

Promoting Cosmopolitanism: Mother's And Daughter's Quest Towards Modern Society Connects With Classical Myth

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Abstract

The paper takes an absolute view of the mother's and daughter's quest towards modern society Connects with classical myth in Rita Dove's *Mother Love*. Rita dove's *Mother Love* is a modern depiction of the classical myth of Demeter and Persephone. The introductory poem gives a detailed outline of the poem which connects with the classical myth and the trouble between the modern mother and modern daughter. The persona's tongue has slipped away and search for her original tongue is discussed in the paper. Rita Dove brings out her ideas in search of her relationship with identity, memory, and history in her poetical works associated with universality.

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Each Mother a daughter,

Each daughter a potential Mother. (Rita Dove)

Cosmopolitanism not only focuses on geographical matter, it also comprises Universal Manhood. Man wants to become the citizen of the world which create the Universality. Rita Dove's works contribute to the recent critical discourse of Cosmopolitanism through examining the voices of African American voices connected with the Universalism. The understanding of African American Literature is entirely different from Western literature and culture. Rita Dove engages her cultural amalgamation which is the central thematic study. Rita Dove is a Cosmopolitan without

any consideration of her anti-regional propensities. Rita Dove's poetry deals with both national and anti-national contradictions.

It seeks out many connotations marked by the diversity which is from globalism to internalization leading to Universalism. *Mother Love* This latest volume of poetry is published during Rita Dove's tenure as Poet Laureate. It is published in 1995. *Mother Love's* different ideologies are based on the International Identity followed by her career to offer a possible reading of the dense and complicated writing which was happened after Post World War II. The thematic study regarding cosmopolitanism is universal and her concern for humanity is also presents in Rita Dove's poetry. The importance of these characters and their views never lack universal concern. It asserts:

If only we could lose ourselves
in the wreckage of the moment! Forget
where we stand, dead center, and
look up, look on,
rack a falling start...
now you see it
Now you don't (29, *Mother Love*)

Rita Dove's *Mother Love* is a modern depiction of the classical myth of Demeter and Persephone. The Introductory poem gives a detailed outline of the poem which connects with the classical myth and the trouble between the modern mother and modern daughter. This volume is divided into seven sections which are merely in sonnet form. The expression of loss and violent is intertwined as the contemporary voices in society. In section one Rita Dove has written only one poem titled *Heroes*, which is far from the title. This poem is a sonnet, but it is a narrative of Nine-three line stanzas with single additional closing line. Rita Dove uses the pastoral moment with the classical moment, picking the flower in the first line itself related to Demeter myth. Rita Dove uses this term to its maximum in the poem *Heroes*. With lines like:

So you strike her, she hits
her head on a white boulder
and there's nothing to be done

but break the stone into gravel
to prop up the flower in the stolen jar
You have to take along, (3, Mother Love)

Mother Love is the poem about the serious mother from Black community who missed her daughter and in search of her. She felt that her daughter has been kidnapped. The position of Black peoples has been focused, as grieving mother, she asks with the neighbors who make her comfortable. Rita Dove connects this incident with ancient myth to the contemporary mother's careful attention on her daughter towards the society. A modern contemporary mother warns her daughter to have a careful attention of strangers, which Rita Dove implies her conflation of Ancient Myth to the current Black world which is explored in the lines:

One narcissus among the ordinary beautiful
flowers, one unlike all the others! She pulled
stooped to pull harder—
when, sprung out of the earth
on his glittering terrible
carriage, he claimed his due...
(Remember: go straight to school.
This is important, stop fooling around!
Don't answer to strangers. Stick
with your playmates. Keep your eyes down.(9, Mother Love)

Even though Persephone is trapped into the underworld and experienced now she is immortal and began to live in the condition of six months in the underworld, six months on earth. Demeter's reply to Persephone's fall sings a blues of mother loss in poems *The search, and Protection*. Rita Dove focuses on displacement, cultural tension in modern society which Lotta Loffren says that "Rita Dove explodes our traditional conception of the relationships among Demeter, Persephone, and Hades; she uncovers multiple levels of fragmentation, then works to resolve them adding new complexity and finally new cohesion to the ancient myth. Demeter/Persephone, and Hades in all their configurations, the structure of individual poems,

and the structure of the volume as a whole participate in this search for cohesion/precarious at times, but ultimately sustain.

