

Reflection on the Survival of Humans in Robert Frost's Poetry

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Abstract

Most of Robert Frost's poems start with the surrounding natural environment or small things in life, and contain deep significance; His poems contain the poet's thinking on human survival, cherishing of time, contradictory choice in the face of choice, responsibility for society and so on. Reading his poems is both a visual enjoyment and an inspiration to the soul.

Keywords

Robert Frost; poetry; human survival.

1. Introduction

The American poet Robert Frost made great achievements in poetry, won more honors than any American writer of his time: he won the Pulitzer Poetry Award four times, won 44 honorary academic awards from universities including Oxford and Cambridge. On his 75th birthday, the United States Senate passed a resolution to wish him life, respect him as a national poet. He is respected as the laureate poet of the United States, but behind the honor are the bad luck of his life and the hardships of his creation: his emergence in the literary world is almost the age of 40s. There is always melancholy in Frost's poetry. However, his poems are by no means moan and groan without being ill, but originate from a love for nature and a commitment to life. In his works, his deep reflections can be seen everywhere, especially thinking about the subject of human survival. The disappearance of youth in life, inevitable choices, and the responsibility of society, the yearning for civilization and the cherishment of life are all reflected in his poetry. In the following, the author will take the poet's poem as the research object to explore the thinking of human survival in his poetry.

2. Tangible and Intangible Walls in Human Survival

Frost may describe human tragedy, or describe the life of loneliness and helplessness and the difficulties of human interaction. Through description of the farmers' questioning relationship reflects the general state of human survival. In his poems, there are various "walls" that separate people from each other, some of these walls are tangible and some are intangible.

"Mending wall" is a well-known poem loved by the people. This poem takes the wall mending as an example to express the theme of human existence. This "wall" is tangible and it stands where it doesn't need to exist. So the poet and his neighbor met and mend the fallen stone wall together. Both sides stood on the border of the neighbor's house and piled up the fallen stones again. Interestingly, the poet initiated this work, while mend the wall; scolded his neighbors and expressed doubts about the necessity of mend the wall. He treats his neighbor as children, and laughs at the other side to prevent cattle that nobody owns, in order to protect his interests. This wall is actually a paradox. On the one hand, Good fences make good neighbors, "but people don't know when this wall has been on the other hand; on the other hand, there is another force trying to destroy the wall, the poet called this power as "elves". The wall can't draw people

closer; on the contrary, it separates people and prevents people from communicating and understanding. Only by destroying this wall can people communicate better.

Wall mending is just a useless outdoor activity for the poet, because people don't need walls at all. So he tried to change the views of his neighbors, told him that the wall was just a communication barrier, but his persuasion was useless. It seemed ridiculous that the neighbors were holding stones in their hands and standing to defend the wall like a savage. The poet felt that the neighbor was sad, because he was surrounded by darkness. This darkness was actually a blank in his mind. Neighbors thought he was still living in the barbaric Stone Age; his thoughts were deeply rooted in tradition, and he kept repeating the words that his parents had warned him that "high walls form friendly neighbors," and he would never escape the darkness. It is not difficult to see that on the surface this poem described only a very ordinary trivial matter, mocked the neighbors while repeating the "high wall form friendly neighbors" while repairing the wall. From a deeper level, this poem is an attack on the "darkness" in that deep-rooted thought in the neighbor's mind, called for friendly human interaction, and dismantling the wall that hinders human communication. The irony is that the poet theoretically disapproves of the practice of friendly neighbors, but he is doing the same thing, which is a kind of helplessness in the obstacles to human communication.

"A Hundred Collars" makes readers see another invisible "wall" of the human spiritual realm. This wall is rooted in tradition and difficult to remove. In this poem, the cowardly college man is obviously the builder of this invisible wall. This wall is "superiority" that he considers high. This poem tells about Magoon, a scholar and Lafe, a newspaper collector, and they are together in a small inn, regardless of cultural education or social status; the two are quite different.

From the beginning of the poem, readers can see that Magoon is not a small person and does not belong to the general social class. Lancaster is his birthplace, a small town. He has a house there. Every summer he sends his wife and children there for a pleasant holiday, but he does not like the place himself. Even if he visits hometown occasionally, he will feel very uncomfortable. When the neighbors communicate with him, he always seems to flip through the letters at will, make the neighbors afraid of him. The poet added a comment very humorously and ironically: he did not want to, because although he is a scholar, he is still a democratic person, even if he does not, at least in principle.

In the middle of the night, in a tavern next to the noisy train station, the scholar had to stay with an unknown stranger. He had even more reason to keep his wall between people. In Magoon's eyes, the newspaper collector was just a beast, shirtless and vulgar, and he didn't even want to look at him. He considers himself superior to him, as can be seen from their introduction. When asked for his name, Magoon deliberately added a "Doctor" in front of his name, but in Lafe's eyes, a doctor is no different from many ordinary people he contacts daily.

