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How motherhood is portrayed in James Cameron's 'alien'

James brings out how the genders are perceived in the 'modern' western culture. Feminine has been characteristically aligned to nature while the male characteristics are viewed to be aligned to civilization. In the film, Cameron uses extreme femininity that is in conflict, and the male gender finds itself trapped between the two (Creed, pg 122). Also prominent is the role of motherhood in a society where women are perceived as 'weak.' A thorough analysis of the film brings out women as strong though fragile. The radical yet powerful feminine extremes are in conflict which seeks to destroy or create the universe in a new way.

The story revolves around feminine characters thus making motherhood an important theme of the film. Motherhood plays a key role in depicting the corruption and monstrous nature that is done all in the name of building the society (Byers, pg 83). A key character in the film called 'Ripley' takes the role of a protagonist and in the film explores her new roles as a mother. In the modern society, Ripley's actions can be critically compared to have been against feminism (Kristeva, pg 212). Her actions came when she realized that something had to be done to overcome the fading power women had in the society and how their roles were slowly getting eroded.

Living in a male-dominated society, Ripley found it increasingly difficult to tolerate the Weyland-Yutani Corporation that had made the world unbearable for 'weak' women. The role of women and motherhood had greatly been ignored in the 'future world.' Women who dared to

pursue their essential roles were perceived as weak and mocked by the males (Zwinger, pg 81). The society, however, comes to realize in the end that what they had viewed as primitive natural instincts were the only elements that could save them from the 'future's saving grace and its greatest fear.' The feminine character perceived as horrific and monstrous is their greatest fear as she seeks revenge on the society that betrayed her.

In her new role as a mother, Ripley discovers a new purpose in protecting the little girl. The key part of the film is when Ripley transforms to become Rebecca's mother discovering that her maternal instincts had revitalized though had not been tested yet. Ripley and Rebecca get introduced to each other in a twist of events that is filled with symbolism. The two go through a series of bonding stages in order to get a deeper understanding of each other.

Ripley represents a strong independent character which to some extent brings modern feminism to light and still ironically contrasting it. The contrast is openly displayed by how she regulates her motherly figure. In this way, Cameron espouses the 'ultimate test of a woman strength is to be a successful mother.' James film can be attributed to having greatly contributed to the surge of movies like Halloween or the Friday that also depicted the new protagonists. James, however, states the fact that no matter how strong a female is, she cannot fully exploit her potential unless she incorporates her biological role.

The masculine in the film plays a crucial in understanding how females are degenerating in the society. The Galaxy 'had succumbed to male dominance and influence.' The female on the hand had been perceived to have only two figures; 'either an overtly masculine female or a mother.' To overcome this, the females have to display 'strong male aspirations.' The 'mother' is at first brought out as an obedient character though on later realizing the consequences of her actions feels betrayed by the people who are in control and seeks revenge. In the end, Ripley is

able to defeat the mother bringing to an end her mission of destroying the world. In addition to it, Ripley also saves the children who were being used as surrogates.

In the movie, James further incorporated the trauma women undergo during childbirth and also rape. The male dominated society fails to understand the role of motherhood when defining a woman. This makes it so apparent that the society does not recognize their role in childbirth. In an attempt to make the males to understand the masculine resolve to cover this up with fear. The reason why they fear facing facts is not apparent, however. James, therefore, presents two possible reasons for the fears; the power women held or the fact that they could admit that women faced trauma during childbirth. As results, women have to carry the blame and speaking of it being taken as a sign of weakness.

According to Bundetzen, children are a product of men and women play the role of carrying whatever is implanted in them even by the less significant males; He describes the whole process as being carried out by insignificant males bound by the power of female superiority. This phrase describes the point where the males discover that their view of women has all along been propaganda and lies. The archaic mother does not appear in a more visible figure in the film; however, she represents the primal scene of birth showing the steps of the life support system that eventually led to the birth of the alien. The maternal figure of the archaic mother creates a deeper understanding of how male dominance has resulted in women being denied their rightful position in the society.

