

The Electra Complex And Manto's Short Story "Allah Ditta"

Rao Muhammad Umar¹, Dr. Muhammad Saeed², Nimra Hanif³, Kashaf Iftikhar⁴,
Aiman Wakeel⁵

¹Lecturer, Govt. Islamia Postgraduate College Civil Lines, Lahore

²Associate Professor, GCU, Lahore

³Visiting Lecturer, University Of Education, Lahore

⁴Ph.D. scholar, GCU, Lahore

⁵Lecturer in Urdu, Superior College, Mananwala

Abstract: Manto's short story "Allah Ditta" is of great significance in terms of psychology. The psychology of the Electra complex is depicted in this myth. This story also reveals that the girl feels jealousy and rivalry not only with her mother but with any woman who she fears will share her father's love.

Keywords: Manto, Short story, Psychology, Electra complex, Daughter, Jealousy, Possessiveness

Introduction:

The term Electra complex is used in contrast to the Oedipus complex. Just as the Oedipus complex represents the male child's attraction and possessiveness towards his mother, the Electra complex expresses the girl child's attraction and possessiveness towards her father. In the Oedipus complex, the boy sees his father as his rival, similarly, in the Electra complex; the girl sees her mother as her rival and feels envious and hostile towards her. It is worth mentioning here that the girl becomes familiar with the natural love for her mother and marginalizes her during her childhood or later. But she is not able to share her father's love in the form of her stepmother and any other woman. Similar to the Oedipus complex, these aspects and behaviors of the girl child were also studied and pioneered by Sigmund Freud. But the formal theory and term Electra complex were coined by Carl Jung in 1913. (1) Another value that the Oedipus and Electra complexes have in common is that both terms and their characteristics are borrowed from Greek mythology. Sophocles also wrote plays called "Oedipus Rex" and "Electra". Euripides also wrote a play with the same name "Electra"

while Aeschylus wrote a play on it with the title "Choephoroi". These plays vary the theme in detail. Besides these, many artistic works and interpretations depict her life. In these works, Hugo von Hofmannsthal's play Elektra (1903), later made into an opera by Richard Strauss (1906-08), and Eugene O'Neill's play Mourning Becomes Electra (1931) are worth mentioning.(2)

Electra is a legendary character of ancient Greek tragedy and mythology. She was the daughter of King Agamemnon and Clytemnestra. Clytemnestra with the help of her new lover and king's Cousin Aegisthus murdered King Agamemnon. Electra saved her younger brother Orestes by sending him away into hiding. When he returned after some time, Electra helped him to murder and slays their mother Clytemnestra and her lover and new king Aegisthus. After that, she married her brother's friend Pylades. Contrary to this, Oedipus's tragedy shares a different theme. He fulfills the prophecy by killing his father and by marrying her mother. In Electra's myth, she didn't marry her father or her opposite-sex parent.

Like the Oedipus complex, there are some signs and behaviors by which the Electra complex can be located. These signs can be seen in different ages of a girl from her childhood to his adulthood and later on:

1. Girl starts avoiding or feeling jealous or hostile toward her mother.
2. She develops a sense of disliking her mother.
3. She becomes more attached and fixated on her father.
4. She starts idealizing her father and wants to see his character in her partner.
5. She shows more concern and interest in everything that he does.
6. She feels jealous of every female cousin or his girlfriend or her stepmother whom she believes can share his father's love.

Discussion:

Saadat Hassan Manto (1912-1955) is a distinguished Urdu short story writer. His fiction covers and reflects themes relating to realism and the psychology of individuals and society. Talking about psychological topics, sexual psychology, the psychology of puberty, individual and collective attitudes of different classes and their psychology are reflected in his fiction. Many themes of psychology like the Oedipus complex, Electra complex, Superiority Complex, Inferiority Complex, Sadism, Masochism and psychoanalysis are seen in his fiction. Apart from this, the techniques of free association and stream of consciousness are also used in his fiction. His short story "Allah Ditta" depicts the theme and issues of Electra complex. In this short story, different aspects of the Electra complex are illustrated. Normally Electra complex is described as a girl's envious and hostile behaviour towards her mother because she feels they her mother is her rival and competitor in her father's love. But in this short story, Manto encircles this feeling and behaviour in another situation where a daughter feels envious of her cousin to whom she feels

that she will divide her father's love. The plot and the last lines of this story also express that Zainab and her father were also in a physical relationship. When Allah Ditta tries to seduce her niece and she refuses and escapes, then Allah Ditta feels worried and tells Zainab about this incident. In this situation, Zainab angrily shouts I have already stopped you to bring your second wife into this house.

