

# Social Attitude towards the Actor 'Vasily Svidlovidov' In the "Swan Song" by Anton Chekhov

Gore Aparna Rajdatta

Assistant Professor, at Women's college of Home Science and BCA, Loni

English department

Loni, Tal- Rahata, Dist- Ahmednagar

State- Maharashtra.

## Abstract:

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860-1904) was a Russian playwright. He endowed with great sympathy for the people around him. His close observation of the 'bad and dreary' life of Russian and his play noted specially for his skill in character and dialogue presentation. "The Swan Song" is tragic-comedy play because of the Svetlovodov is one of the important characters in the play who immersed himself in his role in this play. He presented both grief and amusement at the same time in these play. Yet social attitude at him is too different manner which is seen by Anton Chekhov's play 'The Swan Song'.

## Keywords:

Social attitudes, close observation of the character, tragicomedy play.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, a greatest short story writer and also dramatist of great renown. His one of the famous plays is 'The Swan Song' is a dramatized version of one of the Chekhov's short stories entitled "Calchas" which is the name of the character Vasily has just been playing. Chekhov loved the play of Shakespeare but knew them only in Russian translation. Vasily Svetlovodov, a 68 year old comic actor even if drunken of the Svetlovodov in the drama contributed to the frequent swing of his mood and emotion, still Chekhov has clearly presented different features of human emotions in distinct style. The scene is at night after the performance of Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida. Vasily enters in his costume after playing the minor role of Calchas, the father of Cressida, an old and dignified Trojan priest. Next illustration is based on the character of Nikita Ivanich, who is an even older man, the theater's prompter who has spent many years behind the stage. He is presented as a loving and understanding person. The nature of affectionate and respect in Nikita's voice helped Svetlovodov to deal with his situation. The presence of Nikita provided a medium for Svetlovodov to tell his story of pain and memories.

In this play, Anton presents a variety of themes, whether it is death and age or past memories or the ambivalence of the audience. The role that Anton plays in this drama is very realistic in Svetlovodov. The use of language is so passionate that no reader will be happy with it until he reads the end. Although the author expresses Svetlovodov's character very sadly, it also contains a lot of humorous things such as he sometimes says that he is an old man, and sometimes it seems so ridiculous to say that he is a young boy and so many girls would be so fond of him. His thoughts reflected on whether it is still worth living or whether he should crawl towards death. Eventually he chose life, with Shakespearean's plays to guide him. I feel the main character's despair, his joy, and then despair again. He had given his life to entertain to audience, and pouring himself into his career, and neglected to live his life to the complete. The theme of play this will never be outmoded. As humans who have to face our mortality sooner or later, he tends to think and reminisce of our "glory days." The main character in this play is realizing his destructibility, his old age, his closeness to death and its irreversibility. And so, he begins to recite Shakespearean stanzas to prove that he is still a magnificent actor and a genius of the theatrical world. He hasn't lost his mind yet. Yet he plays both roles at the same time tragic and absurdist. He has already climbed many peaks of success and achievements in his long acting career.

Writer shows miserable condition of Svetlovodov but at the old age he couldn't stop to entertain to audience. He regrets through these lines ...

**"I saw that the worship of the art I had so sacred was a delusion and an empty dream; that I was a slave, a fool, the plaything of the idealness of strangers' understood my audience at last, and since that day I have not believed in their applause, or in their wreaths, or in their enthusiasm. Yes, Nikitushka! The people applaud me, they buy my photograph, but I am a stranger to them. They don't know me; I am as the dirt beneath their feet. They are willing enough to meet me...but allow a daughter or a sister to marry me, an outcast, never! I have no faith in them, no faith in them.**

He regrets about his unmarried, lonely, old, neglected and frustrated life. Also he represents his flashback about a wonderful, charming, and rich woman who falls in love with Svetlovodov when he is at the peak of his success. But she refuses to marry him only because of social prestige. The response and attitude of the wonderful woman represent the attitude of upper and middle class.

society. At the age of 68, svedlovidov realized one thing that his lover can't accept him as an actor in real life, and asked him to quit his career on stage. She refuses to his career, even the audience, only loves the actor in his play and does not accept his real life. Nor they consent to marrying their daughters or sisters with him. He got successful in his career but in real life he stays alone and frustrated and feels regrets about the past life.

He never diminished his profession and proved that his intellectual abilities were inaccurate by saying the lines of Shakespearean's play. He shows his eloquence and graceful power through lines from "King Lear's spoken when the King has lost sanity and is wandering on the moors cursing his cruel daughter and asked the gods to destroy the earth, the second, from "Othello", is when Othello is almost mad his jealousy after finding that his wife has been unfaithful and the third one from "Hamlet", occurs when Hamlet is pretending to be insane. I mean to say here that he recall his heroic personality like Shakespeare's to consoled his life again.

## II. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Hence the author has used his creative imagination in rendering his character in an appropriate style by making them completely relevant to the plot. And also he presented the attitude toward the actor when he is on the stage and when he is in real life. At last the main character when he was a young man at time he stay alone to be a successful but after successful life he again stay alone at his old age. A one -act play , it could as well have been a soliloquy by an old theatrical , who contemplates his mortality and the bitter truth of his momentary, ephemeral existence in this world .

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