



An emergence of morality in the perspective of religious context in George Eliot's works

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Abstract— Philosophers, theologians, and other academics disagree over the complicated relationship between religion and morality. Some potential viewpoints are as follows: Religion is the source of morality. Morality is founded on revelations, divine mandates, or the will of a higher power, according to many religious traditions. Religion has no bearing on morality. Some contend that morality can exist outside from religious beliefs since it is grounded on human reason, empathy, and social contracts. Religion has an impact on morality. Eliot is a great moral novelist. Her unwavering commitment was to investigate a way of living that would provide contemporary man with a feeling of dignity, purpose, and moral guidance. According to her, morality depends on the person, their situation, and the society in which they live. In order to promote compassion and moral development, she underlined the significance of sharing and comprehending the emotions of others. She thought that instead of depending entirely on other authorities, people should cultivate their own moral convictions. According to her, education is essential for fostering social responsibility and moral character development. Eliot argued for a more adaptable and flexible approach to ethics, challenging strict moral rigidity.



Keywords— Religion, Education, Morality, Empathy.

Despite her strong moral convictions, Eliot did not consider herself a social reformer. She didn't believe the author was in the best position to provide the finest solutions to societal issues. By expanding her readers' innate sympathies, she aimed to raise their social consciousness. A Victorian was George Eliot. She has provided a sophisticated answer to a number of the social problems that plagued Victorian philosophers. A significant theme in many of her works is morality. She has, in fact, gone into some detail about it. She depicts a wide variety of relationships in her paintings, each with their own set of moral dilemmas and adjustment concerns. The issue of adjustment is far less interesting than the topic of self-expression and personal development.

One of the forerunners of psychological fiction was Eliot. Her ability to highlight character defects or more significant moral dilemmas that impact the soul of individuals is exceptional, resulting in works that are captivating and easy to comprehend. She occasionally takes a risky turn to depict

a character's psychological reality, even if it means that she might surprise the other motorist. An example is the Stephen Quest scenario from *The Mill on the Floss*. One of George Eliot's writing talents was a remarkable sense of humour, which was a desirable quality. Her humour is often subtle and rarely a little unlikely, even yet she may extract real, simple delight and levity from the everyday events she observes. Among the vast array of hilarious characters in English literature, Mrs. Poyser's persona is capable of standing alone and on its own merits. Sometimes George Eliot preaches, but other times it's all in good humour, such as when Bob Jakin wants to collaborate with Aunt Glegg on his import company. Another example is the situation in which Aunt Pullet's bonnet is revealed to the Tullivers. Not all of George Eliot's writings were moralistic. She was able to distinguish between the hilarious and serious aspects of life and had an excellent sense of humour.

As demonstrated by Adam's connection with Hetty, Eliot emphasises the importance of sharing and comprehending others' emotions. She is the epitome of a young lady who behaved carelessly and without morality. She was the one thing that attracted and intrigued people. In her spare time, she would play with her trinkets and gaze at her curvaceous body in her room's mirror. Thus, when Arthur Donnithorne, who had not yet taken up residence on his estate, showed interest in her on his first visit to the dairy, she was greatly flattered. Adam's masculine appeal had failed to elicit a response from Hetty. Arthur, on the other hand, embraced her chauvinistic femininity from the first moment they met. She became emotionally attached to him quite soon. Haight viewed about Hetty in *Adam Bede*,

This is the tragedy of the little soul : Unlike Oedipus and Lear who commit themselves to tragedy with giant fury and endurance, Amos and Hetty hardly recognize tragedy when they meet it. Hetty's desperate journey is given by the faithful stream of her consciousness.

She is endowed by George Eliot with one extremely human quality: her pride in the line of farmers from whom she comes. When the innkeeper she had stayed with makes any suggestion, she ignores him that Hetty may be a 'cheap' village girl. "And they might think the things were stolen as you wanted to sell them," he went on; "for it isn't usual for a woman like you to have fine jewellery like that". The blood rushed to Hetty's face with anger. "I belong to respectable folks," she said, "I'm not a thief". (374).

Ethics and Redemption, The protagonist, Silas Marner, starts the book as a resentful and lonely man after his religious group falsely accuses him of stealing. He retreats into a life of working alone and saving money after losing confidence in both God and people. But when he adopts an abandoned child named Eppie, his life changes. Silas is redeemed, gains love and trust, and reintegrates into society through his connection with Eppie. According to Eliot, love, compassion, and interpersonal relationships can lead to moral redemption. When Marner went towards William Dane and said :

"You stole the money, and you have woven a plot to lay that sin at my door. But you may prosper for all that; there is no just God that governs the earth righteously, but a God of lies, that bears witness against the innocent" (Silas Marner 24)

The consequences of characters' decisions are frequently examined in Eliot's works, emphasising the effects on both the protagonists and others. Characters are also urged to reflect on their shortcomings and imperfections in order to improve morally.

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