Rita Dove written the poem in the sonnet forms to analyze the relationship between mother and daughter traumas with the modern day mother in the society struggling to save their daughters from evils. Mother's love, voices through the voice of a single speaker. Mother Love calls upon the Ancient Greek Myth of Demeter and Persephone examines the reality of love between Mother and Daughter who locked in an eternal Somersault. The poems in mother love, volume explains to retell the Greek myth of Demeter and Persephone, This poem is mostly in narrative sequence. Ovid's metamorphosis retold by Modern Mother. *Mother Love* is in the modern retention of the classical Myth of Demeter and Persephone. It is about the Mythological story which explores about the metamorphic cycle. In *Mother Love*, narrative and dramatic elements are strong, yet there is no sacrifice of lyricism or any other poetic element.

Rita Dove's interest in puns is explored in her poetry consists of twenty eight lines; the ancient story of Demeter and Persephone is a tale of a violated world. Rita Dove connects her poems to the modern dilemma of Mother or daughter relationship. She argues her ideas with the racial and Cultural amalgamation particularly as the reflection of the "Universality of western Mythology." The tensions and conflicts with Culturalism and tension between Afro- and Euro Centrism and between "Universality" and cultural specificity. Generally Myths for the purpose of Entertaining. But Rita Dove converts this to her contemporary situations. The verse drama *Darker Face of the Earth* focuses about the Mother and Son relations and *Mothers love* is about the relationship between Daughter and Mother, Yet both focusing on the problems of promising African Americans with the controversies arouse the white worlds.

The Search is the poem written by Rita Dove, which is placed on the volume *Mother Love*. Rita Dove strategically focuses in this poem; it's about the modern vision of Demeter's predicament after the missing of her daughter. In the myth, she leaves Olympus and wonders. Her brother Poseidon, god of the sea and water, lusts after her, she later escapes in the form of mare to hide her identity, but he takes equine shape form of a bull and seduces her. In Rita

Dove's poem "the Search" mother lets herself go and give up her cultural atrocities, let the way to nature, leaves herself in insecure life to casual thirsty and later she was raped by the river, Rita Dove means that she drown up into the river which is explained as "Serves her right, old man"(10). Rita Dove depicts neighborhood that fails to support unconventional women. This points out the conformity and the communities that enforce it, participates in the mindless waste of modern society.

Rita Dove compares her present day issues with the mythological part and also she adds some inside jokes, so that readers can be more interested to read the poem identifies what Rita Dove want to bring out to the society. Rita Dove combines these mythical stories with "low" cultural references. Rita Dove predicates her poem "Pigeets" to the myth. Here the pig sacrifices its life for Demeter during festivals. The Readers who are familiar with the Greek belief can understand and the allusions to the ancient source material. In the series of poems, Rita Dove's writing is based on the everyday cultural references and about the black vernaculars, so readers must be familiar with the classical stories.

The drift from myth into individual manifestations of mythic patterns of *Mother Love* is a significant part of Rita Dove's revisionist Universalism and cosmopolitanism stance. As in *Grace Notes*, Rita Dove says that the personal, racial and gender studies can be universal, whereas in *Mother Love*, Rita Dove declares that myth to personal as race, gender and to specific cultures. Especially in the section v and VI a personal facile Rita Dove presents to the world is explained.

Rita Dove examines that the nomads in her poets prove her to be a voice role regarding social, cultural, class location which is universal not only rationalized issue. Even though she writes about the middle class, gender and racial experiences. She also speaks for all middle class in the world. Rita Dove explains Demeter and Persephone's in her poem in many different angles. Everyday mythic world related to everyday voices. Rita Dove suggests that women theorize history from the inside of her personal experience is like the internal experience of pregnancy. Section five strongly declares about Rita Dove's feminist view.

