

INSTIGATED TRAUMA IN *THE ORPHAN KEEPER*

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Abstract

Life is an enormous gift provided on this earth to every living being. When the man entered the world in some form, he started engaging in everything around him. He became a leader and went on to control things including nature. Many novelists who have emerged in this 21st century, came out with novel ideas expressing their opinion of accepting new ways of living that they saw in their livelihood. Their pictures became the readers' images, leading to the success of novels in this era. Camron Wright is an American novelist. His writings are hard-core reality. His language and style may hit the soul of the readers to make an easy connection with the author. Adoption is a kind of journey where a child is adopted in a beautiful way compensating the feelings of a couple giving a transition both to the couples as well as the child. This paper focuses on one such idea that was caught to be right while the author in this novel creates an awareness of the abandonment of children in rooting for their land.

Keywords: *adoption, family, kidnap, orphan, children.*

Introduction

Every child is a God in their way. When they come into the world they know nothing and society teaches everything to make them choose what they want to be. The child is taken care by the family and each and every actions that takes place in the house direct only to the child as they are expected to be the future of their family. When child gets lost even for a second, then that brings the most profound chaos to the people in an around the child. The Orphan Keeper is the novel that entwines the narrative in quite an enchanting manner by the author Camron Wright. He constructed the plot in the mid-50s of the 20th century in the deep down region Erode in South India near Coimbatore district. The narration in the beginning gives a gloomy feel and then give the spherical note on how well children has to be taken care in the society.

Chellamuthu is a son of an eligible family that has quite several brothers and sisters. They have lived their life in an exemplary manner and did not doubt their future. The whole story

is a narration of the past to the future readers by the present members. It begins with Chellamuthu narrating about his town Erode and his life over there.

Chellamuthu had a very slight remembrance about his family members and the place he lived. He called that place to be a dotted place, a vast land in India. Kuppuswamy Gounder father of Chellamuthu was a man of few words. He used to do dot jobs like harvesting occasional crops and doing some mediocrity work like any other man of South India. He always cursed his fate and took pride in drinking. Drinking is a natural perhaps expected part of Kuppusamy's existence. He called that to be a family tradition and so he drank.

He fairly remembers his land owner Mrs Papathi Iyer. She was a woman in her Mid- Forty's. She had a squeaky voice, high pitched - the sound which always gave an excitement and wonder. she used to invite Chellamuthu once in a while and ask him few questions for fun and if he give a right answer then she would pay him a handful of rupees. Chellamuthu have been a rough kid who had fun around with the kids of his age or a little elder. He was described as the boy who wore disheveled hair, warm eyes, and a naïve grin. His father wanted Chellamuthu to be obedient one and once he even punished him by keeping hot red thongs on his feet.

One day Chellamuthu got kidnapped and from there on, the trauma started. He was taken to a Lincoln Home for homeless children at Madhukarai near Coimbatore. It was a very distant place for Chellamuthu to reach his hometown Erode. He couldn't understand what made him reach that place. He tried making compromises within his mind and failed. He even informed the Commissioner of the home that he had a family. The one little peacefulness he had in the home was a little girl Anu. She remembered him as his sister and he took special care whenever Anu fell ill.

Once he attempted to escape but returned thinking about Anu. When he insisted on getting back with his family, the Commissioner gave a brutal lie that he was sold by his own family to the Lincoln home. He cried for two whole days thinking that it must be a lie. He prayed to Lord Shankar that his family could not degrade to that level of selling him for money. The home chief arranged a family from America for Anu's adoption. They made Chellamuthu accept and send Anu to the American family. Fate had other ideas in store and so

Chellamuthu was replaced in the place of Anu. He was taken to America via Germany and was left with a new bunch of family which he never dreamt of in his life.

Born as an orphan is fate but having a family and living as an orphan is a curse. Chellamuthu never thought that he would be separated from his family and even from his country. When he had a second family to take care he cannot come into terms. He struggled to call somebody a mother and was put into a dilemma for quite a long time. His parents took good care of him and wanted to give him the best in his life. He was given a new name in the new country with a new family. He was called Taj Rowland. The boy took a long duration before he informed his parents that he already had a family in India. The Rowland family cannot digest the separation of Taj from them. Still, they could understand the trauma he was into. So they opted to give his lost parents to Chellamuthu. His father went all his way to find out the truth and the backyard work.

Chellamuthu was a freaking kid who lived happily with his dreams. His set of boys, Kaveri River, Mrs Papathi Iyer, his angry father, loving mother and so on were the breath of his life. When his father punished him with the red hot thong at his feet, he thought his father was too cruel. He felt the physical trauma for the first time. The moment he was kidnapped he was obsessed with drama. Being a child he couldn't make a way out of it. He started living with the trauma hoping for a better day to get reunited with his family. The trauma was more instigated inside him when the Commissioner informed him that it was his fate to make his family sell him for the sake of money. His dream of getting reunited with his family was shattered. The trauma got worse when his sister like Anu faced death. He was unable to verbalise his thoughts and kept mum. At the age of eight, it is unbearable for a child to make a hasty decision about how his life is to be. His one solace is that of drawing the picture of every family member and seeing regularly every night by keeping it under his pillow with shedding tears and whispering prayers.

Adoptive and adaptive may miss a syllable rather it enroutes to a different genre of life. A mere adoption of a totalitarian lie and false fabrication took him from his native place, from his roots and made a huge journey to a very long distance. He found it very hard to adjust himself to a new family. He was desperate to reach his parents but couldn't find a solution. He was not able to cope up in the fear of mishandling things with the new family. It took him very long time to converse or voice his originally to the new parents, after grabbing their language in due course.

Conclusion

Cameron Wright has given a vivid picture of typical townside living in South India. He has painted the original language for the sake of clarity of thought. The last 10 years have seen various kinds of stress created due to relationships, Physical health, Medical health, COVID-19 and other related ideas. The trauma that has been instigated in the minds of younger ones lives a longer life. When the world celebrates children for their brave acts, the other side of seeing them suffer as an orphan is a huge trauma. Adoption is good but bringing home a new child to a family and making them adapt to that Lifestyle needs time. Trauma is supposed to be relieved rather it is taken as a serious business and it is well injected into the human mind to make them feel and live as an orphan. The trauma Chellamuthu underwent at an early age was very huge and let everybody hope that the future does not happen in their eyesight.

Work cited:

Camron Wright: The Orphan Keeper. Shadow Mountains, Utah. 2016