

PSYCHIC FEMINISM AND REALISM IN O'HENRY'S *LOST ON DRESS PARADE*

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ABSTRACT

Love is not a feeling that arouses at the first sight if it does not see the physical attraction or the luxurious pose of a person. It arises slowly when one is attracted by the behavior and manner of the other. It proves to be successful if both the person agree in common understanding if there comes anything as a prestige such as economy or wealth or status then it will not succeed in full swing instead it will lead to a dilemma whether to proceed with it or not and a clear justification will lead a person to proceed on or not to proceed with it. Some people find it there are some factors that should be taken care while one thinks of love since it is not just a factor that is meant for enjoyment but it is the one that accompanies one till their life and it is all the most important to make a decision. I like to present Mr. Towers Chandler and Miss Marian in *Lost on Dress Parade* by O'henry with some of the psychological terms.

Keywords: Attraction, Behavior, Understanding, Love, Happiness

We are introduced a character Mr. Towers Chandler who was pressing his evening suit in his hall bedroom. He was so conscious in making his dress clean and neat. He was engaged in his work so vigorously in order to bring a desirable crease on his dress. His action makes the readers understand that he was so perfect in his dressing and this understanding was made clear by the writer's further description when he descends the steps of his lodging house perfectly and correctly clothed, he was calm, handsome in appearance. His manner of dress and his taste in maintaining it makes the people develop a kind of attraction that may lead to friendship and romantic relationships why not even love. We can find what happened in his life in the development of this story.

He was presented as the typical New York young clubman setting out, to inaugurate the pleasures of the evening. As the readers are given an idea about the manners and attires of a young handsome man who was perfect and clean the expectation of the readers were spurred on the job and economic condition of the young man and this was highlighted by the author as Mr.Chandler's honorarium was \$18 per week and he was employed in the office of an architect. The way labor is divided by gender, and what counts as masculine and feminine identity and bahaviour. (Harding 1986: 52). The author gives a clear

idea of his age by introducing him as twenty-two years old who considered architecture as an art and he honestly believed that the Flatiron Building was inferior to design to the great cathedral in Milan. He was presented as the character with a lot of physical attraction by the writer as he described him as handsome.

Mr. Chandler had the habit of setting aside \$1 out of each week's earnings as a means of savings that he can be used for dinner. At the end of each ten weeks with the extra capital thus accumulated, he purchased one gentleman's evening from the bargain counter of stingy old Father Time. He selected himself in the ceremonial dress of millionaires and presidents; he took himself to the quarter where life is brightest and showiest, and there feast with taste and luxury. He was presented as the character who enjoy life eventhough his income was not meant for the rich. He found it enough to make his dinner delicious and the sum is ample for a well-considered meal, a bottle bearing a respectable label, that can suit the tips, a smoke, cab fare and the etceteras. I realize how much my own outer and inner life is built upon the labors of my fellow - men, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received. (Fadiman 1990: 3 - 4)

To Chandler each ten weeks brought a joy as keen, as thrilling, as new as the first had been. He was happy to sit among the rich, in the swirl of concealed music, to look upon luxuries and to be looked upon by them. He really enjoyed life with the things that he had and he had saved.

Chandler moved with the dress parade as an exhibit as well as a gazer. For the next sixty nine evenings he would be dining in cheviot and worsted at uncertain table d'hotes, at rapid lunch counters, on sandwiches and beer in his hall-bedroom. He was willing to do that, for he was a true son of the great city of razzle-dazzle, and to him one evening in the limelight made up for many dark ones. He was compromised with his day to day activities with the compensation of spending a happy time with his saved dollars.

At a certain corner he came to a standstill with the question of turning back toward the showy and fashionable restaurant in which he usually dined on the evenings of his especial luxury. And here we are introduced a girl who slipped on a patch of icy snow and fell plump upon the sidewalk. Women are suffering from much subordination for more pressing reason that we have stopped short of compelling it to end. (Wolf 1993: 51).

Chandler assisted her to her feet with instant and solicitous courtesy. The girl hopped to the wall of the building, leaned against it, and thanked him shyly which was expected as the qualities of girls. She told him that her ankle was strained, and twisted when she fell. He was of helping qualities and asked her about the pain. He was responded by that girl and she replied him that she will be able to walk in a minute or two. As we know that the stories will go generally with the helping tendency of man to woman the author presents the same in this story, the hero replied her that he was ready to give his service to her, he further replied that he will call a cab with kindness. Behavior is the range of actions and mannerisms made by organisms, systems in conjunction with their environment, which includes the other systems or organisms around as well as the physical environment. It is the response of the system or organism to various stimuli or inputs, whether internal or external, voluntary or involuntary. We are presented with the good behavior of Mr. Chandler, not only that we are also given the hint about the behavior of the girl she told him "Thank you," softly but heartily. She was conscious that she need not trouble him any further. Virginitly for a woman before marriage is an absolute necessity, Rayner (1983:34).