Lafe is an enthusiastic person, and the gap in education does not stop him from helping others. When he learned that the scholar was wearing a size 14 shirt, he almost jumped with joy; he immediately decided to give his one hundred hard collars to the scholar. It's a pity to throw these hard collars too small. He wanted to help Magoon take off his shoes, but was rejected by the scholar. Magoon looks down on Lafe and doesn't trust him. But in order to reassure Magoon, Lafe put all his money and things to Magoon to see, his frankness and enthusiasm contrasted sharply with Magoon's arrogance, old-fashioned, and overly cautious.

As a newspaper collector, in addition to receiving money from door to door, Lafe also hurried around the carriage to understand the needs of readers, solicit their opinions, and become friends with them. He sent them messages and shared their happiness. He is always popular and people always treat him warmly. There is no boundary between him and the villagers, and there are no obstacles to communication. For Magoon, the situation is quite different. He doesn't like his birthplace and despise people like Lafe, there is an invisible "wall" between

them. Lafe's happiness is in the countryside, among the folks. And Magoon is alienated from the country people, tired of maintaining his scholarly style, narrow-minded, and rejected people. It is this character and prejudice of Magoon that made him abandon his homeland and his neighbors, and lonely and helpless in his hometown. The rude Lafe lived a fulfilling and happy life; his superficial vulgarity eclipsed the elegance and decency of the scholar. Human knowledge should not be an invisible wall that blocks people's communication.

3. The Alienated and Broken Relationship

Marriage seems to be an eternal theme in literature. For more than 90% of people, marriage is the most effective way to end a lonely life. A supportive, intimate, and faithful marriage relationship is one of the most beautiful things in life. Frost spent a lot of time describing the relationship between husband and wife. In his writing, wife mostly lives in world which lacks communication, and feels not happiness but pain. Husband and wife lack communication and always have different opinions on things. Difficulties of communication and misunderstanding of each other have made the two sides extremely distressed.

Although "Home Burial" is not as famous as "Mending wall", it is a long narrative poem of ten minutes love by frost. In this poem, frost once again describes the obstacles in human relations and the difficulties in communication between husband and wife. The couple in the poem just lost their beloved son. The poet describes the characters in plain language and in an eloquent manner, so that they can be heard and seen as they are. At the beginning of the poem, the two characters enter the reader's field of vision: standing at the top of the stairs, look back at the wife, and standing at the bottom of the stairs, looking forward to the husband. They are nervous and stiff, and the stairs are like a wall between them. Amy (the wife in the poem) was sharp as if someone had offended her. She looked out of the window at the heartbreaking mound on the stairs and refused to let her husband express his concern for her grief. Without loving children, husband and wife should have supported each other, cared for each other, shared pain, and lived through difficulties together. In the poem, the husband and wife have different attitudes towards the loss of their son: for the husband, it's like pulling out a decayed tooth, which brings temporary pain, it's just a part of family life; for the young wife, it's like plucking out the flesh of the heart, which can never be bridged. She hoped that her husband would feel the same pain as she did. When she found that her husband seemed to forget about it and had already returned to her daily life, she was in great pain and felt that only she was bearing the loss of her son alone. You could sit there with the stains on your shoes of the fresh earth from your own baby's grave and talk about your everyday concerns.

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as she did. When she found that her husband seemed to forget about it and had already returned to her daily life, she was in great pain and felt that only she was bearing the loss of her son alone. "One is alone, and he dies more alone.

Friends make pretense made of following to the grave.

But, before one is in it, their minds are turned.

And making the best of their way back to life."

The husband thought his wife not to be explained by reason. In fact, the reason for their husband and wife's emotional conflicts is their lack of mutual understanding. The conflict caused by the death of the child reflects the failure of communication between husband and wife. The husband can neither make his wife understand his feelings nor help his wife get rid of the entanglement of great sorrow. The wife didn't understand why her husband was so indifferent to their child's death, and she almost collapsed. The story is simple but touching. This poem is narrated in the form of dialogue. The more the blasphemer reads it, the more he can appreciate it, the more he can melt into it, feel the helplessness of his husband and the madness of his wife, and understand the irreparable cracks in their husband wife relationship. Family burial is actually a pun. On the one hand, it means that the father buries the child; on the other hand, it means that their marriage buries the family. Frost deeply buried this tragedy in the family atmosphere of New England farm, aiming to reflect the current situation of alienation of interpersonal relationship, lack of communication between people and loneliness of life in the contemporary American society in the 20th century.

4. Conclusion

Frost selected the rhythm of human language to write by taking New England countryside as the background of, and used dialogue and monologue to show his characters' psychology and relationship. What he described are most tragedy of life, the isolation and loneliness caused by the lack of mutual communication. There is a visible or invisible wall between people his poems. People suffer from loneliness, call for friendly coexistence and communication with each other. Even there are communication barriers in between husband and wife, due to the communication failure; misunderstanding and even relationship breakdown are caused, and the indifference of human feelings is shown in his pen. In a word, Frost's poetic language seems to be simple and easy to understand, it sounds like chatting among friends. In fact, it is full of profound thoughts and thinking on human survival.

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