During the designation of an alien in the year 1979 by H.R Giger, the Alien was made to have more strong sexual and behaviors. This was different to the original creature since the initial organisms had a hand like an organism and it attaches itself to the face of its victim and lays an embryo inside. These monsters do not reproduce, and it is by coincidence that they are

linked to reproduction, 'pregnancy anxiety.' In motherhood, pregnancy is included which is the protection of the growing organism in the womb of the mother. The alien having been 'born' after a human was forcefully impregnated also shows the way women are exploited sexually to the extent of monsters being planted in their wombs. The company, which throughout the film fails to recognize the role of motherhood, goes to the extent of sexually abusing Ripley when she is made to swallow a pornographic magazine (Aiken, pg 301). Ripley experiences extreme sexual violence all in the name of punishing her conspiracy against the company.

After the birth of an embryo, it joins the aforementioned birth trauma. Alien Queen who was the one who made these things shows a direct difference between them and the pure mothers. The Alien Queen is referred to as the 'bad' mother while Ripley is referred to as the 'good' mother (Haraway, 113). Among the attributes that Ripley is associated with are being caring, bringing up well the orphaned whereas the alien queen has the bad attributes like being destructive and this is heightened by the fact that alien queen gives birth to force to give have unwitting subjects and to carry an alien infant. The infant is born by bursting out their chest. The lives of the subjects do not value at all as they are only used as incubators for the companies experiments.

Usually, the mothers view the period of pregnancy as a glorious period. These depend on how the women view this individually as some view it as a fearful period. However, the aliens take the fear and corrupt it. This is because they have no understanding of the whole process. As Ripley lies on the bed in the hospital, she feels pain in her torso. After the doctors restrain her, the alien infant is delivered. The infant stretches the skin ready to wake up as Ripley also wakes up. All the hospital workers robes into the birthing room, this is the scene that sets the tone for the whole film.

However, many of the critics don't agree with this information. The maternal fears are normally referred to as hokey, maybe created to the women by the male fear. In reality, the Queen never dies in the film. This then suggests that the beast is ever there. Thus, motherhood can either be the savior or also the destroyer of the humanity. Cameron may be showing much more of personal type of fears insisting much also just like Sigmund had asked that everyone carries with the this fear

According to Freud and Lacan, women have played a very crucial role in the survival of people since the beginning of life. Lacan describes women as 'abyss of the female organ from which all life comes from' (Jacobus, 24). Women are viewed as 'objects of sexual jealousy' and their wish to be recognized long been assumed. The two authors, therefore, bring out women as being defiant of the rules put in place by men in the society and attempt to overcome it, they resort to radical feminist actions. These actions despite being crude are to some extent found to be the only way to save the universe from destruction.

The 'mother' is portrayed as a traitor when she advances her doomsday count. This frustrates Ripley who reacts 'Mother! You Bitch! Goddam it!' on realizing that mother was not going to stop. This according to Edmund Leach was 'animal abuse' (Jacobus, 28). Her betrayal is however viewed to have resulted from a technical malfunction. Her motives, however, were more intentional basing facts on the company's act of using children as incubators for their specimens. The intentions can best be explained by a mothers love for children and that she had become guilty of her functions.

Conclusion

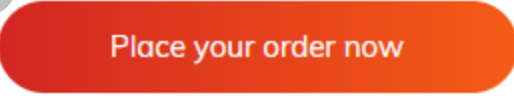
Conclusively it is clear that motherhood is the main theme in which all the other acts revolve around in the film. This is a reason as to why 'mother' had been changed from

Cameron's original script to alien. In the end, the main message brings out the most important as understanding feminine power being a true quality. The attempt to deny women their true position is through male dominance is viewed as archaic as well as the attempt by the feminine extremes to use radical means.

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