

The human fox in Lawrence's *The Fox*

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D. H. Lawrence is a prominent figure in English literary world to such extent that his age carries his name .In spite of his new and vague scheme in probing topics, many famous critics attack his pens and accuse him of many accusations the head of them is pornographically attitudes. He adopts or in accurate word he invents virginal psychological apparatus Which make any" investigation to an understanding of the way in which his [Lawrence's'] work in his novels is surely dubious."¹ He examines his themes without any social chains of taboos or denial he frees his pen to approach his works by opening all the old locked doors .From

this stems all the attacked voices who find his open sexual discussion as a means to arouse forbidden animal appetite .

He stands alone in the attacked spot without any equal to share him the sentence or carry his identical message .Though his works are banned on his native ground ,he keeps on discovering his vague world to the degree that he surpasses the genius of his age. He confesses that his talent finds its nurture on: intuition and sex this is part of artistic talent since what "the artist fixes on his coxes is something he has seen ...that will never be seen again. "² This writer shows a great patience as well as determination in keeping his views far from any pressure thus, he keeps his method in probing the assumed forbidden topics with his usual free and dare investigation .Lawrence`s field of investigation is so wide because many writers of his age and the previous ones avoid such topics fearing the attacks of his society and the criticism of the bitter pens of the critics.

Though Lawrence limits the exterior enemies of humanity, he reveals an interior foe .They are hidden under various names like the free passion that is embodied in the foxy personality in Lawrence's **The Fox** [1921] . The reference for such foxy personality should not

depend on the author's explanation , but on the readers reaction. Thus this research will provide another study for the meaning of the foxy personality that perhaps exceeds the limitation of the human wickedness. The appalling shock that many refer to this personality as anything rather than an enemy, some find it as a hope to save love from any material intrusion . As a literary theme it can reflect something else and it is subject to various impression . The foxy personality will be seen as the hidden evil as this research will prove and it echoes the black intelligence of the fox . Under the shadow of such personality many views are changed and taken another turn even love due to this term, contains the meaning of blood and revenge and it turns to be part of imposing power .

The behaviors of this personality do not have in their dictionary the meaning of surrender or compromise. Thus, there is no wall to separate this personality from achieving any goal. This personality is ready to climb, jump and even kill. The shocked surprise is that such personality has an easy path to the human hearts and this is a dangerous pillar of this character .This kind of wickedness is soft to such extent that it manipulates other to support his doctrine . The foxy personality has the power to grow .The creeping foxy personality can

occupy the whole personality just like the deadly disease that deadens the healthy cells and generate poisonous ones . Man after such occupation does not have any human feature save the human cover. This is due to Lawrence power to probe deeply in the human soul to find such personality that contains such contrastive items .

Lawrence through his works reveals the deadly enemies of man in this universe are namely: industry and urbanization . He also unfolds the anodyne for this remedy. That is the rapid return to the old primitiveness perhaps possibly he finds in this era the true intuition and the absence of chains that he longs to in his universe .The shocking surprise that he regards the human mind and intellect as the forces that have the capacity to corrupt life and cover the human sense with the mask of shyness and embarrassment .Thus, in his works he sheds more illumination on the danger of such powers ,he shoulders industrialism as well as technology the principal responsibility of the destruction of the natural face of the world and man .He announces such forces to be human foes ,thus, " Lawrence hated industrialism and technology that he felt were responsible for the destruction ." ³ His exploration touches many themes that are regarded in the eyes of the societal system as a grave taboo .

The tragic aftermath of his dare decision is the forceful ostracism.

In spite of the agony of this suppression ,he continues with the identical views because he cannot borrow new eyes or see by other eyes the social trauma . He continues to nake the human demands from the odious touches of civilization. His acute eyes have the ability to reach the crux of urbanization . His weapons of probing is the sensitivity because for him life is:

Amestery, was not to apprehend or explained in terms

Of reason and logic that was the way to kill it . It could

be experienced only by touch; and the value of people

for Lawrence ,consisted in how far mystery was killed,

the analyasing scientific intellect ,it obxiously

flourished most strongly at the instinctual levels of life.⁴

His personal dilemma sharpens his pen to attack the evil and the blackness that lies deep in the human spirit .His unique attitudes to man in this universe distinguish him and make him probe in deserted spots . He does not care for life ,he is attracted to forces that

nurture it. His personal target is the golden stage in which the spirit and body are unified. .He tries via his pen to discover food for both .It is worthy to mention that he even applies his privacy and he nakes his soul to achieve his goals caring not for other attitudes when he enumerates the slightest items about his private crisis in his novels ,his failure to grand equal affections for his parents and his exaggerated love for his mother and the deep hatred for his father ,that he will regretted later .This spiritual dispute with a shocking theme to be tackled in his **Sons And Lovers** [1913], in the form of oedipal complex. He translates his dilemma without any chains of embarrassment to a world lacks such power. So