As the heroes were so the Chandler was he looked at the girl and found her swiftly drawing his interest. She was pretty in a refined way and her eye was both merry and kind. The normalization of class inequality and its institutionalization regulates class performances. For example, class – specific styles of speech, such as the use of standard or non standard grammar, accents, mannerisms, and dress (all of which are also racially/ ethnically and regionally specific), are learned sets of expressive cultural practices that express class membership. (Bettie 2003: 51).

She was inexpensively clothed in a plain black dress that suggested a sort of uniform such as shop girls wear. Her glossy dark-brown hair showed its coils beneath a cheap hat of black straw whose only ornament was a velvet ribbon and bow. She could have posed as a model for the self-respecting working girl of the best type. In talking of the division of labor between women and men in different societies we are talking almost exclusively of gender roles rather than sex roles (Rogers 1990: 12).

Just to impress the girl and to help her Mr. Chandler asked the girl to dine with him with the intention that his brief season of elegant luxury would be doubly enjoyable if he could add to it a lady's society. This girl was a lady, he was sure—her manner and speech settled that. And in spite of her extremely plain attire he felt that he would be pleased to sit at table with her. It was a breach of manners, of course, but wage-earning girls give up formalities in matters of this kind. They were generally smart

judges of men; and thought better of their own judgment than they did of useless conventions. His ten dollars, discreetly expended, would enable the two to dine very well indeed. The dinner would no doubt be a wonderful experience thrown into the dull routine of the girl's life; and her lively appreciation of it would add to his own triumph and pleasure.

The approach of Mr. Chandler was entirely different. He preceded his invitation by saying that her foot needs a longer rest than she thought. He invited her to dine with his lonely self. He invited her to accompany him to have a warm dinner and a pleasant talk together that will give a rest to her ankle. The girl looked quickly up into Chandler's clear, pleasant appearance. Her eyes twinkled once very brightly, and then she smiled simply.

She told him that they don't know each other and also informed him doubtfully that it wouldn't be right. Equating rights with wants and morality with responsibility in relationships, she indicates that it was not her "aim or goal to break up the family." (Gilligan 1982: 141).

Mr. Chandler replied her frankly that there was nothing wrong about that. He introduced himself as Mr. Towers Chandler. He also told her that after their dinner he will bid her good-evening, or attend her safely to her door, whichever she prefers. It seemed that he had understood the feelings and thoughts of her. Understanding is a psychological process related to an abstract or physical object, such as a person, situation, or message whereby one is able to think about it and use concepts to deal adequately with that object. Understanding is a relation between the knower and an object of understanding. In this story both the characters were presented as the knower and also an object of understanding each other.

She was worried about her dress. But Chandler told her cheerfully that she was more charming in that dress than any one who can be seen in dinner. She admitted that her ankle hurt her attempting a lame walk. she accepted his invitation and she told him her name as "Miss Marian." The young architect told her merrily with perfect courtesy that she will not have to walk far. There was a very respectable and good restaurant in the next block. He told her to lean on his arm and walk slowly. He also told that the he was a little bit glad that she slipped on the ice. Chandler began to experience the real joy with her.

The restaurant was not so showy or pretentious as the one further down Broadway, which he always preferred, but it was nearly so. The tables were well filled with prosperous-looking diners, there was a good orchestra, playing softly enough to make conversation a possible pleasure, and the cuisine and service were beyond criticism. His companion, even in her cheap hat and dress, held herself with an

air that added distinction to the natural beauty of her face and figure. And it is certain that she looked at Chandler, with his animated but self-possessed manner and his kindling and frank blue eyes, with something not far from admiration in her own charming face. Women do not fit well within existing organizations, government or business, in which masculine behavior is congruent with general organizational expectations while women's is not. (Stivers 2000: 32).

He began to attract her by his babble of clubs, of teas, of golf and riding and kennels and cotillions and tours abroad and threw out hints of a yacht lying at Larchmont. He could see that she was vastly impressed by this vague talk, so he endorsed his pose by random hints concerning great wealth, and mentioned familiarly a few names that were handled reverently by the working class. It was Chandler's short little day, and he was soaked from it the best that could be had, as he saw it. She replied him that the words of him were so futile and purposeless. She asked him whether he had any work to do in the world that might interest him more or not?" The definition of the Pro - Women's rights position employed here represents a modern, liberal feminist conception, meaning that it favors equality for women but also recognizes women's unique interests and the need to have those differences addressed in the shape of public policy. (Wolbrecht 2000: 20).

