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VICTIMS TO CONQUERORS: GENDER ROLE IN GEORGE R.R.MARTIN'S *A STORM OF SWORDS*

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George R.R.Martin was born on 20th September 1948 in New Jersey. Martin has been admitted in Mary Jane Donohoe school. He started writing fiction for comic magazines. At the age of 21, he sold his first story *The Hero* to the magazine 'Galaxy'. Later he has been signed in for the course of Journalism at Northwestern University. He moved onto Hollywood where he became a story editor and also became an executive story consultant for *The Beauty and the Beast*.

Martin's most famous series is *A Song of Ice and Fire* which consists of seven novels. This has been adapted into television series entitled 'Game of Thrones' which is being telecasted on HBO Channel. His other famous novels are *Dying of the Light*, *Fever Dream*, *The Armageddon Rag*, *Hunter's Run* and so on. Martin has received several awards and honors such as Ignotius Award for *A Game of Thrones*, #1 on S7 Readers' Choice Best S7 and fantasy book for *A Storm of Swords*, Locus Award Winner for Best Fantasy novel for *A Dance with Dragons*.

A Storm of Swords (2000) is the third novel of the series *A Song of Ice and Fire*. It is the continuation of the second novel *A Clash of Kings*. There are several points of view in the novel as each chapter is been told by each character. The story is also plced in different locations.

Out of the five competitors for power, one king is dead. The wars still go on for the Iron Throne. Joffrey (House of Lannister) is a rude boy and a bad ruler who has become the king and sits on the Iron Throne. Lannisters's rival Lord Stannis also gets defeated. Robb Stark (House of Stark) runs and rules the North from the castle of the Riverrun. Robb plans against Lannister as they hold her Sansa and Arya at King's Landing. Meanwhile, Daenerys Targaryen, Mistress of the three dragons still left in the world. With so much of disastrous war, Daenerys tries to gather allies to win back Iron Throne. She believes the Iron Throne is rightfully hers. In the meantime, a group of ferocious Wildings arrives who are otherwise called Free Folk.

This story is an amalgam of beauty, power and magic which is torn by betrayal, devastated by brutality and consumed by greed and ambition. The nobels, commoners, heroes, villains, the freeborn, the enslaved struggle to survive. This plot depicts a patriarchal world. Patriarchy represents a social and cultural system in which all the material resources such as land, cash and so on are controlled by the male head of the family. Men control, dominate and misuse women. A material base creates interdependence or solidarity among men that enable them to dominate women. Patriarchy is considered as one of the main obstacles. In this way, feminists use the term 'patriarchy' to describe the power relationship between men and women to find out the root cause of women's inferiority.

Kate Millet was one of the notable feminists after Simon De Beauvoir. According to Millet, the man-woman relationship is deeply rooted in political connotations. She extracted the word sexual politics which is an important aspect of second wave feminism. This aspect argues that patriarchy is a political system which depends on minor roles of women. She believes that women are mentally forced or encouraged to artificial constructed ideas and the aspects of society and cultures regulated according to sexual politics that

manipulated women to their mediocrity until it becomes psychologically rooted in them, "Because of our social circumstances, male and female are really two cultures and their life experience are utterly different and this is crucial. "Implicit""(Kate Millet).

The concept of patriarchy is put forth by different thinkers. Mitchell, a feminist psychologist says that the patriarchy term means kinship system where men trade women. Malby refers to patriarchy as a system where men dominate women and exploit them:

The "exchange of women" is a seductive and powerful concept. It is attractive in that it places the oppression of women within social systems, rather than in biology... Women are given in marriage, taken in battle, exchanged for favors, sent as tribute, traded, bought and sold. Far from being confined to a "primitive" world, these practices seem only to become more pronounced and commercialized in more "civilized" societies. Men are of course also trafficked-but as slaves, hustlers, athletic stars, serves or as some other catastrophic social status, rather than as men. Women are transacted as slaves, serves and prostitutes, but also simply as woman. And if men have been sexual subjects – exchanges – and women sexual semi-objects-gives-for much of human history, then many customs, clichés and personality traits seem to make a great deal of sense(among others, the curious customs by which a father gives away the bribe). (Literary Theory: An Anthology 543)