"his pen is loaded with the "wisdom that qualifies itself by excess. "⁵

To him his job as an artist grants him the right to declare any sense regardless of its disgust as it is a matter of aspiration .Thus , his refusal to abandon his approach adds certain halo around his name and his virginal vision .The modern age witnesses the birth of many talents who follow the path of Lawrence in not caring for any social pressure .Sex and man –woman relation are the obsession that occupies his mind and emerge frequently in his novels. The instrumental

ground behind giving this importance to such topics is that " modern world seemed to Lawrence to have corrupted man's emotional life. Even passion had become some niggling by the product of the intelligence ."⁶Thus, his efforts are centered on finding fresh paths to express freely man's need by discarding the modern timid conventions of world fears his inhabitants` needs. Therefore his writing responds to human needs and fears not the hostile attacks of his shy world .His writings are a record of a deep exploration of the untouched deep spot of individual soul in which man turns to be so avert to his needs .Lawrence reveals courageously mans` trauma in this world which is :

the distortion of love by possessiveness or gentility or
a false romanticism or a false conception of life
of the artist ,and the achievement of a living relation
between man and woman against the pressure of
class- feeling or tradition or habit or prejudice.⁷

Even in evil Lawrence finds a deserted spot that is in dire need of investigation. The eccentric beauty of the blackness contains certain spot of beauty which is so allusive and just like a hidden trap to

some person .So the has a vague reflection on the human soul .In Lawrence's **The Fox** [1921]one can trace the effect of the black beauty and its grand power on the human soul and will .It chains man`s will and paralyzes his power to force him to follow this blackness blindly because of its abnormal attraction .Via this novel Lawrence wants to present piecemeal a vague views regarding the effect of the softness of evil even though it is wicked. .Also he hints to the danger of having such power in the hand of the wicked .To persuade his readers Lawrence cleverly selects the most wicked animal to be his sample so the fox is the creature that is a gate to depict human being .The emergence of the fox is so bewildered because it is admixture of beauty as well as wickedness that adds a complicated response to such creature to such degree of preventing man from killing it.

Also these foxy features can creep to human personality to add methods in killing and usurping .In return the foxy evil is received with warmth from other who evaluate and deceived by appearance .This beauty fails to soften the inside old blackness .March, a spinster woman who lives with her sister in the country ,watches this beauty and admired it .The fox steals the hens ,but this savagery does not prevent her from admiring it .Even its smell has the effect of magic on her to

such extent that she fails even to grip it .Not only this she begins to follow its traces as if he imposed a heavy spell over her will to follow him not to kill him but to steal some looks from this natural beauty .March stands powerless in front of such elegancy .Her gun is dead in her hands useless as her power .Her love and protection fail to suppress its evil that is injected in its heart .Thus he is ready to kill even its love for the sake of himself .The fox in certain case shows some passion to complete his scheme .It pretends to have mutual intimacy toward his admirer when:

She[March] lowered her eyes, and suddenly saw

the fox. He was looking up at her. His chin was

pressed down and his eyes were looking up. They

met her eyes. And he knew her. She is spell bound .

She knew he knew her. So he looked into her eyes

he knew her, he was not daunted. She struggled

confusedly .She came to herself and boughs slow

impudent jumps. There he glanced over his shoulder
and ran smoothly away. She saw his brush held smooth
like twinkle. And he was gone, soft, softly, as the wind

.8

After her hard attempts to meet this beautiful evil, she meets him and he is surrounded by his natural handsomeness. He bites her lover failing to hide his cruelty and his natural instinct of evilness. In spite of his monstery she dreams of her fox, his spell is still working over her soul. She amuses his songs and his secret schemes. In spite of his savagery, the fox here is free from any blame. Because his cruelty is existed inside his soul and this is part of his uncontrolled will .So the threat of such creature is expected and his wickedness is clear to the entire world. Thus, one can avoid its danger .In spite of his skill in deception ,he cannot hide his instinct completely and his and he is declared to be heartless. The most danger creature and the real hazard is the man who has such skill and is able to hide completely his enmity. So the human fox does not have the instinct of evil, but it is adopted

,and is hidden under various covers of graceful appearance of soft humanity. The fox invades Marchs`life and heart even when she thinks and prepares her gun to assassinate him, her love is mixed with her fear to produce such vague state. Her behaviors are so vague when:

She went indoors. She was silent and busy.

