

Love and Justice in Friedrich Dürrenmatt's Der Besuch der alten Dame

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Abstract— Love exists in our life with its complexity. According to Giddens [1] love can be occurred based on two things, namely passionate love and romantic love. Sometimes people are trapped by love and they are stuck in an un-idealized life. This illustration is often presented in literature. Dürrenmatt's drama *Der Besuch der alten Dame* illustrates the struggle of love, violence and injustice experienced by a woman, Claire. She suffered physical and mental for a long time because of love. But she was able to rise up. She did not give her life to destiny. In adversity quotient theory, Claire can be categorized as climber, the figure who never give up until reaching the top. Stoltz [2] divides human into three types, quitter, camper, and climber. Quitter stops in the middle of climbing process. A camper never reaches the top but he is satisfied with what has been achieved and not trying to reach the top. Climber is the core of Adversity Quotient (AQ). Climber is always optimistic in looking at opportunities, and hopes behind the impossibility and always trying to go ahead and reach the top. Claire is a climber, because she can reach the top by finding the justice.

Keywords—*amour passion; romantic love; violence; adversity quotient*

I. INTRODUCTION

Simone de Beauvoir said, that the presence of woman in this world as being for others. From a patriarchal point of view *being for others* can be meant *for man*. In history of human life many people believe that man is created before woman and on the other hand woman is presented to complement the life of a man. Since its presence is merely "for", women are placed as subordinates.

This subordinate position causes many women in some places to be oppressed and weakened by men. Often the violence that occurs is caused by the weak bargaining position of women in front of men. Violence perpetrated by men against women can be physical violence and mental violence.

Setiadi and Kolip [1] mentioned eight frequent violations of man against woman, namely rape, domestic violence, torture on the genital organs, prostitution, sterilization, veiled violence, sexual harassment, and pornography. According to McHugh [2] physical violence can also be done by the nearest person or spouse itself. Sometimes violence by the nearest person makes the victim afraid to connect with the outside world and be isolated.

One of the causes of violence committed by the nearest person begins with love. Love is a part of human life. Love is

presented in this life with its complexity. Even Giddens [3] sees love from several perspectives. According to Giddens [3] love is based on passionate love or amour passion and also romantic love. Amour passion is an expression between love and sexual bonding. The people who are enjoying and bound amour passion will see everything in this world be beautiful, although perhaps at the same time he or she neglects some things related to personal interests. While romantic love more leads to sublime love. The romantic love of long-term thinking is forward-looking and creates a history of marriage relationship and puts it into a priority. Romantic love is different from lust and ordinary sexuality (earthy sexuality). Because in the preferred romantic love is psychic communication, a soul meeting of a reparative nature.

In Dürrenmatt's *Der Besuch der alten Dame* the main character (Claire Zachanassian) is trapped in love, sexuality, injustice and violence. Dürrenmatt described Claire as a woman who was destroyed by the love that twisted her. She is in the lowest phase of his life. But she was able to rise up and seize justice in the city that once cast her out.

Dürrenmatt succeeded in creating a formidable woman who could survive. Actually Claire was not sure, whether she could survive or not. *Der Besuch der alten Dame* is a three-part drama that is very strong in the portrayal of the main character. Claire, the main character of this drama, is a woman who is deprived of her birthplace because of injustices that befall her. Since teenager Claire did not like injustice and in her old age remained consistent with her commitment to defend or demand justice. Her strong consistency and desire made her able to survive and achieve her desires.

According to Atkinson and Feather (in Mednick and Thomas [4]) the behavior of a person who wants to achieve something is based on three things, namely predisposition to achievement, perception of probability of success and perception of the value of a task. These three things indicate that the motivational forces underlying a person to achieve their desires. Motives that influence a person's decision to do something.

Inner motivation and unyielding attitude can also be found in Adversity Quotient (AQ). Stoltz [5] divides human into three types, namely quitter, camper, and climber. These three types are inspired by the type of people who want to reach the peak of mountain. Quitter is the one who stops. This type of person stops in the middle of the climbing process or does not

continue the trip to the top because he feels no longer able or can also be called people who are easily desperate and easily give up. The second type is camper. This type never reaches the top. Camper type people are satisfied with what has been achieved and not trying to reach the top of the mountain. Climber is the third type that is the core of Adversity Quotient (AQ). Climber type people are always optimistic to look for opportunities and to hope behind the impossibility and always trying to get ahead and reach the top.