In A storm of Swords, King Joffrey is the king of Westeros. Initially he was exchanged to marry Sansa Stark thinking this would unite their families. Later when they realized that marrying Sansa would not accord any political advantage, they break the marriage and engage with Margery Tyrell instead. Sansa advises Margery about King Joffrey:

Sister. Sansa had once dreamt of having a sister like Margery; beautiful and gentle with all the world's graces at her command. Arya had been entirely unsatisfactory as sisters went. How can I let my sister marry Joffrey? She thought, and suddenly her eyes were full of tears."Margery, please", she said, "you mustn't". it was hard to get the words out "you mustn't marry him. He is not like he seems. He is not. He will hurt you".(223)

In Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Tereus is said to be infatuated with a beautiful virgin Philomela, younger daughter of Athen's King Pandion. In various myths and in Ovid's myth it is observed that Philomela and sister Procne gets exchanged with two king. This kind of social relationships of a kinship system express that the men have certain rights over women and women do not have the same rights to themselves or on men.

In this novel, the plot is considered to be a male dominated one. Male monarchs rule, there are only male advisors, male knights fight wars and importantly women are married off in order to secure lands and titles or otherwise on a mere political grounds. Ser Jaime Lannister is shown as a classic villain. He verbally abuses people and cares very little for the people around him. But he undergoes a radical change throughout the novel. Jaime Lannister is held a s prisoner in Riverrun. Without the knowledge of Robb Stark, Catelyn trades him for her daughters Sansa and Arya. Catelyn sends Brienne as his guard, a woman who wishes to be a knight and also another knight named Ser Cleos. Jaime always insults Brienne for her masculine looks and her admiration for her bravery:

"My name is Brienne, not *wench*."

"What do you care what a monster calls you?"

"My name is Brienne, not *wench*"

"What do you care what a monster calls you?"

"My name is Brienne", she repeated,

Dogged as a hound. "Lady Brienne?"

She looked so comfortable that Jaime sensed a weakness. "or would *Ser* Brienne be more to your taste?" He laughed. "No, I fear not. You can trick out a milk cow in a crupper, crinet and chamfron, and bard her all in silk, but that doesn't mean you can ride her into battle. (21)

Lady Brienne never underestimates her skills at any cost, "I am as a good fighter as you," she said defensively. "I was one of King Renly's chosen seven. With his own hands, he cloaked me with the striped silk of the Rainbow Guard." (27)

Daenerys Targaryen is one the finest characters in this novel. She is strong and a good leader. Her main concern was to win back the Iron Throne but she later realizes to free the enslaved men and women. She also desires to protect the slaves. After releasing the slaves from the chains, she started referring them as her own children. She confronts the leader of the storm crows. They mock at her power and gender. She replies:

“Woman?” She chuckled. “Is that meant to insult me? I would return the slap, if I took you for a man.” Dany met his stare. “I am Daenerys Stormborn of House Targaryen, the Unburnt, Mother of Dragons, khaleesi to Drogo’s riders, and queen of the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros.”(440)

The women characters created by the author have something important to tell the readers about the modern world too. He also tries to prove that the women are just as capable as men to reach the challenge and to grab the system in their favor. Females are also used as sexual objects in this novel. Martin has shown the unloved men and abused wives of Westeros. The Westeros ladies are not meek and delicatated but they fight to the death for what they want. Subsequently, the author has also encouraged the readers by emphasizing various female characters which renders a woman-friendly environment in their cultural system. Nothing can progress without the unity of men and women. The patriarchy system still exists in the present world which is not natural. It is man-made and it can be changed.

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