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**THOMAS MANN'S DR. FAUSTUS: THE LIFE OF
THE GERMAN COMPOSER ADRIAN LEVERKUH, TOLD BY A FRIEND. A PSYCHODYNAMICS PERSPECTIVE**



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Abstract:Psychodynamics, in general, is a branch of social psychology that deals with the interaction of various conscious and unconscious mental or emotional processes, especially as they influence personality, behavior and attitudes. Psychodynamics is also known as dynamic psychology. The branch owes its origin to the book, Lectures on Psychology by German physiologist, Ernst von Brucke published in 1874.

Keywords:Psychodynamics , social psychology , mental or emotional , dynamic psychology.

INTRODUCTION

The term is analogous to the thermodynamics a branch of physics. Brucke along with his friend Hermann von Helmholtz formulate the first law of thermodynamics that states the principle of conservation of energy. Brucke applies this theory to the all-living organisms and very equate them with energy-systems. The very idea much influenced Sigmund Freud who was then first year medical student at the university of Vienna and fortunate enough to be supervised by Brucke. According to Brucke, the principal of physics and chemistry can be applied to the living organism, as they are dynamical system. It was the 'Aha Principal' for Sigmund Freud. He adopted and expanded the idea of Brucke and paved a way for dynamic psychology. Freud came up with new model of personality and assumed three levels of personality (Psyche) dividing it into the id, the ego, and the super-ego this division roughly correspondence respectively to the unconscious, the consciousness and the conscience. Dynamic psychology deals with "those aspects of psychology that are concerned with motivation and with understanding the underlying causes of behavior in all its ramifications".

CONCISE DICTIONARY OF PSYCHOLOGY

The above definition states two essential aspects firstly, the relationship of dynamic psychology with motivation. The motivation is an urge to fulfill ones desire or instinct that compels human being to behave in a particular way. Secondly, it helps to understand the causes of motivation or reasons behind particular behavior as well as the urgency of that reason. Most of the time even the performer of an action is unaware about the reason as it is deeply rooted in unconscious.

Another definition of as Psychodynamics runs as "The study of mental processes in action."

The new International Webster's Comprehensive Dictionary The above definition stresses the importance of mental processes those are active .the mental processes are directly associated with cognitive processes that includes memory, creativity, imagination, thought, introspection, perception, emotions ,conception, belief etc..Important to note that these processes are inherently involved with each other hence it is hard to segregate introspection from memory and both require thoughts. These mental processes determine the reaction as well as behavior of human beings. Perception is the combinative result of these processes. The theory is immensely helpful to understand the gradual development of artist and the novels belongs to the category of Kunsterroman can be interpreted by using the theory.

Doctor Faustus: The Life of the German Composer Adrian Leverkunn as told by a friend. (Doctor Faustus. Das Leben des deutschen Tonsetzers Adrian Leverkunn, erzahit von einem Freunde) is an ambitious novel written by Thomas Mann considered as a masterpiece in German literature. German people considered Goethe's Dr. Faustus as their national heritage. The novel deals with Faust legend are typically German because of multiplicity of themes. Thomas Mann deals with the Faust legend but it works on two different levels. Firstly, the novel deals with Faustian character Adrian Leverkunn; a musician. Secondly, the novel treats Germany itself as a Faustian character as the ambition o Adrian Leverkunn like Dr. Faustus increased with Nazi powers. It suggests the vast theme of the novel. Moreover, the novel is unique among all bildungsroman. It provides rare opportunity to deal with a character whos journey starts at the childhood and ends at the age of fifty-five. The novel charts the journey of Adrian Leverkunn as a music composer. Adrian Leverkun has a strong resemblance with great German musician Arnold Schoenberg. The novel is rich in allusions and contains several cross references and

terminology used in music field. It is a biography of Adrian Leverkühn told by his childhood friend Serenus Zeitblom a school master.

The novel reveals through flashback technique that begins in 1943 after Adrian's death. He died in 1940 and his friend Serenus Zeitblom resolves to write a biography of his friend.

In the opening chapter Zeitblom is not certain regarding the biography of his friend. The novelist used circumlocution technique hence novel moves slowly dealing with minute details. Zeitblom starts from himself stating his role as a narrator. He was born in Kaisersachern (a fictitious village) in 1883 on the Saale River near Merseburg. Adrian Leverkühn is interested in theology as well as music. His chief area of interest is musical composition. Though his family belongs to protestant sect, mysticism attracts them. He belongs to common family. His father and brother both are farmers and mother works as milkmaid. Adrian Leverkühn lives with his Uncle Nikolaus Leverkühn who sells musical instruments and builds violins. Zeitblom describes the increasing military power of Germany along with the personality of Adrian Leverkühn. Zeitblom narrates the same period where Thomas Mann is describing the situation of Germany.