Story overview:

The plot of the short story "Allah Ditta" reflects the days of Hindustan before and After the partition. Both Allah Rakha and Allah Ditta live in Patiala state. The parents of these two brothers migrated from Lahore and went there when Hindustan was unified. Allah Ditta and Allah Rahaka were government employees there, one is the attendant of the Chief Secretary and the other is the peon of the Controller of Stores. Allah Rakha has two daughters, one is married while the other Sughra was thirteen years old and still unmarried. Allah Ditta has a son Tufail and a daughter Zainab who is married. In the same period, Zainab's husband and the wives of both brothers were killed in the riots of the partition of Hindustan. Allah Ditta comes to Gujranwala (Pakistan) with his son and daughter while Allah Rakha comes to Lahore (Pakistan) with his daughter Sughra. Allah Ditta comes to Gujranwala (Pakistan) and leads a mediocre life. His son is working in an iron factory at the age of eighteen. Allah Rakha goes to Lahore with his daughter and stumbles across the country. One day he meets an old acquaintance of his, a senior officer, and seeing the bad conditions, God forbid, he gives him a temporary job.

One day Allah Raha suddenly falls ill and dies. After that, the officer takes good care of Sughra. Allah Ditta comes to know about his brother's death and comes to Lahore and meets that officer. He thanks her for taking good care of his niece. He expresses his desire to get his niece married to his son Tufail. Officer says ok, but it will be married from here, you bring Barat. Allah Ditta returns. He comes and talks

to his daughter Zainab, she objects but later agrees. The officer and the villagers arrange the marriage ceremony of Sughra together. Some time passes well after marriage. Zainab has full control of the house. Allah Ditta also treats him kindly and assures him that he is not an orphan. Sughra finds her uncle's love style a little strange and different from her father's love style as she was hesitant with her father and was not used to such an environment. Zainab doesn't treat her well but she thinks that she has to stay and live in this house anyway. One day, when Zainab goes to the market to buy household goods and her husband is at work, Allah Ditta comes from behind in a playful and coquettish manner and puts his hands on her eyes. She gets scared. He wants to take her to his bed but she manages to escape. When Zainab comes, Allah Ditta tells her the whole story in a state of worry. Zainab gets annoyed at this and angrily tells Allah Ditta that I had already forbidden you not to bring my rival and Co-wife into the house. A few days later Tufail divorces Sughra under the pressure of the family. The whole story and the crux can be seen in these lines of the short story when Sughra rejects her offer and manages to escape. Allah Ditta feels fear that she will tell this story to others. Her conversation with her daughter Zainab elaborates the whole hidden story in these words:

"Allah Ditta thought that it was futile to hide from Zainab, so he narrated the whole incident. Zainab became furious, "Wasn't one enough? You were not ashamed, but you should have felt now." I knew that this would happen, and that's why I was against the marriage. Now listen that Sughra will not live in this house!

Allah Ditta asked in a very poor tone, "Why?" Zainab openly said, "I don't want to see your second-wife in this house!"

Allah Ditta's throat became dry. Nothing could come out of his mouth."(4)

Conclusion:

The Electra complex is well described in Manto's short story "Allah Ditta". The story depicts a mature widowed girl's relationship with her father and the dark corners of human nature. Allah Ditta and his daughter Zainab develop a physical relationship. Allah Ditta wants to marry his son Tufail to his niece Sughra, but his daughter objects to it. The reason for this is revealed at the end of the story when Allah Ditta wants to have physical relations with his niece and she forbids it. Zainab already feels jealous of her cousin being in this house and knows that her father will develop a relationship with her cousin. And finally expresses that she cannot bear her father's second wife in her house. And says that now Sughra can no longer stay in this house and after some days Tufail divorces Sughra. Some of the facts about the Electra complex come from this legend.

- An Electra complex can develop at any age.
- Objective conditions may also intervene in the development of the Electra complex.
- The daughter feels jealousy and rivalry not only with her mother but with any woman who she fears might take her father away from her.

References:

(1)-<https://www.healthline.com/health/electra-complex#:~:text=The%20Electra%20complex%20is%20a,developed%20the%20theory%20in%201913>.

