

THE THEME OF LOSS IN THE POEMS

There is no doubt that the theme of loss is familiar to everyone as all of us have lost someone or something precious at least once in a lifetime. Moreover, it does not always matter whom or what people lose. In all cases, loss leads to suffering, disappointment, and disruption. The theme of loss can be traced in the poems of the noted poets, irrespective of the epoch. The given paper aims at regarding the theme of loss in the poems of such poets like Aphra Behn, Linda Pastan, Liz Rosenberg, and William Wordsworth.

Aphra Behn's "On Her Loving Two Equally"

Aphra Ben regards the theme of loss in her poem "On Her Loving Two Equally" in a special way. On the one hand, the speaker shares her feelings towards two men with the readers. She tells that both men are handsome and interesting for her. However, on the other hand, the theme of love passion is mingled with the theme of loss, and this is proved by the words: "when my Alexis present is, then I for Damon sigh and mourn" (Behn n.pag.).

The difficulty of choice is determined by the consequences going afterwards: "but which, O Cupid, wilt thou take? If Damon's, all my hopes are crossed; Or that of my Alexis, I am lost" (Behn n.pag.).

Linda Pastan's "Love Poem"

"Love poem" is a marvelous poem written by Liza Pastan. It considers a new-born love of two people in the very moment of its flourishing. In this poem, the theme of a love is regarded

through the lenses of another theme - the beauty of nature. The speaker expresses the rush of sensations of a loving couple. Spring is described “with it every twig every dry leaf and branch” (Pastan n.pag.). It is also depicted as a birth of something new and young and compared with an efflorescence of love.

The comparison to a “headlong as our creek after thaw when we stand on its dangerous banks” is a living picture of “gone with the creek” lovers, seized with their senses and emotions to the full (Pastan n.pag.). In this poem, creek is like a river; it can grab the partners and whirl them away at fast speed, but when it comes to reality we see that this beautiful creek is only a peaceful streamlet that is not perilous at all.

The “scruple” in the poem means doubts, but the speaker shows the readers that a loving couple disenthralled their feelings with the words: “we must grab each other or get our shoes soaked, we must grab each other” (Pastan n.pag.).

In this poem, the theme of loss theme is regarded peculiarly. The lovers have lost their doubts and apprehensions, which led them to prosperity and happiness.

Thus, “Love Poem” by Linda Pastan is an illustrative example of loss that is brought to the positive consequences.

Liz Rosenberg’s “Married Love”

Another example of the theme of loss in poetry is presented in the poem “Married Love” by Liz Rozenberg.

Nature is considered to be the presage of a new phase in a life of a woman. She has lost in her own reveries that “some man lets his arm brush my arm in a darkened theater” and that “the gas attendant puts a cool hand on my breast, asking a question” (Rosenberg n.pag.).

Spring excites her and provokes to experience the new senses. In general, the given poem is a desperate call of a woman being made to get married in the very young age, in the spring of her life.

The poem is a so-called mourning for her lost years and lost freedom. She would like to love her husband and would not mind if their lives were “made of rise and fall” and if they “could ride this out forever”. However, it does not seem that something may change.

Her current relations with husband are complacent. It means they make her depressed and the relationship she dreams of is that thunder and storm she cannot ride out with him. She needs another man to meet rise and fall with her, and this is the most important for her. However, now, her marriage is somewhat abusive. The loss of her freedom to love is the tragedy of her life.

William Wordsworth’s “She Dwelt among the Untrodden Ways”

The poem “She Dwelt among the Untrodden Ways” by William Wordsworth is a marvelous poem, devoted to the author’s eternal love to a dead beauty Lucy.

It is a loneliness that follows the speaker through his life after the loss of his wife, and this love is eternal. He knows that his wife lived without any support of near and dear ones in the sacred territory that were not stepped in: “she dwelt among the untrodden ways, beside the springs of Dove” (Wordsworth n.pag.). The loss of his dear wife made the speaker so emotional and gave him inspiration to write a poem in honor of such a beautiful woman as his wife was. She was like “a violet by a mossy stone”, as “fair as a star”. The speaker grieves deeply for his beloved, who deserved a great beatitude, but preferred a life of a loner.

Works Cited

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