

Principled Characters in Iris Murdoch's *The Bell*

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Abstract

Iris Murdoch is an important writer of British literature in twentieth century. She plays a vital role among the British writers. She has occupied a remarkable place in field of British novelists. Her writings are dealt with social perspectives which make the readers with pleasure. Her fourth novel is *The Bell*, which discusses the morality in understandable manner. Leading life is not easy way generally. It became complicated due to financial crisis. The world of competitive gives concentrate on money. When people are ready to respond the money, they do not bother about life. While people of modern world search for external pleasure, they miss the morality of life which is basic of human life. Iris Murdoch is a writer of philosophy. Her writings are based on experience. Each and every characterization of her is good to society. In her novel *The Bell*, She insists the essential of morality clearly. This paper aims to explore that Nick's speech contains a moral elements which differs from James's and Michael's contents. The three man's speech contains a concrete wellness of human nature, the good man, etc. thus, we can argue that Nick's speech should not be ignored from the moral point of view in a moral reading of *The Bell*.

Keywords: Iris Murdoch, *The Bell*, Moral, Speech, Life, Mankind, goodness, reality

About Iris Murdoch

Iris Murdoch first novel published in 1954, and she published around 26 novels. *The Sea*, *the Sea* got a Booker Prize in 1978. One of her last novels is *The Green Knight*, in 1994. She passed away on February 8, 1999, in Oxford, England. Murdoch was a child, her family moved towards to London, England. She grows up; her father was a civil servant, and her mother as a trained opera singer. Murdoch is the only child of her parents. The Murdoch went to boarding school in Bristol until 1938, when she started attending Somerville College; she started working as assistant principal for the British treasury. After working two years on the treasury, She away that position in 1946 with the intent to further her education Life is too easy to lead nicely without having any expectations, expectations surely hurt when it does not come to true. Few people in our

life expect lot and they do all sorts of immoral activity to fulfill their expectations which are really not acceptable. At the same time, very few people work hard with social mentality without having any personal expectations. Here in this novel we see both moral and immoral characters.

The novel start with Dora Greenfield goes away from her husband Paul Greenfield. At this time Paul has moved to Imber Abbey, Gloucestershire to work on some 14th century manuscripts. During chapter seven we understand of Michael's life. His ancestral home is now Imber Court. Michael's homosexuality makes him in the past challenged his desire to become a priest, and he has decided to make Imber Court a lay community of the Abbey. A small group of more and less pure people comes to the court, whose greed for God makes them unsatisfactory citizens of an ordinary life, but whose strength fails them to submit the world completely. This novel has three important moral characters whoever has been taken to justify above title. They are like preachers which are nicely presented to the reader: James's, Michael's, and Nick's. These three characters advise other people how they should behave in order to earn good name. The morality elements are overflowed by the three characters.

Morality in the Speech of James

James speech has been delivered as a part of the Sunday religious service attended by members of the community. In the beginning, he says that the primary elements of the best life are to live without having any kinds of image. He gives importance on moral conception.

According to him, reality, morality and mankind are very essential. Studying one's personality is not good to goodness. The good man lives by faith not any others. The good man *does* what seem right and good without considering the effect, without calculating anything. He never believes anything except God. As per his concern, God will do all the best things in his life. In order to do something good, we need to free ourselves from our own ideals which are nothing more than dreams that come between us and reality. Ideology stops us from what we need most to see reality. We should think of our actions and we must act according to common ethics. Last part of James's speech he keeps on drawing his moral conception. In the eyes of James, the marks of innocence are fact, simplicity

Elements of Disciplines in the Speech of Michael

Michael's speech is delivered a week after James speech. The context is same. Speech of Michal is contentious of James. Michel speaks on Sunday service which most of the members of the community attend. It can be divided into two parts. The first part of Michael's speech is an introduction and starts with the same words, though Michael presents a very nice conception of the good life: 'The primary need of the good life is that one must have some conception of one's ability. One must realize what the next thing is. One must study carefully how to use such power and strength as one has. After this introduction, the narrator explores both how Michael does when

delivering the speech and how the listeners are gathered in the room. Michael accepts that his speech emerged from his recent reflections on his relationship with Toby Michael goes on uttering that goodness is closely related to self-knowledge. As per his speech, his sermon, God requires us to understand our imperfections Michael argues that each and everyone has a different experience of reality, as everyone has a different experience of God. Experience and knowledge of reality are the origins of our real strength to live and lead as spiritual beings. Michael also believes in reality and the goodness in particular things. Like James, he uses the bell in order to project his moral conception: The bell is subject to the force of gravity. We too must learn to understand the mechanism of our spiritual energy and find out the hiding places of our strength.

Elements of Philosophy in the Speech of Nick

Nick's speech is private it is designed especially for and given to Toby. Nick forces Toby to listen to it. Even so, it is a moral speech which defends a certain conception of human reality and human goodness. Of the novel's three sermons, Nick's is the only one that is announced in advance. After James's sermon, Nick says to Toby. Nick considers it the right moment for the sermon. Toby to confess his meetings with Michael to James, which is one of the multiple causes of the novel' sending: the dissolution of the Imber Court community. The sermon is in the living room at the Lodge. Nick and Toby live are separate from the other members of the community. He drinks steadily while giving his speech. His modulation of voice is very nice and conclusive. Nick takes his best effort to make Toby listen to the sermon and digest his elements of morality. We must recall that what Nick says in this sermon is addressed to Toby. At the same time, it is a general theory of morality about human nature. We must take into account the possibility that Nick's message may be directed to remaining people. Indirectly Nick has given well packed message to all human beings to run their life with morality. Iris Murdoch is woman of philosopher. She stresses as human to lead the life in its way. Her simple thoughts are not to force human being rich life. She gives importance to moral, loyal life. Her characterizations are clearly have been pictured as principled characters

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