II. DISCUSSION

A. *Amour passion and romantic love in Der Besuch der alten Dame*

Der Besuch der alten Dame begins with the welcoming of a billionaire and her entourage by Gullen people. The billionaire, Claire Zachanassian, is expected to rescue deity of a bankrupt city. A simple but festive welcome has been started since from Gullen City station. All important elements in Gullen city are deployed to welcome special guest.

The city of Gullen is the birthplace of Claire Zachanassian. She had left this city behind forty-five years ago. She had many memories in this city, both sweet and bitter. The sweet memory was a journey of love with Alfred III, a good guy in this city and next mayor. Therefore, upon arriving in the town of Gullen, Claire invited Alfred III to visit several places that witness for their love. Their past relationship is believed by the people of Gullen to make Claire help them.

But actually Claire's love for Alfred III and Alfred III's love for Claire was not in the same frame. Claire loved Alfred III, because she thought Alfred III an ideal man, the man who will be her husband. Claire's love is romantic love, while Alfred III's love for Claire is an amour passion. In establishing his love affair with Claire Alfred III did not put forward a serious and sustained relationship.

Claire Zachanassian : ..., und die Kartoffeln für die Witwe Boll habe ich gestohlen, gemeinsam mit III, nicht um die alte Kupplerin vor dem Hungertode zu bewahren, sondern mit III einmal in einem Bett zu liegen, wo es bequemer war als im Konradswellerwald oder in der Peterschen Scheune.... [6].

The quote above shows that they used to make love at the home of a widow. In fact they have also done it in the forest and on the farm. Sexual intercourse performed by Claire and Alfred III is done on the basis of like. But there is a difference that occurs between them when the effects of the sexual relationship appear. Alfred III refused to admit that Claire's daughter was his daughter, on the other hand Claire believed that her daughter was Alfred III's daughter too. She has never had anything to do with a man other than Alfred III.

To prove his innocence Alfred III told Jakob Hühnlein and Ludwig Sparr to testify at the hearing. In the trial both claimed to have screwed Claire. So it was not Alfred III that caused Claire to become pregnant and have a daughter, but two men named Jakob Hühnlein and Ludwig Sparr. Thanks to the testimony of Jakob Hühnlein and Ludwig Sparr this judge decided Alfred III was free of all charges

Claire's love for Alfred III is romantic, although her romantic love base is the amour passion. While III thinks her love for Claire is limited to amour passion and will not turn into romantic love, because of her romantic love for other rich and established women, Mathilde Blumhard.

The case in *Der Besuch der alten Dame* shows that woman often becomes victim when sexual intercourse outside marriage culminate in pregnancy. Many men refuse to acknowledge the fetus conceived by the woman who has had sexual intercourse with them. There are several reasons that men refuse to acknowledge their actions, namely (1) not loving the woman; (2) shame, because it has a certain position or position in the community; (3) already have another partner; (4) not sure, if the fetus is conceived is the result of his actions

In *Der Besuch der alten Dame* Alfred III refused to acknowledge because he loved another woman named Mathilde Blumhard than Claire. If Alfred III confessed that Claire's daughter was his daughter, then he would not be able to marry Mathilde Blumhard. Alfred III chose Blumhard, because Blumhard was richer than Claire. The Claire and Alfred III dialogue below shows why Alfred III chose Blumhard.

Claire Zachanassian : Auf diesem Findling küsstest wir uns. Vor mehr als fünfundvierzig Jahren.
Wir liebten unter diesen Sträuchern, unter dieser Buche, zwischen Fliegenpilzen im Moos. Ich war siebzehn und du noch nicht zwanzig. Dann hast du Mathilde Blumhard geheiratet mit ihrem Kleinwarenladen....
....
III : Dir zuliebe habe ich Mathilde Blumhard geheiratet.
Claire Zachanassian : Sie hatte Geld.
III : Du warst jung und schön. Dir gehörte die Zukunft. Ich wollte dein Glück. Da musste ich auf das meine verzichten [6].

