other infants or sat stupidly in the way of vehicles. Formidable women, with uncombed hair

¹ Ibid , p 4

² Crane Stphen " Maggie a girl of the streets t" , Freeditorial, p 18.

³ Ahnebrink, Lars. " The beginning of Naturalism in American fiction " ,New york,RussellINC,1960 p3 #1.

and disordered dress, gossiped while leaning on railings, or screamed in frantic quarrels. Withered persons, in curious postures of submission to something, sat smoking pipes in obscure corners. A thousand odors of cooking food came forth to the street. The building quivered and creaked from the weight of humanity stamping about in its bowels”⁴ The words "dark region", "unhandy places", "formidable women", "uncombed hair", "disordered dress", "withered persons", "the building quivered and creaked" in the text are the place where the incident is taking place and it clearly describes the condition of the people living there. Such adjectives, skillfully used by the writer, easily give the reader an impression of how things will continue and what will happen next. Stephen Crane masterfully used the words "dark region" and "unhandy places» to describe how poor Maggie and her family were. Another example of the poverty of the people living there are the above words "formidable women", "uncombed hair", "disordered dress" and "withered persons. “

As mentioned earlier, Crane himself lived in this environment for a while and saw the Bowery life with his own eyes. , If we analyze the words "the building quivered and creaked" in the text about the image of the following building, we will understand that the building where the Bowery residents live is also in a state of disrepair due to the severity of their lifestyle and lifestyle. But they don't seem to notice it, or even if they do, they know that they can't do anything about it. It is understood from this passage that the appearance of the Bowery has a great influence on the human psyche. The return home is anything but a place of safe haven but, rather, a world of interminable fighting and swearing and physical violence. Indeed, "gruesome" is an oft-repeated word for Stephen Crane expressing both the horror and the inhumane conditions of life in the Bowery slums. As soon as he enters his tenement, a structure which itself is threatened by "the weight of humanity stamping about its bowels," the relentlessly combative Jimmie gets into a fight with his sister Maggie. Let's talk about the shelter where Maggie and her family live.

"Finally the procession plunged into one of the gruesome doorways. They crawled up dark stairways and along cold, gloomy halls. At last the father pushed open a door and they entered a lighted room in which a large woman was rampant".⁵

This passage from the play describes the environment in which Maggie and her family live. Of course, in order to impress a place, writers have to blacken a page or two . But in an exceptional way, Crane skillfully gives the reader full information about the shelter where the Johnsons live with two lines of sentences. "gruesome doorways ", "dark stairways", "cold, gloomy halls" in the piece are examples of the skill of writing words and phrases. No word is too much; it is not possible to add a word. From this passage we pass to the interior of the Bowery as a continuation of the exterior. We can understand from the above words that the shelter of the family is as dirty, unsightly and disorderly as the fog in which they live.

"The problem this story hinges on is not primarily a social one, and Crane is not merely content with studying the causes and consequences of prostitution. Mainly concerned with the "soul " of the young prostitute, he tries to challenge the beliefs of Sunday school religion. Can an "occasional street girl» be expected to end up in Heaven, regardless of the indignant frowns of "many excellent people?" The answer is never made explicit in a narrative brimming over their irony, but it could not be other than positive "⁶

As Ch. Ch. Walcutt wrote that "Maggie falls because "environment is a terrible thing in the world", because although she was romantic nobody is interested in her fate. Her only possible escape from a life of moral degradation (committing suicide) .”⁷

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5. Ibid , p 4

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