

www.galaxyimrj.com

ISSN:2278-9529

GALAXY

International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

Vol. 3, Issue - V September 2014



Editor-In-Chief: Dr. Vishwanath Bite

Managing Editor: Madhuri Bite

About Us: <http://www.galaxyimrj.com/about-us/>

Archive: <http://www.galaxyimrj.com/archive/>

Contact Us: <http://www.galaxyimrj.com/contact-us/>

Editorial Board: <http://www.galaxyimrj.com/editorial-board/>

Submission: <http://www.galaxyimrj.com/submission/>

FAQ: <http://www.galaxyimrj.com/faq/>

Mitch Albom's Eddie and his Miraculous Journey to Heaven

N. Subhadra Chari

Introduction

Mitch Albom touched the soul of the readers with his work. It's theme of afterlife was as old as the civilizations but narrative style subtly appeals the intellectual aspects of the contemporary readers and questions their sensibility towards their fellow beings. The writers of all generations observe the changes and challenges of their era, depicts them faithfully in their literature by addressing the issues that affects the individual & the society in totality. Mitch Albom exactly did the same in his book. Advanced technology made the life style more result oriented and mechanical in its approach dwindles their sensitiveness for others. He tried to stimulate the human values by a make believe in after life where all lives are interconnected in the universe and expected them to meet the same people in the same place.

The concept of heaven certainly makes the afterlife more inviting and less frightening in the book. The five people he met gave him five valuable lessons, if practiced, cherishes one's life with eternal peace of mind. It contributes in enriching the souls and kindles spiritual inquisitiveness among the innumerable readers. This book becomes a torch bearer for many such people who wants to live a purposeful life and believe in their ability to make a difference in their life changing experiences.

Since ages the concept of hell and heaven captivated the imagination of the writers and as a theme they associated in their fiction for multiple reasons. Depiction of hell and heaven captures protagonist's consciousness in literature for example The Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri, Piers plowman by William Langland, Everyman a morality play, Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe, Paradise Lost by John Milton, and The Marriage of Heaven and Hell by William Blake. All these writers presented their fancy interwoven to the plot to convince the readers about the existence of the afterlife and promoted the God-fearing attitude to live a sensible life.

Eddie met five people in Heaven and they taught him five lessons.

Blue Man was the first person whom Eddie met in the heaven. Ironically, Eddie sacrificed his life to save a little girl and when he was a boy, he was saved by the Blue Man who sacrificed his life to him. Their conversation establishes an impression that one way or the other people influence each other's life. Blue Man explained what is heaven,

“Each of us was in your life for a reason. You may not have known the reason at the time, and that is what heaven is for. For understanding your life on earth.”

Eddie understood that he was the cause of Blue Man's death and believed that it was the reason for him to be in heaven but Blue Man taught him his first lesson everything happens with a reason in the following lines;

“There are no random acts. That we are all connected. You can no more separate one life from another than you can separate a breeze from the wind.”

Blue Man left him and after that he felt like an adult symbolically narrates his incident when he was a young man and he influenced Captain's life who taught him his Second lesson in heaven. Captain was his commanding officer in the war and when he saw him in heaven he became apprehensive, did he kill the captain, too? In the war they burned the enemy camp. Eddie lost his leg when he was chasing a shadow and he got to know in heaven that it was the captain who shot his leg to save his life. Captain met his death heroically by sacrificing his life to save four people.

Captain taught him second lesson glorifying sacrifice in the following lines;

“Sacrifice is a part of life. It's supposed to be. It's not something to regret. It's something to aspire to.”

Sometimes when you sacrifice something precious, you're not really losing it. You're just passing it on to someone else.”

Blue Man didn't answer him and Captain has no answer to his question about the little girl's life, whom he was trying to save before he met his death. Eddie understood his association with Captain who bid farewell to him paving way for his third lesson.

Ruby Pier was the third person he met in heaven who taught him the power of love and forgiveness by letting go off anger in the following lines and it was his third lesson.

“Learn this from me. Holding anger is a poison. It eats you from inside. We think that hating is a weapon that attacks the person who harmed us. But hatred is a curved blade. And the harm we do, we do to ourselves.”

Eddie was the head of maintenance at an amusement park called Ruby Pier. Emily was the owner of the park loved Ruby and named the park as Ruby Pier. Ruby tells Eddie in heaven to forgive his father who ill-treated him and made his life miserable by asking him to practice forgiveness.

“In order to move on, you must understand why you felt what you did and why you no longer need to feel it.”

She disappeared when he asked who was responsible for his stay in Ruby Pier Park. He was repenting for his father and later entered into wedding hall.

His wife Marguerite was the fourth person he met in heaven. They were happily married, she died of cancer and since then her memories became his partner. He said “I lost the only woman I ever loved, why you died? She taught him his fourth lesson in the following lines;

“Life has to end, she said. Love doesn't.” it means love is never lost in death, it lives in memories.

She left him and he kept calling her but in vain.

Tala was the fifth person he met in the heaven. Tala was the little girl from the hut that Eddie set on fire after the war and caused her death. When he confessed that he was sad, he didn't do anything in life. Tala taught him the fifth lesson that there is always a purpose for your life.

That there was a purpose for his living in Ruby Pier Park that was to protect the children and to keep them safe.

She clarifies all his queries and told him that he saved little girl's life but still he was in disbelief because he felt her hands at the time of his death. Tala said it was her hand that was holding him to bring him safely to heaven. At the end he was reunited with his wife to begin his afterlife with her.

The narration in the book was unbelievable and hard to accept that by whom we were affected in lifetime we meet them in afterlife. It is not a believable journey but the message conveyed through this journey is believable. His journey to heaven was awesome but narration appears to be incredulous for the readers as reason denies any such presence of heaven after the death. No one can claim to know what happens before birth and after death but such narration nourishes mind and soul to connect with the people selflessly to make a difference in each other's life.

Conclusion

All the five lessons which were taught to him in heaven enhance the value of one's life and energize the spirit to apply them in day to day life. Everything happens with reason, no random acts, sacrifice, forgiveness, love and there is always a purpose for your life sums up the five lessons of heaven. These are age old lessons but narration of such lessons was impactful in the novel.

The novel begins with the end with these lines;

“This is the story of a man named Eddie and it starts at the end, with Eddie dying in the sun. It may seem strange to start a story with an ending, but all endings are also beginnings. We just don't know it at the time.”

Eddie's awesome journey ends with the epilogue with the following lines

“Each affects the other, and the other affects the next, and the world is full of stories, but the stories are all one.”

Works Cited:

Studied the novel, 'The Five People You Meet In Heaven' by Mitch Albom.