The dialogue occurred after Alfred III and Claire separated for more than forty-five years. Claire opened the conversation about her relationship with Alfred III and Alfred III's relationship with Mathilde Blumhard. Claire could still clearly illustrate her relationship with Alfred III through *auf diesem Findling küsstest wir uns. Vor mehr als fünfundvierzig Jahren. Wir liebten unter diesen Sträuchern, unter dieser Buche, zwischen Fliegenpilzen im Moos. Ich war siebzehn und du noch nicht zwanzig* (In this place we kissed each other about forty-five years ago. We made love in these bushes, under this big tree, amongst the poisonous mushrooms growing on the moss green i was seventeen years old and you were not even twenty). Claire also revealed the motive of Alfred III choosing Blumhard than her.

This unbalanced love affair is the cause of Claire's violence and injustice. She suffered both physically and mentally. Court's decision and the scorn and insult from Gullen people drove Claire out of the town of Gullen and plunged into prostitution.

B. Due to Injustice

Injustice that someone receive can make him or her despair. Though she was trying to convince others and show proof that she was in the right side. The simplest result of injustice is to store feelings of disappointment and accept injustice. But there are also people who are reactive and fight against injustice.

In *Der Besuch der alten Dame* Claire was disappointed because there was no justice in Güllen court. The court and his decisions constituted the mental violence that she received. Violence did not stop in this court. Violence against Claire actually spread to physical violence. She fell into the world of prostitution in the city of Hamburg.

Plunging into the world of prostitution for Claire was not her attempt to earn money but as a form of her disappointment in her past life. Sentence *Ich wurde eine Dirne Das Urteil des Gerichts machte mich dazu* shows that the court's decision and the people who involved in it have made her going into a brothel.

C. Resurrection

Prostitution was not the last world for Claire. As a climber she struggled to rise and escaped from a world that didn't give her satisfaction. If she was not a climber, she would remain in a brothel in Hamburg and had no wish, except for the desire to survive.

Prostitution was not the last world for Claire. As a climber she struggled to rise and escaped from a world that didn't give her satisfaction. If she was not a climber, she would remain in a brothel in Hamburg and had no wish, except for the desire to survive.

As a climber Claire utilized one of her wealthy customers. A man named Zahanassian succeeded in luring her and wanted her to be free from the prostitution. Zahanassian, who was originally her customer, eventually became her husband. Actually Claire was not interested in old Zahanassian. She wanted to be married by Zahanassian because Zahanassian was a very rich oil businessman (*...und ich den alten Zahanassian mit seinen Milliarden aus Armenien Er fand mich in einem Hamburger Bordell Meine roten Haare lockten ihn an, den alten, goldenen Maikäfer*)

Claire was not a materialistic woman type. She was a woman who liked to defend justice, to share and to care for others. When she wanted to marry by Zahanassian the first motive that appears was not for the luxurious lifestyle and dissipation. She was convinced of the wealth of Zahanassian. She could make up for her dream of demanding justice ever escaped her grasp.

When Zahanassian died, Claire inherited her husband's company. The opportunity to get lost justice was open, because she could use his wealth to fulfill her desires. Therefore she was willing to sow considerable amounts of money to the town of Güllen and everyone living in the city, provided she could obtain justice.

D. Against injustice

In the court Claire did not get justice, something that actually became her right. But she didn't get it because of the false testimony of two men. This injustice made Claire angry and she had a strong desire to avenge the treatment of those men who had made her suffer. In addition to retaliation on Jakob Hühnlein and Ludwig Sparr, Claire also avenged the actions of Alfred III and the Judge.

1. Penalty for False Witnesses

Jakob Hühnlein and Ludwig Sparr were two men who claimed to be screwing Claire. So the girl she was born to was not Alfred III's daughter, but it could have been Jakob Hühnlein or Ludwig Sparr's daughter. Their testimony saved Alfred III from all charges.

Der Butler : 1910 war ich der Richter und ihr die Zeugen. Was habt ihr geschworen, Ludwig Sparr und Jakob Hühnlein, vor dem Gericht zu Güllen?

Die Beiden : Wir hätten mit Claire geschlafen, Wir hätten mit Claire geschlafen.