She examined her gun and clean it, musing

Abstractedly by the lamp light. Then she went

Out again under the great moon, to see if

Everything was right. When she saw the dark crests

Of the pine trees against the blood-red sky, again her

beat to the fox. She wanted to follow him, with her

gun.[p.7]

The emergence of Henry, the hired soldier, during the campaign for killing the fox is so expressive because of the horrible likeness between the two. There are many features connect them "when the young appears, he is at once seen in foxy terms. "⁹ He wants to spend days with their grandfather. The connection between him and the

fox is in their mutual circumstances and facial likeness . There are many circumstances gather them like the first appearance of the two at evening and the appalling horror that existed with their presence on the Baily Farm. The girls in particular Fanbard are frighten to such extent that they want to use the gun to stop his horrible approaching to add further likeness to the two who are received with a weapon also both carry the identical aura. Just like the fox Henry`s eyes are directed to March and other to Fanbard and there are a grave difference between the two looks. Perhaps he is puzzled to kill whom .March who has a slight experience with the fox finds Henry as another fox.

He arouses the same passion in her heart, he has "a ruddy, roundish face, with fairish hair, rather long...and he is the fabulous fox as well as the natural one."[p.10].March tries to declare the analogy publicly when she tells Henry that "I thought you are the fox"[p.13]. Even in the interior soul there are similarity, both have the skill of hunting and having the same smell. March from the very outset hints and depicts him as:

He was a huntsman in spirit, not farmer, not a
soldier

Stuck in a regiment. And it was as a young
hunter

That he wanted to bring down March as his
quarry,

To make her his wife. So he gathered, seemed to
Withdraw into a kind of invisibility. He was not
quite

Sure how he would go on. And March was
suspicious

as a hare. So he remained in appearance just
the

nice, add, stranger, youth staying for a fortnight
on the

place[p. 21]

In a brief period he succeeds in strengthen his spell over
March, he tries to persuade her to marry him. The influence of her sister

is great on her ,thus Fanbard convinces her to send him a letter refusing him. His foxy spirit cannot accept such a defeat and he has his monstrous solution . His determination to force her is inhuman .He decides to take a twenty–four hours license to cycle many miles through mud without any rest or food to kill Fanbard because of her protection to his prey. Even his love to March is monstrous and is part of evil instinct that cares for his victim not out of love. He proves to have a unique power of manipulation monsters as well as human when he schemes to kill the fox .

His plans indicates the supremacy of his evil over even the fox. He shocks the girls when he kills the fox and then" hung backwards...with a handsome thick winter coat: a lovely–red collogue, with grey as it passed to the belly,"[p.38] .Thus even the obstinate Banford obeys Henry`sfoxy plan of protection.

She is not save from his plans when she stands between him and March .He finds no way to achieve this rather than bloody action .He creeps to the farm just like a human fox to find the theater of crime is ready for his crime when they cut the trees. He decides to throw the tree over Banford to silent her voice for ever. He creeps like a snake so as:

No one saw what was happening except himself.
No one heard the strange little cry which Banford
gave as the dark end of the bough swooped
down,
down on her. No one saw her crouch a little and
receive the blow on the back of the heap, at the
foot
at the foot of the fence. No one except the boy.
And
he watched with intense bright eyes as he would
watch, wild goose he had shot ,was it winged or
dead? Dead immediately he gave aloud cry.
Immediately March gave a wild shriek that
Went far, far down the afternoon and the father
Started. Strange bellowing sound.[p.64]

Even his behaviors are inhuman from the very beginning. He
creeps slowly like any monster that prepares himself to tear his victim
up. So his quiet movement is not of human calmness, but out of deep

and acute monstery. His wild behavior is covered with mild human cover. He does not declare his savagery or reveal his bloody teeth that is ready to destroy everyone and obstacle achieving his dream. His tactics of treachery and comflague are similar to animals ways in hunting. Even his skill in hunting the fox is inhuman. He returns at first with dead fox reminds us of the strong animal .Thus, in all his behaviors Henry approximates the fox's` habit. Banford represents all the people who are aware of the hidden wickedness, they have penetrated eyes, but they should endure the tax of intelligence. Lawrence's writing proves to be a "a record in symbolic terms of his exploration of human individuality and all that fulfill it."¹¹ Lawrence perhaps introduces the fox at the threshold of the novel is a clever way to our mind to accept the portrait of the foxy personality. The accurate tracing provides certain connection for instance, he depicts Henry's steps to eavesdrop the sisters discussion as if he is a real fox. He states that:

[Henry]got stealthily out of bed and stood
By his door. He could hear no more than

Before, very, very carefully he began to lift
the
door open. Then he stepped stealthily out
into
the passage. The old oak planks were
cold
under his feet, and they creaked
preposterously
and a long by the wall, bill he stood
outside their
he held his breath and listened.[p.34]

The appalling truth that the human evilness surpasses the
that the human evilness surpasses the animals`. Henry succeeds even
in killing the real monster by using his foxy tactics which cheats even
the cunning creature. He brings his dead fox to his audience to be
epitome of his frightful power to achieve victory over every one
regardless of his strength. The killing of Banford is a living proof for his
supremacy in wickedness .Henry succeeds in captivating March to make
her spellbound and just like her dead fox sleeping for ever in his hand.

She loses her will as well as power to be mere a dead toy whose main job is entertaining her killer. After seeing the dead monster, she remains like a captive motionless and consciousnessless. She is freed from real fox to fell in the web of another who exceeds the old in monstery. She tries to think of her sister words that threaten her from his dreams, she probes deeply inside his mind and heart looking for the other coin that hides the assumed hatred, heartlessness, and revenge. She finds nothing suspicious which adds another evidence of his unique blackness that has the capacity to hide anything in depthless unseen spot .The modern theory of psychology succeeds in providing semi-attitudes regarding partial foxy personality that approximate the above mentioned views to a vital part the some character that mix with other parts to produce the final form of this character. Freud finds that:

Her[March] visionary fox is quickly identified
in class a Freudian condensation, half fox
and half Henry, or as an fox, and part sheaf
of
grain,...with all three organic entities
conflated

into a single, and singling, sexual figure.¹⁰

Though some critics regard Henry as a symbol of passion that should be freed from any chain which is reflected in the personality of Banford also they regard March as the modern kind of love that refuses any form of chains and she looks for Henry as a safe shore which is part of Lawrence's `massage in the matter of heart .This research will present a new attitude and another reading for above mentioned symbols. Even after their marriage the animal power of possession hinders their love . After his victory over her ,she becomes powerless even in granting love and at the same time in a dire need for his support .This is part of his plan to usurp her power by making her in need of him. He takes her from any strength to be a blind obedient to his will to such extent of lacking any physical and spiritual forces to grand love. There is a grave connection between the physical death of Banford and the spiritual death of March so as to make the image of death complete in this text since they represent one person. Even love fails to rid her and him from this deadly frailty. The key point that connects the two kinds of foxes is that both the human fox and the real

one prove to catch only dead persons. March tries to gain her gone vitality, but in vain she seems to live for ever in such weakness. She seems to be in the foxy grip and in his shadow . She states the bitterness of being missed in a strange world. She admits that:

Something was missed. Instead of her soul swaying with new life. It seemed to drop, as if it were wounded. She would sit for along time with her hand in his, looking away to the see and in her dark vacant eyes was a sort of wound, and her face looked a little peaked If he spoke to her, she would turn to

him

with a faint new smile ,the strange, quivering, little smile of a woman who has died into the the old way of love, and can not quite rise to to the new way ...never, never rising and looking forth above water while live, never, never looking forth from water.[p.66]

The old peace that she felt is vanished. She thinks that at last she catches her fox, who carries her like a prey. His foxy smell still charms and paralyzes her. She does not know that really he catches her cleverly. .He is fond of his victim and she loves his captators`power. She enjoys being captative or a prey. The very presence of the fox that cheats her eyes and her heart of the horrible hazard, is Henrys` presence that achieves the same effects. She fails to reveal his wickedness. Even the wild animal that she fears does not achieve or usurp her as what Henry does or obtains from her. Again and again Lawrence on purpose or not reveals that the human evilness is more powerful than the animals` since the human blackness is supported with the mind, intelligence and cruelty. And the wickedness of the animals is declared to the public eyes ,whereas the humans` is hidden or disguised under various covers. Thus, the human wickedness is most dangerous. The bizarre truth that the halo that surrounds the appearance of foxy personality is paralyzing aura that deaden the physical power of the victim as if these wicked persons have the ability to bring venom of the snake. The virginal truth that is presented in the novel that this ability can be found among the human. The connection is clear in Lawrence`s word when he depicts Henry as following :