The novel is unique regarding the successful treatment given to both subject matter makes novel 'local' and 'global' at the same time. Adrian's artistic capacity is recognized at an earlier stage in his village and sent to Gymnasium. He starts composing musical tunes in the village. He lacks subtle imagination which is a fundamental requirement of a superior artist. Adrian plays harmonium and possesses devotion for art.

In the early childhood of Adrian Leverkühn he came under the influence of teacher Wendell Kretzschmar. He develops his sense of music by giving lectures on Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 32. The impression lasts longer and deepens Adrian's devotion for music. Another interest area of Adrian is theology hence he decides to study theology. Kretzschmar and Adrian both move to Leipzig for another study.

At the university Adrian is torn between two cultures dominated there which compels him to change his notions regarding Christianity. Adrian being ambitious and curious for demonic powers thinks continuously for those powers. There is a picture of a nature in his room from Dürer's *Melancholia* that supports this notion. Kretzschmar's influence on Adrian is incalculable. Both discuss on the combination of Mathematics and theology. Adrian Leverkühn decides to study mathematics for that purpose.

Adrian Leverkühn possesses fine technical knowledge but he wants to deepen his imagination. For this reason he has to take help from the devil. One opportunity immediately knocks his door. He decides to visit a prostitute to contract syphilis. Particularly, Esmeralda's role is pivotal in all these matters. Demonic composition starts in his mind. Adrian Leverkühn decides to make a pact with Satan for further innovations. He makes a pact of 24 years with Satan providing him brilliant exposure in music. His imagination ran wild and in a real sense his artistic abilities take a jump where he reached another state of mind.

It is significantly important to note that the incident throws light on the artist's nature. The artist is ready to exchange his soul for artistic achievement. Faust is a symbol of the thirst for knowledge. He is representation of a modern man who wants enlightenment. Art captures the mind of the producer and takes hold of his psyche. Adrian is a fine example of this kind of tragedy of an artist. Zeitblom gives details of his life regarding his loneliness and life like a monk. Adrian lives only for art's sake having no bondage. He starts to present shows that become extraordinarily successful. He becomes famous for his genius in composition in music.

This phase of Adrian Leverkühn's life is directly associated with another parallel of Faust that is Germany herself. The Nazi powers reached their height in the same era when Adrian is composing demonic structures. He is constantly moving from one theory of music to another that symbolizes his dual mind as if he is searching which way leads to more success in the art.

The novel contains several allusions and cross-reference and discussion on art. Adrian composes music for Shakespeare's opera based on *Love's Labour's Lost*. Various artists are discussed among Dante, Blake, Verlaine are mainly repeated by Zeitblom. Adrian's music shows *Apocalypse* become famous in Frankfurt and Europe. Meanwhile he suffered from fits of depression due to excessive thinking about art and music.

One incident that changed the life of Adrian related to his 5-year-old nephew who comes to live with him. His relation with the lad once again gave him a satisfactory moment of love. Adrian Leverkühn who continuously is thinking demonic compositions at last affects the boy. His nephew died due to meningitis. Adrian shocked by his death that ultimately resulted into 'stroke' of tensions and he lapses into a coma. This was the severe blow to Adrian symbolically returns to him like a boomerang. He physically recovered from this state but he suffered permanent emotional handicap from which he is not able to recover. The stroke of coma made him a childlike where he needs emotional love and care from family members. Zeitblom describes his critical condition this phase of life. This is also parallel to the Nazi powers that state decline in Europe. Adrian's mother looks after him and nurses him in this span of his life. He lives ten years in such condition. Importantly, he invites his friend to observe his condition and frankly share the result of the Mephistophelian pact made by him for demonic powers. Zeitblom regularly visits him and narrates the story of his life with the story of Germany. In 1930 Adrian Leverkühn confesses his life's story to all and reveals hidden aspects of his personality. Leading a childlike life he dies in 1940. Zeitblom faithfully narrates his friend's story and mediates over the devil's pact made by his friend.

The novel remains fresh for the reason that it deals with the Faust theme that is fresh forever and symbolic human ambition to cover all knowledge in his life which is not possible. In Goethe's *Dr. Faustus* the verity of experience presented by Goethe needs few more births because it is not possible in one human life's span. Goethe consumed 60 years to complete the project of *Dr. Faustus*. It took 60 years to complete that vast dream by imagination. It is a crucial thing to understand.

Thomas Mann's Dr. Faustus: The Life Of The German Composer Adrian.....

The novel clearly presented the influence of German philosopher Fredric Nietzsche and great German composer Arnold Schoenberg. Thomas Mann sets Adrian Leverkuhn among the line of Faustus and immortalizes it.

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