

The Pursuit of the Immortal Soul

The Analysis of *the Little Sea Maid* under the Perspective of Feminism

Na Lei

Huanghe Science and Technology College
Zhengzhou, China 450063

Abstract—After the brief introduction to the feminism theories, this article will analysis the psychological and behavioral characters of the heroin of the Little Sea Maid from the viewpoints of Radical Feminism. And then it will point out that under the government of the patriarchy, the psychology and values of women are dependent. Therefore the article will stress the importance of cultivating independent soul and mind for women. Meanwhile, it will also point that, in reality, the awaking of women's soul is the base of women being. It is not totally contrary to the manly society. At last, the article will illustrate that women can realize the immortality of the soul in the harmonious environment constituted by men and women.

Keywords—Radical Feminism; patriarchy; psychology values

I. INTRODUCTION

This article will analysis the psychological and behavioral characters of the heroin of the Little Sea Maid from the viewpoints of Radical Feminism. And then it will point out that under the government of the patriarchy, the psychology and values of women are dependent. Therefore the article will stress the importance of cultivating independent soul and mind for women.

II. THE INTRODUCTION TO THE FEMINISM THEORIES

There are different understandings on Feminism in different times and areas. Usually it is considered as a kind of social and cultural theory in west world, which guides women to struggle for the equal rights as men.

It is different from other west theories for its base, which is the theories are based on sexual differences, what's more, as an independent subject, it has the character of politics, practice. From the early theory instructing women activities fighting for equal rights to the cross-subjects comprehensive social theory. The feminism theories do not have fixed definition, but they are constituted by a series of concepts and methodologies, so they are more like the dynamic and open forums on the topic of women. All kinds of voices and opinions on women meet here. So to some degree, the feminism is a kind of ideology, which includes different voices and topics with social and practical meanings. (Huanghua, 2005,3) but Jill Nrebrugge thinks that the feminism theories developed from the viewpoints centered on women, It is a kind of ideological system about social life and human experience, first, its object and base is the

women's experience and condition in the society, second, it considers the women as the subject of investigation and research, and it tries to exam the world from the perspective women, third, the feminism theories are critic and radical which represent women's rights. They try to build a better world for women, and then, for the whole human being.(Georgy Ritzer, 2005,17) So feminism and its theories are a kind of perspective, they are not only just to break the patriarchy and fight for women rights, which is just a part of feminism. Some feminists think that as the theories of instructing women activities, feminism are based on the following three aspects: first, the roles that women play in society are important, but their status is inferior to men, so usually they are invisible in many occasions, why is it? Second, the above question needs the explanations from the viewpoints of sociology. Third, how could we change some traditional theories and let them become fairer to women, as well as to all human. So the core of feminism theories is its perspective of women. According to different standards, they could be classified to different kinds, such as psychoanalysis feminism, radical feminism, social feminism, as well as multi feminism and so on (Ritzer, 2005, 180). The radical feminism began in the 1960's, and Kalt Mittley, Felstone were the representatives, during which the patriarchy is the key concept.

III. THE ANALYSIS OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERS OF THE HEROIN OF *THE LITTLE SEA MAID*

In the fairytale the Little Sea Maid written by Anderson, it described such a story: a beautiful and noble sea-maid with sweet voice gave up her comfortable and wealth life to pursue the love of a prince and immortal soul. In order to get them, she would rather sacrifice her voice and her fishtail, even her life. But in my opinion, in the government of patriarchy, her fate was definitely a tragedy. In fact, the wish to get immortality by means of pursuing love is meaningless, however, at the end of the story, the heroin gained the guidance of the angles and knew the meaning of self—esteem, which is the base of getting immortality.

In the society of patriarchy, it stresses the dominant status of men, and women are just the accessories. Women's values, as well as aesthetic standards need the approvement of men. In the Little Sea Maid, the heroin desired to live in the human world, so when she went out of the sea for the first time, her grandmother said to her: in order to be beautiful,