Der Butler So habt ihr vor mir geschworen. Vor dem Gericht, vor dem Gott. War dies die Wahrheit?

Die Beiden : Wir haben falsch geschworen, wir haben falsch geschworen.

Der Butler : Warum, Ludwig Sparr und Jakob Hühnlein?

Die Beiden : Ill hat uns bestochen, Ill hat uns bestochen.

Der Butler : Womit?

Die Beiden : Mit einem Liter Schnaps, mit einem Liter Schnaps [6].

The quote above shows that Jakob Hühnlein and Ludwig Sparr have given false testimony in the court. False testimony was a request of Alfred III. Then they got a liter of alcohol. Since Jakob Hühnlein and Ludwig Sparr have given false testimony, these two men must be punished accordingly. The punishment was not from court, but from Claire.

Claire struggled to find these two men and punished them. To any hemisphere Claire keeps looking for these men. Eventually Claire found Jakob Hühnlein in Canada and Ludwig Sparr in Australia. The punishment given by Claire to both of them was heredity and the loss of vision. In addition, Claire made them both slaves and changed their names to Koby and Loby.

Claire Zahanassian : Erzählt nun, was ich mit euch getan habe, Koby und Loby.

Der Butler : Erzählt es.

Die Beiden : Die Dame liess uns suchen, Die Dame liess uns suchen.

Der Butler : So ist es. Claire Zahanassian liess euch suchen. In der ganzen Welt. Jakob Hühnlein war nach Kanada ausgewandert und Ludwig Sparr nach Australien. Aber sie fand euch. Was hat sie dann mit euch getan?

Die Beiden : Sie gab uns Toby und Roby, Sie gab uns Toby und Roby.

Der Butler : *Und was haben Toby und Roby mit euch gemacht?*

Die Beiden : *Kastriert und geblendet, Kastriert und geblendet [6].*

Dürrenmatt portrays a formidable woman figure who does not stop retaliating to those who have hurt her. Canada, home to Jakob Hühnlein, and Australia, home to Ludwig Sparr, are two countries on two different continents that are miles away from Europe, but Claire kept looking for them and takes them back to Europe. Dürrenmatt does not emphasize material strength but the power of a woman's desires. Indeed, Claire could not find Jakob Hühnlein and Ludwig Sparr, if there was no material force to support her. But the power of matter is not the main thing. The main thing is the power of desire to do something.

2. Punishment for Alfred III.

Alfred III was the most hated person and the person most beloved by Claire. Alfred III was the man who ever made her fall in love. Claire married nine men, but none of them she loved. She still loved Alfred III. Besides being loved, Alfred III was also the man she hated, for dumping her. Therefore Alfred III also did not escape Claire's revenge efforts. Even punishment received by Alfred III was much heavier than punishment received by the judge and two witnesses, Ludwig Sparr and Jakob Hühnlein. Alfred III must be killed.

Der Butler : *Und nun wollen Sie Gerechtigkeit, Claire Zachanassian?*

Claire Zachanassian : *Ich kann sie mir leisten. Eine Milliarde für Gullen, wenn jemand Alfred III tötet [6].*

Claire did not murder Alfred III, but she played the feelings of Gullen people and let the Gullen people kill Alfred III, who is the mayor's successor. Claire managed to stir up the feelings of the Gullen people. The Gullen people were forced to choose whether they prefer the necessities of life or promote humanity.

Dürrenmatt portrays an irony, when society no longer puts humanity first but rather concerns of hunger and individual needs. As told by Dürrenmatt the city of Gullen went bankrupt. The city was impossible to survive and rise, if there was no funds. The man who could save Gullen was Claire Zachanassian or Claire, a billionaire who had lived in Gullen. However, to get unlimited funds from Claire, the Gullen people had to kill Alfred III. This requirement was rejected by the mayor and the Gullen people. They preferred to live in poverty and suffer rather than lose their sense of humanity.

Dürrenmatt divided the drama into three rounds. First round describes the Gullen people who uphold the sense of humanity despite the poor lives. Second round contains the inner struggle of the Gullen people that is trapped between fulfilling the necessities of life and upholding a sense of humanity. As civilized Europeans it is impossible for them to kill someone just for the sake of their mouths and stomachs. However, if this situation is allowed to drag on then Gullen would get worse. The third round was the success of Claire

conquering the Gullen people and managed to make Alfred III die.

