



Woman in Culture and Arts

The Study and Analysis of the Exemplary Mother Archetype in Simin Behbahani's Poems

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ABSTRACT

Introduction

Jung, a Swiss psychiatrist, has proposed numerous archetypes in his analytical psychology. These archetypes can serve as valuable criteria for the evaluation, review, and analysis of literary works in the context of psychological criticism. The “mother” archetype is one of the most critical and essential of these archetypes. It is a mental and universal representation of human personality and individuality that manifests in both positive and negative ways. Simin Behbahani is a contemporary Persian poet whose poems have been influenced by the concept of parenthood. The current research, which was conducted using an analytical-descriptive approach, aims to identify the positive and negative manifestations of the ideal mother in Simin Behbahani's poetic concepts and structures, as well as to uncover the archetypal manifestations of this figure from the perspective of mythological-psychological criticism. In addition to the transformation She created in the structure and content of Persian ghazal, Behbahani has made a lot of effort in using archetypes, especially the archetype of the ideal mother, as a symbol or code in his poems. She has used this archetype in both positive and negative ways.

Methods

The current research has been conducted in an analytical-descriptive manner, with the objective of examining and analyzing the concepts and structures of women in Simin Behbahani's poetry in the context of the manifestations and manifestations of the archetype of the exemplary mother through the lens of mythological-psychological criticism. Specifically, the primary objective of the research is to investigate and analyze the positive and negative manifestations of the ideal mother archetype and their reflection in the divan of this female poet. To achieve this objective, the collection of Simin Behbahani's poems (which includes the books *Jai Pa* (1325-1335), *Chelcheragh* (1335-1336), *Marmar* (1336-1341), *Rastakhiz* (1341-1352), *Khati Z Sorat Va Az Atash* (1352-1360), *Dasht Arjan* (1360-1362), *a Dariche Azadi* (1373-1362), *Yeki Mesle Inke...* (1377-1374) and *Tazeha* (1377 onwards)) published by Negah Publications was examined, and all poems and verses that exhibited the archetype of an exemplary mother were extracted. These poems were then categorized and analyzed based on the positive and negative nature of the manifestations. In order to bolster the research's argument, the percentage of positive and negative manifestations is initially determined. Subsequently, each component of these manifestations is represented as a percentage and a diagram to serve as a foundation for the article's analysis.

Findings

An exemplary mother has two positive and negative aspects, and this is the characteristic of

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archetypes; Because it is basically a symbol and, like a symbol, it has a bipolar characteristic. In the symbol that is the medium between light and darkness, the possibility of the existence of good and evil lies in both; But the orientation and orientation of the symbol to one of these two sides is based on the requirements and circumstances of self-awareness and how to use that symbol. Jung called this symbol work transcendental activity. The research results indicate that Samin Behbahani has incorporated both the positive and negative aspects of the archetype of an ideal mother into her poems. However, the positive expression of an exemplary mother is 60% more prevalent than the negative expression, which is 40%.

Discussion

Simin Behbahani has employed these subcategories to articulate the positive attributes of the ideal mother archetype: birth and upbringing, passion and compassion, the existential bond between mother and child, care and support, identification with plants, mother earth, regrowth, greenness, spring, sunshine, and homeland. Also, these titles can be analyzed in relation to the negative portrayal of the archetypal mother in Simin's poetry, including death thoughts and death awareness, mother's unkindness, night, sterile land, desolate tree and plant, marsh, and the negative expression of the seasons.

Conclusion

Simin Behbahani is adept at employing archetypes; consequently, her poetry reflects the majority of the ideal mother's manifestations in both positive (60%) and negative (40%) forms. The poet's high proportion of positive expression indicates that, despite the ups and downs of life, they are a self-assured and optimistic individual. These attributes have a wide reflection in Simin's poetry and originate from his motherly feeling; Behbahani, in addition to the emotions and feelings she had towards her three children (two boys and a girl), due to her job (teacher), always had a motherly feeling towards her students and the children of Iran in general, and she expressed her motherly emotions and feelings. expressed towards them and this issue is visible in his poems; Because most of the examples in this section are poems written about their own children or the children of Iran. The negative manifestations of an exemplary mother in her poetry are more influenced by her personal life. The absence of love in her first marriage, the early death of her second husband, the death of her grandson Arjan in childhood, the displacement and distance from the homeland in the last years, and the political and social pressure on her and her peers (women) all contributed to the reflection of the negative manifestations of this archetype. In general, death and death thoughts with fear and terror; At night, because of the darkness; The earth, when it is barren of leaves and plants, sterile and desert; Trees and plants, when they are dry and leafless, fruitless, thirsty and longing for spring; The swamp, when it swallows and comes with terror and fear; The city is always negative in Simin's poetry and comes with attributes such as deception, corruption, cruelty and oppression; In Simin's poem, except for spring, which is the season of growth and greenery, other seasons are a negative expression of an exemplary mother; Because they have always been used with attributes such as leaflessness, suffering and hardship, cold and frost, dryness and burning.

Conflict of Interest

This article is derived from the doctoral dissertation "Psychological Criticism of the Poems of Jaleh Ghaemmaghami, Parvin Etesami, and Simin Behbahani Based on Jung Theories" (Department of Persian Language and Literature, Faculty of Literature and Humanities, Razi University, Kermanshah) and has no conflict of interest.

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