

**“Chronicle of Death Foretold” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez**

***“Portrayal of hate and love as a reciprocal passion through Floral Miguel and Angela Vicario”***

**SESSION: MAY 2020**

**WORD COUNT:1445**

## **REFLECTIVE STATEMENT**

**Guiding question: How was your understanding of cultural and contextual considerations of the work developed through the interactive oral?**

In class, for part 1 of the course, I studied all the books, but what amazed me was the circuitous and compounded moral values as the framework for socio-cultural events. In the class interactive I acquired an eclectic and thought provoking view of 19<sup>th</sup> century Columbia, amalgamating with every instance of the drama. However, I got a better understanding of culture specifically the context, connoting to the religious and socio-cultural instances of the play to procure my title of "Hate and Love relationship." As the very first page of the novel contemplates my attention. With the help of interactive oral, my thoughts on the portrayal of relationships from a broader stance helped in narrowing down my ideas and helped me focus on interpersonal conflict, which is the main principle for the "Hate and Love" relationship. It also gave me a glimpse of the underlying dissonance revolving around the Catholicism prevalent in Columbia. a Catholicism as the religious practice has been extensively conducted in Colombia.

When prompts were discussed, I got an insight, and I questioned myself. Who is Santiago Nasar? How would it feel to him? That helped me learn Santiago and flashed with a thought of adding a twist by contrasting major characters and their relationship with a major male character. The play commences on an inspection into a perplex crime to solve to explain a murder.

Social expectations and obligations in Columbian society play a title role of predominant impact in novel 'Chronicle Of A Death Foretold', precisely states the impression of women in the text, serving as a reflection.

The most intriguing aspect of the play was the portrayal of a relationship in context to 19<sup>th</sup> century, which provokes me more to stipulate a more in-depth insight into it, as I want to know their relationship and connect it with the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As the core essence of the novel is love story besides murder, it is the love story that delineates the conspicuous and an unknown murder.

It was also more engrossing to know how one love relationship changed to hate—therefore reflecting a Columbian society and their culture.

**Word count: 354**

**'Portrayal of hate and love as a reciprocal passion through Floral Miguel and Angela Vicario'**

'Chronicle of a Death Foretold' by Gabriel Garcia Marquez is an exceptionally phenomenal novella about the unexplored death of Santiago Nasar, who is not only blamed for supposedly taking the virginity of Angela Vicario, but is also responsible for tarnishing the Vicario family. However, there appears more enigma other than the murder in this novel –an illustration of love and hate relationship. In the novel, Garcia emphasizes the contrast between the two female characters – Flora Miguel and Angela Vicario as the interpersonal conflict 'between the society and the protagonist. Over the course of the novel, the two relationships of Bayardo San Roman-Angela and Santiago Nasar- Flora Miguel are almost drastically changed. Along with this, the emotions of love and hate are often seen to be juggling which help to move the plot forward as these changes in emotions tend to guide the characters' actions in the novel.

The love affair between Angela Vicario and Bayardo San Roman starts unexpectedly. Love is shown as the emotion that drive the characters towards each other. The author portrays Bayardo as a wealthy, rich man with **"golden eyes"**<sup>1</sup> and dressed in a **"very tight trousers,"**<sup>2</sup>. On the occasional visit to market, everyone sees Bayardo; **"people like him a lot"**<sup>3</sup>. Bayardo decides to pursue Angela's love and ultimately marry her. However, Angela's act of unchastity becomes the very turning point of Bayardo's love. This downfall of love leads to Angela being returned to her mother on the day of their marriage which lays the foundation for Santiago's assassination for honour by Angela's brothers. This alteration of love is also evident in Angela's mother holding her **"by the hair with one hand and beating"**<sup>4</sup> her. After she is revealed to be have an intimate interaction with Santiago. Even though Purisima del Carmen once seemed to be convinced of the many benefits and solace Bayardo might bring for Angela, motherly love is seen to be converted into violence. Angela in spite of not loving Bayardo and him reminding her **"of a devil"**<sup>5</sup> decides to

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<sup>1</sup> ibid Pg No.-24

<sup>2</sup> ibid Pg No-24

<sup>3</sup> ibid Pg No-26

<sup>4</sup> ibid Pg No -47

<sup>5</sup> ibid Pg No-27

obey her parents and marry Bayardo. This act of deference however does not become sufficient for her mother, Purisima to testify Angela's actions. This points out that emotions are passionate guiding forces for characters in the novel.

Later in the novel, Bayardo does indeed return to Angela with letters '**'arranged by date in bundles coloured ribbons, and they were all unopened'**<sup>6</sup>. Here, Bayardo's humiliation and disappointment is reciprocated into love as in the beginning of the novel. This reinstated love propels the plot even after the death of Santiago Nasar.

Moreover, the resolution of her love affair with Bayardo does not elucidate on the murder of Santiago Nasar in terms of him, which coalesces with the fact that a Angela would never reveal anything save to name Santiago as the one who "**took her virginity**".<sup>7</sup> Though Angela appears as an impartial person, it foreshadows the conflict on Angela Vicario's internal struggle and affair. Besides, murder in the drama there in a love story as the core essence, which aids the build-up of the climax.