girls must bear some inconvenience, so her grandmother put eight oysters on her fishtail so that she looked more beautiful, even they were great burden for her. Here, the aesthetic of the sea maid as well as her grandmother was affected and changed little by little by the men's standards. In the patriarchy society, men's power has surpassed the influence of violence; it performed in some other complex and hidden way, such as in the popular aesthetic standards (Georgy Ritzer, 2005,220) Her grandmother still told her that: in order to get the immortal soul, there must be someone to love you, and consider you as his close and important friend , even more important than his parents, only when he put all his love and missing on you, only when he let the clergyman put his right hand in yours , and agree to be loyal to you forever, then can his soul be transferred to you. Now we can see that women do not have their independent souls, they were just accessories of men, only when men love them, then can they get their soul, all of which is the prove of men's oppression on women. In order to go close to the prince, the sea maid thought in her mind that: He --who I love more than my parents, he ---who I miss every minute, is the source of my happiness. I will sacrifice everything to get him and an immortal soul. The little sea maid want to find the happiness of life from others instead of herself, and thought that the prince was the whole of her life. From the viewpoint of radical feminism, they thought, men assembled the powerful resource and build their control on women, which included law, feeling and emotion and ideology, so in such a society, women can not gain independent status. Affected by these atmospheres, women agreed to her weakness and dependence, and then put their fates on men. I think all of these are rooted in the system of patriarchy society. The little sea-maid sacrificed her voice and tail, but she got nothing. She was just the companion of the prince who gave his love to others. At the moment the sea maid felt depressed and painful, she thought: I want to look after him and love him, and give my life to him .At the moment of losing everything, she still foolishly believed that she could get his love. From this we can see that the society of patriarchy created a series of rules and standards, which made women glad to change themselves, even give themselves to adjust the manly society. At last "a night without dream and thought is waiting for her, the sea maid without soul", from the viewpoint of Simone de Beauvoir, the famous feminist in the world, in this kind of society, it is not the physiology that causes the differences between men and women but the society. In the society, men learnt to how to contemptuously control women, and women learnt to be governed by men tamely, and women proved these unfair standards on them, which were written by men through their daily life. Mittley also thought that men make the physiology differences as the reason for women's inferior status. They make up many values and ideologies to strengthen their government on women, such as in the form of psychology, education, religion, and so on, and make all of these hidden and reasonable. Affected by these ideologies, the little sea-maid want to give up her life instead of finding her happiness by herself. Even though death can help her out of pain and desperation, but she has not wakened up from her deep mind. When her sisters wanted her to kill the prince and save herself, she gave up the only chance, because in her

mind, she, as a common person, is not important. For the imaginative love, she sacrificed herself as a being, isn't sad? At the moment, ironically the prince was calling the name of his love in dream. From the viewpoint of radical feminism, the action of pursuing one's love even life in the frame of patriarchy, it is just suicide. So radical feminism point that: women themselves have their values, they should be confident, then women are oppressed by men in many kinds of means including social rules, even women's love on men. So women should fight against this kind of system. They also advocated women build their women ideology, then they find their values advantages and try to refuse their weakness and inferior status, and then try to work tighter to maintain their equal rights as men.

IV. INDEPENDENT STATUS AND COMPLETE SOUL

Therefore, women should realize their importance in the society, and affirm their values as human being without thinking of sexual differences. At last the little sea-maid knew this point by the encouragement of angles, so she acted as these angles, and learnt to help others and did good to others, by which she improved herself. After three hundred years, she would get an immortal soul and share the happiness as human.

Men consider women, as the subject contrary to men, as others, and they are excluded out of the world built by men. So women must liberate themselves, become the independent subjects and develop their culture and character, at last they could have their own life and value. That's from the perspective of human being's instinct need, only when women consider their rights, then should we say women has independent status and complete soul. Just as the words in the Emotion Declaration: it's true that, women and men are born equally, and they are endowed with the equal rights as men such as the rights of life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness. In reality, the awaking of women's soul is the base of women being. It is not totally contrary to the manly society. At last, the article will illustrate that women can realize the immortality of the soul in the harmonious environment constituted by men and women.

REFERENCE

- [1] Andersen, Xie Weifeng. *The Glory of the Thorny Road* [M]. Beijing: China Social Sciences Press, 2003
- [2] Huang Hua, *Power, Body and Self - Foucault and Feminist Literary Criticism of the North* [M]. Beijing: Peking University press, 2005
- [3] George Rizzell, Yang Shujiao., *Contemporary Sociological Theory and the Classical Roots of the North* [M]. Beijing: Peking University press, 2005
- [4] MA Xinguo. *Western Literary Theory in the History of North* [M]. Beijing: Higher Education Press, 2002