

Exploring men's different aspects of sex in Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Memories of My Melancholy Whores

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Abstract

Love has a multitude of interpretations and essences. People have different opinions about love. Some people say that love is sincere, love is blind but in the sphere of prostitution love is beyond physical intimacy. Even prostitutes have sentiments, love, and emotions for their clients. *Memories of My Melancholy Whores* is an account of his new-found zest for life that comes with what he feels for his young girl. She awakens his feelings and memories in him, not as a lover but in the sense of the word, it's a spark for his imagination. His indulgences in a series of sexual adventures fill him with greater optimism toward life and future. The sole cause of his enthusiasm at the age of ninety is the sex and its effects too. *Memories of My Melancholy Whores* follows an unnamed narrator who treats himself to a night with an adolescent virgin on his ninetieth birthday, and as a result, finds himself falling in love for the first time.

Keywords: Adventurer, brothel, intercourse, maturity, naked, virgin

Introduction

In *Memories of My Melancholy Whores* focuses on the old man who had a love affair with a young teenage girl that went beyond sex. He recognises the power of love and realises that sex without love is looking at the world through a blindfolded eye. True love has something more than sex and when she has been absent for months, he hunts for her like a madman. He is brave to trade the family treasure for prostitute sake. True love entails realising the ones you care about and despite his inability to join with Delgadina, the old man remembered her. The old man's love for a prostitute

is proof, since he pines for her even when she is not around and he makes no attempt to harm her. This novel unfolds the concept of love and sex in a different dimension.

Review of Literature

The novel has been interpreted in different ways. The novel view about sex brought controversy too. The controversy in Iran caused the ban of books in Iran and other Islamic countries too. Most of the critics find the novel a meditation on old age. It is that time of life when reality itself can appear just like the narrator remarks fantastic. Some others critics compares the novel to Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* where an adult man makes sexual relations with a nymphet. The old man and young girl's relationship is similar, but in Marquez's novel find sex as the means of life and it is a source of energy.

An American journal in its spring publication of 2006 A.D. writes: Remarkable...a work of singular grace and poignancy. Like *Lolita*, which it resembles in a variety of ways but owes no particular debt to, *Memories of My Melancholy Whores* achieves its effects through its beauties of style and execution, rather than any sensationalism in its storytelling. The journal finds it resembling *Lolita* but not much debt it owes to it. *Lolita* is a novel of psychological disorder in a man who is sexually attracted to little girls. The protagonist quenches his physical thirst with a twelve year old girl. But Marquez's *Memories of My Melancholy Whores* does not show any sexual relationship. In spite of this, it is remarkable to show the vitality of sex in human life.

Methodology

The more we suppress our desires, the more forcefully they try to come out in different forms. The two basic human instincts Eros and Thanatos shape our behaviour. Eros encourages love and pessimistic feelings for life and Thanatos is a death force manifested in aggressive behaviour, destructive will and hostility. Sex energy is the creative and intellectual source of life instinct. Sex is not only coition; it represents love, tenderness, and sympathy that bring all human beings in close physical contact. In the light of psychoanalysis sex life gives force to human life.

Marquez uses time and age as the dominant factors in his writings. In *Memories of My Melancholy Whores* also times and age are great motifs. Time makes the people old but at the same time it gives different experiences too. The older people are, the more experience they gain. The ninety year old columnist too is the source of experiences -- in the matter of sex as well as their way of living. He has gained much experience in publishing and journalism, but his experience about life and way of living fuels him much at the age of ninety. The ninety year old journalist represents the old age whereas the pubescent the young. The young girl does not have any words

in the novel but her representation as the young people is remarkable. She and other girls of her age have been forced to prostitution because of poverty.

Result and Discussion

The main female character of the novel is just a Virgo of fourteen years. The young virgin whom the old man calls Delgadina and she has no maturity about the healthy relationship. The narrator is a Columbian journalist and he always tells himself as a second rate. His newspaper columns run for fifty years and readers follow his works with breathless interest. The narrator began his sexual adventure when he was twenty. The narrator's 90th birthday he had paid to have sex with 524 women by the age of fifty and asked a madam to procure a virgin. He used to take records them up to the age of fifty; but his old age troubled much later to continue the activity as well as his recordings:

When I was twenty I began to keep a record listing name, age, place, and a brief notation on the circumstances and style of love making. By the time I was fifty there were 514 women with whom I had been at least once. I stopped making the list when my body no longer allowed me to have so many and I could keep track of them without paper (12).