On the other side, there is Santiago and her fiancée Flora Miguel, whose parents had already arranged their marriage "**bloom of his adolescence**"<sup>8</sup>. Flora Miguel is delineated as estranged and rejected. However, when Flora finds things getting out of control, she starts to realize "**same utilitarian as his father**"<sup>9</sup> claims false accusation, instead of desiring help that Flora ignores and walks out. In the case of Flora Miguel's "**restless hearts,**"<sup>10</sup> she throws the letter away. Even the delicate hand of flora is portrayed in the novel-

**"Floral Miguel, who wasn't that young anymore, was kept like a rose"**<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>ibid Pg No95

<sup>7</sup>ibid Pg No-20

<sup>8</sup>ibid Pg No-113

<sup>9</sup>ibid Pg No-113

<sup>10</sup>ibid Pg No-113

<sup>11</sup>ibid Pg No-113

After Flora learns about the murder of Santiago, she is depicted to be in a ***“crisis of humiliation”***<sup>12</sup> and upon Santiago’s arrival at her house, she hands him a box with all the ***“loveless”***<sup>13</sup> letter she had ever sent her. She shuts up the door in the anger of being rejected and pacifies herself. She is portrayed to be feeling insecure as Santiago would have to marry Angela to save her honour, in case the Vicario brothers fail to execute him. In exasperation, she says, ***“I hope they kill you!”***<sup>14</sup> She is also seen ***“weeping with rage”***<sup>15</sup>. Though being lovers for a long time, their love is turned to hate on the instant. This reorder results in an adverse future for both Santiago and Flora as Santiago ends up getting murdered and Flora gets molested by a man she elopes with. This way, the instillation of hate in their relationship ultimately leads to their own downfall.

In this war of love and revenge, Garcia quotes, ***“The hunt for love is haughty falconry”***<sup>16</sup> at the very beginning of the novel. This quote can be seen as an extended metaphor for the entire story. The metaphor itself can be portrayed through symbolization and foreshadowing throughout the book. Interpersonal conflict helps as to generate effect and also to assist the plot development.

Moreover, looking at the love aspect of the quote, ***“hunt for love,”*** the word hunt creates a very desperate feeling of the need for love, this could be used to foreshadow the ethos of the events that will occur for love ***“love can be learnt too.”***<sup>17</sup> For example, Angela wrote letters every day to Bayardo in hopes of him understanding her desperate need for love and companionship in her life, only for us to find out he never opened them once ***“insensible to her delirium.”***<sup>18</sup> It could be that the love letters were a form of ritual for their relationship because what love meant for Bayardo

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<sup>12</sup>ibid Pg No-114

<sup>13</sup>ibid Pg No-115

<sup>14</sup>ibid Pg No-115

<sup>15</sup>ibid Pg No-112

<sup>16</sup>ibid Pg No- epigraph

<sup>17</sup>ibid Pg No-34

<sup>18</sup>ibid Pg No-89

was the constant letters he received but not the content. Therefore, the vexation is the key attitude of the character.

There was the portrayal of Angela as the persistent and dogged determined woman who has put forward to get back her companionship in her life. Bayardo hunted for Angela's love out of a sea of prey, and when he left her, it seemed as if he was training her to hunt for his love, this act as a catalyzing moment.

Nonetheless, the contrasting transformation of affection to hatred illuminates the drama. Santiago and Flora exchanging ***“love documents”***, “since a young age but Flora developing hate due to the revelation of Santiago being the one who took Angela's virginity is identical to Bayardo and Angela's relationship as Bayardo's attraction turns to the repulsion of love that provokes hate also because of Angela's loss of virginity. Therefore, the act of Angela losing her virginity evokes the emotion of hate in both Flora and Bayardo. This direct attention to the act highlights the socio cultural aspect of the novel of unequal power dynamics of genders and sexuality, evident in the way Angela is forced to marry Bayardo. Bayardo gets aware of Angela's loss of virginity to another man and immediately calls off the wedding and remarks it as ***“unfortunate wedding”***<sup>19</sup> This event clearly states what is anticipated out of a traditional Latin American woman and what a conventional symbolism seems to be in particular. Here, the society is spotted as a conservative catholic tradition bonded by a small town as prospectors. It shows the traditional Latin American relationship revolves around loyalty and faith towards her husband. Even though Angela did not have a word at the wedding, it was understood that when Bayardo San Roman picked Angela to be his wife, Thus, Angela is considered to be obliged to him and be utterly devoted to him. Thus, no matter how deep in love Bayardo San Roman is with Angela, Bayardo does not seem to forgive her mentally.

The religious hypocrisies in the novel reveals the intrinsic complexities within the hate and love relationship that incentives several subplots. That prevalent in humankind are published, along

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<sup>19</sup>ibid Pg No-27

with the outcome of these civilians, which ultimately terminate in the abhorrent love and hate as a passion that the novella revolves around.

Overall, Garcia has utilized the emotions of love and hate as contrasting elements that lead to adversity in the case of Santiago and Flora while the restoration of Bayardo's love along with Angela's realization of her love for Bayardo, thereby aiding the narrative of the novel. Through this, Garcia has beautifully hold up to view how intensity of these emotions superintend our actions.

#### Bibliography:

1. **Marquez, Gabriel Garcia. Chronicle of a Death Foretold. London: Penguin, 1996. Print.**