The dinner was concluded, the waiter generously fed, and the two walked out to the corner where they had met. Miss Marian walked very well now; her limp was scarcely noticeable. She told him frankly "Thank you for a nice time," and also told him that she must run home. She told him that she liked the dinner very much. She could walk. She walked in front of him to the gate. He bent over her shoulder to swing it open for her. (Munroe 1998:77).

He shook hands with her, smiling cordially, and said something about a game of bridge at his club. He watched her for a moment, walking rather rapidly eastward, and then he found a cab to drive him slowly homeward. Happiness is a mental or emotional state of well-being characterized by positive or pleasant emotions ranging from contentment to intense joy. We are clearly presented that both the characters were happy to share their time with each other. She enjoyed the talks of the man and he enjoyed the company of the woman. "That was a stunning girl," he said to himself. "She's all right, too, I'd be sworn, even if she does have to work. Perhaps if I'd told her the truth instead of all that razzle-dazzle we might—but, amaze it! I had to play up to my clothes."

The girl, after leaving her entertainer, sped swiftly cross-town until she arrived at a handsome and sedate mansion two squares to the east, facing on that avenue which is the highway of Mammon and the auxiliary gods. Here she entered hurriedly and ascended to a room where a handsome young lady in an elaborate house dress was looking anxiously out the window.

"Oh, you madcap!" exclaimed the elder girl, when the other entered. "When will you quit frightening us this way? Just as nurturing behavior is not a trait belonging exclusively to women, aggression is not solely the province of men. Social evidence indicates that females are becoming more aggressive. (Levit 1998: 26). It is two hours since you ran out in that rag of an old dress and Marie's hat. Mamma has been so alarmed. She sent Louis in the auto to try to find you. You are a bad, thoughtless Puss." All people are created equal and deserve equal opportunity. (Henry 1994: 248).

The elder girl touched a button, and a maid came in a moment.

"Marie, tell mamma that Miss Marian has returned."

"Don't scold, sister. I only ran down to Mme. Theo's to tell her to use mauve insertion instead of pink. My costume and Marie's hat were just what I needed. Every one thought I was a shopgirl, I am sure."

"Dinner is over, dear; you stayed so late."

"I know. I slipped on the sidewalk and turned my ankle. I could not walk, so I hobbled into a restaurant and sat there until I was better. That is why I was so long." "Human rights are not based upon sex, color, capacity or condition. They are universal, inalienable and eternal, and none but despots will deny to woman that supreme sovereignty over her own person and conduct which law concedes to man." (Agosin 2001: 32).

The two girls sat in the window seat, looking out at the lights and the stream of hurrying vehicles in the avenue. The younger one cuddled down with her head in her sister's lap. "We will have to marry some day," she said dreamily—"both of us. We have so much money that we will not be allowed to disappoint the public. Power is "the position you have in life within a group of people – social status" and "respect, honor, and class ranking." (Mulvaney et.al 2003: 59). Do you want me to tell you the kind of a man I could love, Sis?" The material and educational resources in a community do not necessarily lead to positive attitudes toward diversity, either. (Gimpel et.al 2003: 58). "Go on, you scatterbrain," smiled the

other. "The proper state of society is one in which a woman is free to choose between an independent life of celibacy or a life given up to childbearing and rearing the coming generation." (Matthews 2003: 97).

"I could love a man with dark and kind blue eyes, who is gentle and respectful to poor girls, who is handsome and good and does not try to flirt. But I could love him only if he had an ambition, an object, some work to do in the world. These characters are presented as the one who had Interpersonal love in their first meeting which involved a lot of care and concern from each other which is a more potent sentiment than a simple liking for another. Such love might exist between family members, friends, and couples. I would not care how poor he was if I could help him build his way up. The wish to live is abandoned when the danger of disintegration can no longer be met. Therefore the courage to live depends on how much a person can rely on and trust his means of overcoming and warding off the inner danger of the self – destructive, life undermining tendencies. (Ruitenbeak 1973: 304).

But, sister dear, the kind of man we always meet—the man who lives an idle life between society and his clubs—I could not love a man like that, even if his eyes were blue and he were ever so kind to poor girls whom he met in the street." they engage in conscious, deliberate, systematic analysis. They have learned that truth is not immediately accessible, that you cannot just know. (Koertge et.al 2003: 163).

The story ended with the pleasures of both Mr. Chandler and Miss Marian as a pleasant memory since Miss Marian was greatly attended by Mr. Chandler and Mr. Chandler was accompanied by Miss Marian to satisfy his wish of being in a dinner with a woman. Eventhough they liked both they never shared their feelings with each other. Each one had the reason for not revealing their feelings to each other.

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