(2)-<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Electra-daughter-of-Agamemnon-and-Clytemnestra>

(3)-Cotterell, A., & Storm, R. (1999). The ultimate encyclopedia of mythology: An A - Z guide to the myths and legends of the ancient world.

(4) <https://www.rekhta.org/stories/allah-datta-saadat-hasan-manto-stories?lang=ur>

Bibliography:

1. Abrams, M.H. "Psychological and Psychoanalytic Criticism." *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 7th ed. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1999. 247-253.
2. Albert, L. (2021). *Greek mythology: The gods, goddesses, and heroes handbook: From Aphrodite to Zeus, a profile of who's who in Greek mythology*. Simon & Schuster.
3. Apollodorus. (1998). *The library of Greek mythology*. Oxford University Press, USA.
4. Casper, B. (2019). *Electra: A gender sensitive study of the plays based on the myth*, 2d ed.
5. McFarland.
6. Cotterell, A., & Storm, R. (1999). *The ultimate encyclopedia of mythology: An A - Z guide to the myths and legends of the ancient world*.
7. Euripides. (1994). *Electra*. Greek Tragedy in New Translations.
8. Freud, Sigmund. "On Dreams." Excerpts. *Art in Theory 1900-1990*. Ed. Charles Harrison and Paul Wood. Cambridge: Blackwell Pub., Inc., 1993. 26-34.
10. Graf, F. (1993). *Greek mythology: An introduction*. JHU Press.
11. Irfan, Shehzada (Ed.). (2016). *The great Manto*. Bookage Lahore.
12. Jalal, A. (2013). *The pity of partition: Manto's life, times, and work across the India-Pakistan divide*. Princeton University Press.
13. Jalal, Ayesha, & Jalal, Nusrat (Eds.). (2012). *Manto*. Sang-e-meel publications Lahore.
14. James, V. (2003). *The genealogy of Greek mythology: An illustrated family tree of Greek myth from the first gods to the founders of Rome*. Penguin.
15. James, V. (2003). *The genealogy of Greek mythology: An illustrated family tree of Greek myth from the first gods to the founders of Rome*. Penguin.
16. Linforth, I. M. (1963). *Electra's day in the tragedy of Sophocles*.
17. Lynn, Steven. *Texts and Contexts: Writing About Literature with Critical Theory*. 2nd ed. NY: Longman, 1998.
18. Manto, S. H. (1985). *Life and works of Saadat Hassan Manto*. (Tahira Naqvi, Trans.). Vanguard books Lahore.
19. Manto, S. H. (1997). *Mottled Dawn: Fifty Sketches and Stories of Partition*. (Khalid Hussaini, Trans.). Penguin Books India.
20. Manto, S. H. (2000). *Manto Panorama*. (Khalid Hussain, Trans.). Sang-e-meel publications Lahore.
21. Manto, S. H. (2000). *Manto's World*. (Khalid Hussain, Trans.). Sang-e-meel publications Lahore.
22. Manto, S. H. (2008). *Bitter fruit: The very best of Saadat Hasan Manto* (K. Hasan, ed. and Trans.). Penguin Global.
23. Manto, S. H. (2012). *Manto: Selected short stories: Including 'Toba Tek Singh' and 'The dog of Titwal'*. Vintage.
24. Manto, S. H. (2015). *Black Milk*. (Hamid Jalal, Trans.). Sang-e-meel publications Lahore.
25. Manto, S. H. (2018). *Manto Revisited*. (Amir Rizvi, trans.). Ferozsons.
26. Manto, S. H. (2018). *Manto Saheb: Friends and enemies on the great maverick*. (Vibha Chauhan and Khalid Alvi, Trans.). Speeding Tiger Publishing New Delhi.
27. Marcus, R., Buczynsky, N., & Shelnutt, J. (2021). *Introduction to Greek mythology for kids: A fun collection of the best heroes, monsters, and gods in Greek myth*. Simon & Schuster.
28. Murfin, Ross, and Supriya M. Ray. (1997) *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*. Boston: Bedford Books.
29. Ringer, M. (2000). *Electra and the empty urn: Metatheater and role*

- playing in Sophocles. University of North Carolina Press.
30. Shajar, Shamsheer Haider, & Alhasan, Naveed (Eds.). (2005). Sa'adat Hassan Manto (pachās sāl bad). Urdu department Gc University Lahore.
 31. Sophocles. (2011). Oedipus Rex. University of Wisconsin Press.