Compared to Claire's suffering, we will come to the conclusion that Claire had a bad experience in front of Gullen people like Alfred. Although in a different form, Dürrenmatt illustrated that Alfred III was also publicly humiliated. Alfred III's death was probably a mere physical death, but what Claire had experienced was far more painful than Alfred III had. Claire couldn't enjoy her life, except for revenge. Thus, Dürrenmatt wanted to show long-lasting effects and suffering when women are hurt both physically and mentally by their spouses or nearest people.

3. Punishment for Judge

A judge should be a person who judging a case. But for the case of Claire and Alfred III the judge was more convinced of the testimony of two witnesses. Naturally if the judge trusted both, as both could convince the judge and mention various alibis. The inaccurate judge's decision made Claire disappointed. Personally she did not hold a grudge against the judge because Alfred III's witness was very convincing when he presented evidence. On the other hand Claire was unable to cite evidence of Alfred III's involvement.

The background of this play is 1910-1955. In this year has not known the term DNA test. So just rely on the testimony of others. If the witness is able to show strong evidence then the judge will decide according to the available evidence. It is against this background that Claire did not severely punish Gullen city court judges. But Claire made him as her loyal servant.

Der Butler : *Richtig. Der Oberrichter Hofer. Ich war vor fünfundvierzig Jahren Oberrichter in Gullen und kann dann ins kaffiger Apellationsgericht, bis mir vor nun fünfundzwanzig Jahren Frau Zachanassian das Angebot machte, als Butler in ihre Dienste zu treten. Ich habe angenommen. Eine für Akademiker vielleicht etws seltsame Karriere, doch die angebotene Besoldung war derart phantasrtisch.... [6].*

4. Compensation for Gullen

Alfred III's death brought a blessing to the Gullen people. They received considerable money that could be used to rebuild Gullen and live in a luxurious life. The people of Gullen rejoiced, because they would not live in poverty again. When the mayor received a check from Claire, they've imagined the luxury amenities will be available in Gullen, including luxury cars and lifestyle changes.

Alle : *Bewahre di heiligen Güter uns, bewahre Frieden. Bewahre die Freiheit. Nacht bleibe fern. Verdunkele nimmermehr unsere Stadt. Die neuerstandene prächtige. Damit wir das Glückliche glückliche geniessen [6].*

This sentence which is the closing sentence of *Der Besuch der alten Dame* confirms how happy the Gullen people when their lives changed for better. Their miserable past is regarded as darkness in the Gullen. This darkness should not come to Gullen again.

Meanwhile, Claire also managed to achieve her willingness. She did not question how much money she had to spend on Gullen, provided her wish was achieved. Claire did not feel the loss of her possessions at the end of drama. This is different from the Gullen people who lost their honor. This is the reply given by Claire to Gullen people. The Gullen people were not aware that they have been condemned and humiliated by people they once law and disgrace them.

III. CONCLUSION

Deine Liebe ist gestorben vor vielen Jahren. Meine Liebe konnte nicht sterben. Aber auch nicht leben. Your love has long died a few years ago. My love cannot die. But also not alive. That was one of the last conversations between Claire and Alfred III. The conversation that lasted before Alfred III breathed his last. The quote signifies how much Claire's love for Alfred III. Claire is trying to show the romantic love that still exists in her to Alfred III.

On the other hand Alfred III must be held accountable for what he did to Claire. Alfred III's behavior reminds us that there are men who deny or refuse to acknowledge his relationship and the outcome of his relationship with a woman. This can be even worse if the relationship is done without the bond or agreement.

Many women cannot protest this situation. Gayatri Spivak said this kind of woman as a subaltern who is entitled to vote.

However, there are also women who resist and protest the injustices it receives. Women have their own way of getting up and fighting. A way that may never have been predicted by men.

Der Besuch der alten Dame by Dürrenmatt can be an example of a strong and never despairing picture of demanding justice. Dürrenmatt points out that there are at least two ways that women can get back to fairness that is by abrasive and subtle ways.

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