He was identified with the fox and he was
Her in full presence. She need not go after him
Any more. There in the shadow of her corner
She gave herself up to a warm, relaxed, peace ,
almost like sleep, accepting the spell that on her
But she wished to remained hidden she was only
fully at peace whilst he forget her... she could
at last lapse into the odor of the fox. [p.15]

Lawrence through his works proves to have a unique talent in penetrating the " inside a character ... then gradually moves from describing thoughts and feeling ."12His talent is so necessary in unfolding the hidden personality or the masked one. This novel proves that the most dangerous mask is via behaviors which functions as disguise, that is to say to pretend to be soft but inside there is a real fox . He wants to gain his goals without any objection. Thus he covers his secrets intention.

He kills Banford without any punishment. He resorts to complete guise when he falls in love with his victim. He cannot release her or grant her ample freedom fearing her escape. In certain cases he mixes the inside self with the outside character when he is ready to save his lover to such extent of killing others, the first behavior is human while the second is non-human. For March she is in need of Hamlets` ghost to make her believe that her lover is a criminal and his hand is stained with her sisters` blood. This blood cannot generate love thus, regret seems to bite them both. He resorts to powerless love as a result . His love to March is subject to suspicion and can be questioned in vitality , "he flight abroad of Lawrence character with the woman he loves, into social void."13Lawrence more than once declares that in love should be balance of the will between the lovers to achieve the healthy connection thus it is a grave failure to chain the other lover so as to gain full love ,the matter is reversed. Thus according to the author :

Man, as embodiment of love, and woman
as the embodiment law, will for the
complementary parts of a living human whole
It is in the exploration of erotic

Complementariness , in sexual and spiritual

And spiritual together coming human race.

And in a vital expansion of shared

Consciousness that Lawrence seeks

To bed his nascent feature for. ¹⁴

Lawrence manipulates his skill in exploration of the inside of individuality to make it and unfold it to the open eyes. He stands against the timidity of traditions that stultify human evil or good instinct from any vent or suppress the natural needs from expressing them to provide remedies for the bad phenomenon and encouragement for the good ones in love. In spite of the shocked responses to his views, the people begin to believe in these attitudes in particular after the appearance of psychology as science . The response to his views is different because his views emanate from his natural response ,not the artificial probing Lawrence depicts the foxy side of the personality as the passion that should be released from any obstacle. The urgent views that appear here is that does Lawrence legalize any cruel action to be part of this release ? This appalling question mark opens a new field to investigate

in. The foxy part may be exaggerated to turn man into a semi-monster and this will spoil the equation that Lawrence calls for to achieve satisfaction in love. Plotting, scheme, and treachery spoil any noble love thus noble love needs noble as well as legitimate means to adopt purity.

Notes

1 David Daiches, *Critical approaches To Literature*

[London: Longman, 1981], p. 363.

2 Jerom Beaty and J. Paul Hunter, **The Norton**

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To Literature [New York : Norton Company, 1998], p. 134.

3 Walter Allen, **The Modern Novel in Britain and The**

United States [New York: Button Co., 1964], p. 23–33.

4 Ismail Salami, **Thirty Great Novels** [Tehran:

Mehrandish Book, 1999], p. 425.

5 Ihab Hassan, **Radical Innocence : Studies**

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Press, 1961], P. 3.

6 I. For Evans, **A Short History of English Literature**

[New York: Penguin Books, 1948], p. 277

7 M. H. Abrams, **The Norton Anthology of English Literature** [New York : Norton Company, 1987], p.24–57.

8 D. H. Lawrence , **The fox** [London: HeinemannBook,, 1987] , p.,6. All the subsequent quotations are taken from this edition

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9Mark Spika , **D. H. Lawrence , A Collection of Critical Essays**[New York: prentice– Hall, 1963] , p.93.

10 M. Elizabeth Sargent and Garry Watson ,
Approaches To Teaching The Works Of D. H. Lawrence [New York: Language Association , 2001], P.2450.

11 M. H. Abrams, **The Norton Anthology of English Literature** , p. 2450.

12 Julie Grover , **G C S E English Literature** [London:

Longman, 1998],p. 158.

13 Boris Ford, **The Pelican Guide To English
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Age [London: penguin Books, 1963], p,293.

14 Andrew Sanders, **The Short Oxford History Of
English Literature**[Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996], p. 52.

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