



A Schizophrenic State of willyloman and Requiem Arthur Miller's Death of a salesman

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Abstract:

The term of this paper is to analyse the significance of Requiem in Arthur Miller's Death of a salesman. In this play the requiem focuses mainly on the reaction of different people to Willy's suicide the members of the Willy family Charley and Bernard are gathered at the graveyard. In the requiem, Linda and Happy stand in shock after Willy's poorly attended funeral. Biff State's that Willy had the wrong dreams. Charley defends Willy as a victim of his profession Biff invites Happy to go back into west with him. Happy dictates that he will stick it out in New York to voidableWilly's death. Linda asks Willy for forgiveness for being unable to cry. She being to sob, respecting. "We're free..."

Keywords:- Requiem, Victim, Graveyard, Suicide

DOI Number:10.48047/nq.2022.20.22.NQ10323

NeuroQuantology2022;20(22):3267-3269

Arthur miller was born on 17 October, 1915. He suffered very much during his early boyhood. He was unimpressive at school, with no academic achievement to his credit. In his autobiographical work entitled A BOY GREN IN BROOKLYN he talks of his school days with way humour: 'I was, in fact, thoroughly invisible during the earlier four years and this is by all odds my most successful accomplishment so far'.

America was in the grip of a severe depression when miller is in college. He held many unliterary jobs to support himself. He worked as a truck driver, waiter, crew-man on a tanker and soon. His acquaintance with ordinary jobs went into the making of his plays later. The economic depression and

stagnation that America was passing through at the time of Arthur Miller is refracted in the play. Miller was sympathetically disposed towards communism which he felt to be a panacea for all social ills. Unemployment and under employment are shown to be widespread in Miller's America.

Death of a salesman is regarded as the finest of Miller's Works. Willy Loman, the Protagonist of this play is wrapped up in self – delusions. He thinks that, with his personal attractiveness and pleasant social manners he is a most successful salesman. He is not aware of his limitations. He loses his job, discovers that his idealistic elder son is a failure and that his younger son, Though successful in business is morally rotten. Loman commits



suicide, as all his dreams are shattered. Death of a salesman exposes the boastful, self-made American businessman who cannot, however, stand a crisis. Willy lives wrapped up in the past. At crucial moments he recalls what he did or what happened to him in the past. A large count of the play shows Willy's absorption in such reveries. It is extremely difficult for the reader to distinguish between reverie and reality in those contexts in which one sentence shows Willy talking to a real person and the very next sentence shows him swinging back to the past and talking with some of the figures recalled by Willy have no existence outside his reveries Willy's elder brother Ben who amassed a huge fortune in Africa and the unnamed woman with whom Willy had a clandestine affair at a restaurant in Boston are both figures occurring only in Willy's reveries. The young Linda carrying the washed clothes, Biff and Happy in school uniform, their neighbour Charley and his son Bernard all these people occur not only in Willy's reveries but, having grown up, bulk large in real situations also in the play.

"Just for you, I am going
to break through for a
touch-down. You watch me,
Pop, and when I take off
my helmet, that means
I'm breaking' out. Then
watch me crash through
that line."

Willy talks of his intention to start a business of his own and outshine Charley who is liked but not as "well-liked" as he is the promises to take his sons out with self when he starts his own business. Then, He brags of his importance. He says that he had coffee with the Mayor of the city of Providence. He boasts that he is very popular in New England where the cops would take care of his car where ever he parks it. This shows how highly Willy thinks of himself.

Reverie provides information relating to Willy's family background. It is a mixture of reality and dream. While playing cards with Charley, Willy recollects his elder brother Ben who appears before him at once. Ben is a figment of Willy's imagination. He is no more. He is visible only to Willy and not to Charley.

Charley is puzzled by Willy's conversation with the non-existing Ben. He stops playing with Willy's and goes away. This reverie yields much information about Willy's family background.

Willy's reverie relating to Biff occurs at the end of the first Act. Hoping that Biff will get a massive loan from Bill Oliver and start a business, Willy recalls Biff, the tallest of the players entered the field, he looked like Hercules and was instilled cheered by the spectators. This reverie comes to an end with Willy hoping that such a star as Biff proved to be at school will not fade away in business.

Willy's young employer Howard dismisses him because he is too old to travel far and wide. Frustrated, Willy recalls his kind-hearted brother Ben who offers him a supervisory job in Alaska on a sumptuous salary. Willy is eager to go but Linda stops him, saying that he has everything to satisfy him at home, loving sons, a decent job and an understanding master old Wagner who has promised him a share in the firm. Willy is convinced and agrees to stay however, when Ben points out what Willy has worked long and with sincerity and yet has no achievement to his credit, Willy realized the emptiness of his life and wishes to go to Alaska and make a mark there Linda again intervenes and argues that a lot can be achieved in America itself, as the sixty year old salesman Dave single man proved by achieving a large volume of sales through more telephonic contacts. Willy says that much can be done through 'contacts' and an attractive personality. He says that Biff, "That's just what I mean Bernard can get the best marks in school. You understand, but when he gets out in the business world you understand you are going to be five times ahead of him. That's why I thank Almighty God you're both built like Agonises"

This shows that Willy is a man who believes in the physical dash and dazzle of an individual to be successful in business. This is certainly a false belief, for him himself is a trouble solving the world of business despite his attractiveness. So, he is infusing a false sense of values in his son's mind. We came to know of his boastful nature with his

handsome personality, is sure to rise to great heights.

A hash back also occurs in Willy's imagination as he is in the Boston restaurant where he had an affair with the unnamed prostitute. He hears the prostitute laughing loudly and asking him to open the door and lets in the person who is knocking at the door loudly. There is a law in the Boston restaurant where the unnamed call girl is staying with him. Biff found out Willy in hotel when he came to inform that he has been plucked in mathematics. Biff is horrified to find a prostitute in his father's room. It made his sons to go in the way of his father. "A man can't go out the way he came in, Ben; a man has got to end up to something,"

The reverie which prompts Willy suicide. In the end of the second Act, Willy imagines himself talking with Ben about his intention to commit suicide so that the insurance company will give Biff twenty thousand dollars. Ben objects to this proposition, saying that the insurance company will not honour his policy if he focuses on the reactions of different people to Willy's suicide. Willy she does not believe that her husband is dead. She believes that Willy has gone on a business tour and is sure to return home after a few days. Usually only a child which has lost its father believes that its father is alive and will return home soon or late. Linda is in the same condition as child.

Miller in the end of the play shows the requiem and the reality in the practical

commits suicide. Willy says that he worked hard and all the Perugia and so the insurance company cannot dodge. Ben says that Biff will have only contempt for his father if he commits suicide. Willy replies that he is not contemptible. It will be attended by thousands of old timers coming from different parts of America with the insurance money Biff's position is sure to skyrocket.

After analysing all Ben approves of Willy's plan to commit suicide. The reverie ends with disappearing into darkness and Willy rushing away in his car to smash it and kill himself.

The play is full of Willy's reveries and recollections. He is shown to be born between the past and the present. In short he is in a Schizophrenic state.

"All the old timers with the strange license plates that boy will be thunderstruck, Ben, because he never realised."

Miller is his 'Death of a salesman' appended with a small requiem at the end of play. The requiem

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world. He reveals the realities after the death of simple middle class salesman

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