As a Travelogue writer or a cosmopolitan writer, she describes her experience in German. Rita Dove says that she is also friends with the trucker's girlfriend, a German woman poet, a woman leaving her place with her man, a child who is the witness for Persephone's seizure, and a group of African American women. In the Section six Rita Dove moves from person to Mythic via the personal. Rita Dove declares this in her poem as that the man in the poem is a clever man. Wife too knows that he is wise and every wish its symbol. Rita Dove personal poems become untold history by her thematic studies about her regional.

Even though Rita Dove is an African American poet in her thought is apart from her regional boundaries which made her to be a cosmopolitan writer. She discusses the experiences and how she used Persephone – Demeter myth into her vernacular tradition. The nomadic notion and the persona snail are used in the Grace Notes is also traced in the volume *Mother Love*. The poem *Protection* in *Mother Love* focuses on the imagery of snail. This poem traces that Persephone, who lost her home and Demeter's voice for an African American Identity. The poem also focuses on issues of good versus bad hair that come across throughout Black women's writing. She speaks about Persephone's hair, Demeter sees this:

I know I'm not saying this right.
"Good" hair has no body
in this country; like trained ivy.
it hangs and shines .Mines come out..
and the snail has lost its home.(11, Mother Love)

Rita Dove acclaims the body and curls of black hair and points out the limits of "good hair, which is connected with white woman, which is maintained through phrases "trained invy" and "hangs". Hence, she interweaves about the racial specifics in her poem which is about the prototype loss of a daughter by her mother to express her lasting belief that the universe can be marked as black without losing its universal character.

The poem *The Protection* introduces the image of a snail which is also used in three more poem's in *Mother Love*. (Persephone in Hell, Blue Days, Exit). In the poem "*Persephone in Hell*" dove connects it straightly to her Family name When Demeter mumbles seeing after Persephone's attitude in Paris as "my dove my snail". In "Blue Days" The image of a snail is used to deploy, it is a creature which contains its home on its back, The snail is serving as a visible symbol for Dove's Cosmopolitan resolution to the challenge of writing her path back home. The Snail estimates conspicuously in *Blue Days* which is placed in Section V, Dove sings the blues of a woman who is living in a patriarchal world of misdemeanor and adulteration that men says her demands for. The title itself carries the double life of the blues. The day is connected to happiness, peace, and violation, beautiful and disgusting. The sky is in blue colour when the day per fused. The Title of the poem *Blue* is connected to the man, blue is the color traditionally used to stand for a man. Thus the negative male behaviors towards woman are pointed in *Mother Love* as a factor of woman as Blues. The poem is about the loss of the mother and daughter relationship is connoted as the loss is brutal and the daughter of this poem falls into the cosmos of male dominance and patriarchal oppression. As Pereira notes, Dove "does not allow herself to speak exclusively from a middle-class position or only that of race or gender. . . All of these voices, Dove insists, inhabit the same mythic realm and are in dialogue between the contemporary and the eternal" (137,139). Dove explained in an interview a year after *Mother Love*'s release,

I don't think a Universalism that lacks a sense of the specific can be very powerful; at the same time, any culturally drenched perception isn't going to be powerful if it doesn't have some kind of universal reverberation. I guess what I am saying is that "the universal" is a bogus concept. We've come to believe that being "universal" is to transcend difference—again; the incredible trauma of difference in modern society has made us yearn for conformity. Why can't we find the universal in those differences? (Quoted in Steffen 176-177).

The major theme of the Mother Love is the ingeminated loss of the parents experience as they let to go of their children and moreover children's loss of innocence as they move into the world. Subsequently Rita Dove's cosmopolitanism understudy inclusive, loving, affirming, affinitive and experimental are the words related to Cosmopolitanism. Thus Rita Dove as a Cosmopolitan poet makes herself as world of citizen who concentrates on multicultural eras.

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