It is clear that the narrator was an active and skilful sexual player. When he was young he used to write the partner's name, age, place and even he could write the style of the lovemaking. He realizes that the age stops him from doing but he did not stop lovemaking at all but the different categories age, place, name, style decreased. The narrator's favourite brothel keeper is Rosa Cabarcas whom he used to meet when he was twenty. He describes beautifully how attractive and beautiful she was in her youth. He and his friends used to quarrel to get her as a bed partner. But she was not the exception. He realizes the great labour of the time. When he meets her after several years on his nineteenth birthday. The brothel keeper Rosa too becomes the victim in the hands of the time. In her profession, age is the most important factor but she too becomes old. Though the clients like the narrator seem less affected by the time and age, the prostitution profession is directly affected by it. She used to be the prostitute herself; now she has become the dealer only.

The narrator is the only member of his family. The narrator became alone when he was twenty when his father and mother died. His father and mother died early and he did not marry. His single and sterile life is watered by sexual adventures only and one half of his life is full of brothels. The narrator can make love with anyone and at any place. Whenever his gut stimulates him, he starts his favourite game of sex. His intercourse with his maid is interesting and His living alone in the family paves the way of charging the maid too. The narrator has sexual adventures with

women, he has not left any woman without paying them. He pays all the women he sleeps with. He is straightforward and clear in the matter of money and payment. He was so famous in the red light areas that everyone knew him at once. His regular visits to the brothel made him able to get the award of the client of the year twice by the brothels. His early career at newspapers was not successful and had hard times. But at such periods also he did not stop going to the brothel. He used to sleep in the red-light areas. that the narrator's sexual adventures were active and regular from the very beginning of his youth.

The narrator was never married. He was once engaged with a girl named Ximena Ortiz. He was scheduled to marry her but she eloped in the wedding. He does not hesitate to convey the truth as he has faced the reality and is enjoying the single life. His hard and stiff life has been tender and soft because of his sexual adventures.

The decade of my fifties has been decisive because I became aware that almost everybody was younger than I. the decade of my sixties was the most intense because of the suspicion that I no longer had the time to make mistakes. My seventies were frightening because of a certain possibility that the decade might be the last. Still, when I woke alive on the first morning of my nineties in the happy bed of Delgadina I was transfixed by the agreeable idea that life was not something that passes by like Heraclitus' ever-changing river but a unique opportunity to turn over on the girl and keep broiling on the other side for another ninety years (108).

Actually, the narrator wants to have a new experience on his nineteenth birthday. He asks a virgin to go through this night with Rose. Later, she found a girl who turned out to be a fourteen-year youngster. Instead of rejecting the adolescent, the ninety-year-old narrator is enchanted towards her much. From the very first night with the young girl, the narrator liked her much, who is the age of his great granddaughter. He likes her body at a glance and he is ready to pay double the price than the others. He is happy to have her and has been ready to make the night memorable. The old people's attraction toward the young is quite unusual but the narrator is lured towards the young girl at the age of ninety. He used to make love with her without any foreplay and the fourteen-year young girl could give him proper time, so he looked at her body thoroughly and properly. For the first time, he measured the naked body of a fourteen-year girl which pleased him much more than the sexual intercourse.

The narrator realizes his love for the naked body of a young girl. He is stunned to see such a beautiful body of a young girl which he had never seen before in his life. He is hypnotized and he has not paid any attention toward the adult's body,

when he sees the naked body of a young girl. His liking of the female body satisfies his physical thirst without any coition. In fact, both good and wicked prostitutes have played an essential role in the old man's life and he has never experienced true love until he is ninety years old. The old man gave priority only to sex until he was ninety years old, but when he met the youthful, innocent prostitute Delgadina, his life changed totally and his view about sex was replaced by love. He has even lived with Delgadina in his mind. Even though he knows Delgadina as a whore and he develops possessive feelings for her. He met a lot of ladies throughout his life, but Delgadina is something different. The man who used to think of women as sexual objects has evolved into a new man who values women's souls. Pure love has evolved from lust. The old man pines to join Delgadina's soul.

Conclusion

Memories of My Melancholy Whores was not one of García Márquez greatest successes. After the release of the novel it encountered harsh criticisms because of its trivial setting. The novel tells about the simplistically romanticized prostitution and child exploitation. Time makes everyone aged and changed; he too was not the exception. The aging makes him less effective but not malfunctioned at all. The narrator's life is changed by immature and not especially healthy emotion: the narcissistic romanticism of adolescence, painful, idealizing and the narrator knows all too well how ludicrously out of season this desperate yearning is, how silly for a man of his age to be born again into puppy love. The old man never problematizes the grim foundations of the sex trade. The narrator fulfills his suppressed desires in the form of sex which makes him independent and vigorous. The protagonist realizes that sex is merely a consolation for not having love, he had never experienced love; indeed, he has sex with a lot of women he paid for it. The fourteen year old young and innocent prostitute preys on the hands of an old man and his desire to have sex with a girl. The narrator Neither love nor sex in this novella has anything to do with social reality; the story is rather a complete romantic idealization of the art- like object of desire. His creativity and vigor when he meets the young virgin makes clear his claim too and sex is life giving force in human life.

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