

piyush

D. H. Lawrence: Sons and Lovers

- ① Oedipus Complex.
- ② sub-conscious life.
- ③ Love and Conflict.

'Sons and Lovers' is one of the most outstanding novels of the twentieth century. Lawrence tried ^{to} write 'sons and lovers' on the ground of Freudian 'Oedipus Complex', but the novel is also an experience through which Lawrence almost lived in the conflicts of his character. The phrase 'Oedipus Complex' means that a mother's love for her son, and a son's love for his mother, are fundamentally based upon the attraction between opposite sexes. Oedipus, a man had killed his father and married his mother.

Lawrence has drawn his own experience, an understanding of emotional life. The Novel is the study of different couples as they experience love with one another. A conflict, constantly goes on between the two sexes. Sexual conflict do, to a certain extent exist in real life, but Lawrence gave to these conflict an excessive importance. The Novel begins with the conflict between Walter Morel and his wife Gertrude, then there is the conflict between Paul and Miriam, Paul and Clara and Paul and his mother, despite their excessive love for each other.

Originally in the Novel we find William and Mrs. Morel love for each other. Mrs. Morel had been cherishing high ambition about his future. But she becomes a little disappointed when he fell in love with a superficial kind of girl, Lily Western. William too was also very fond of his mother, and that her disapproval of his fiancée Lily Western began to weigh upon his mind, so the love of William and Mrs. Morel is not a case of ordinary love of mother and son, there was something exceptional about their love.

The feeling of Paul for his mother and sweetheart goes deep into the series of complicated relations. Lawrence seems to be thinking of three kind of love; spiritual (Paul - Miriam) Oedipus (Paul and Mrs. Morel) and Possessive (Paul - Clara). Paul's love for his mother grew stronger day by day and Mrs. Morel life became rooted in Paul. Paul's inability to love Miriam whole-heartedly was

also the result of Oedipus Complex. Mrs. Morel had conceived dislike for Miriam, in course of time the dislike developed into a keen antagonism. Subconsciously Mrs. Morel had begun to feel jealous of Miriam, just as a woman in love with a man might feel jealous of another woman in whom that man has begun to show emotional interest. Paul never wanted to see his mother feeling dejected or unhappy, he had even told his mother that he would never marry because he wanted to live with her always. Thus, sub-consciously Paul looked at his mother as his sweetheart, who could not be replaced by another woman, sub-consciously Paul felt that he was already a married man. No man could consciously acknowledge such a feeling.

There was not a complete identification of the son and mother and of the mother with the son. A complete identification between two human beings is impossible. The conflict between Paul and Miriam has no source in Paul's attachment to his mother; it is very nature of their spiritual love. Miriam has a terror of physical passion which has the effect of reducing Paul to utter humiliation. Paul on various occasions asked his mother why she could not tolerate Miriam. Even Clara is hardly defeated by Paul's mother, her value for Paul lies in warm physical satisfaction that she gives him a healthy sense of joy without guilt. She gets weary of love as an impersonal involvement in a ritual of death and rebirth. This passion has ^{effect} ^{effect} the ~~glow~~ effect of giving glow to life.

Mrs. Morel had an intense concern about Paul's happiness in life. She felt that ~~for~~ she would break for him. While she slept, she would think and pray for him for hours and hours. This shows that Morel's concern about Paul's happiness was not of ordinary or normal kind. She was almost obsessed by the thought of happiness. Paul was also obsessed by the thought of his

mother's happiness. Paul could not love any other woman in a normal manner, it was due to his excessive concern for his mother. He would often address his mother as a "Pigeon" and as "my little" as if she were his sweet heart, during her long illness, she would smile with her blue eyes straight into his eyes as if she were her lover. All this shows that it was an extraordinary relationship. At night he often worked at his paintings in his room, and everytime he found his blue eyes fixed on him.

The empty and meaningless life of Paul, after his mother's death was brought to function with great effort and persuasion. Paul developed a feeling that his mother was still sharing his life, and makes up his mind to achieve something. Paul drifts towards life in the city humming in the distance. He becomes man by getting life-warmth from his mother, the intensity from Miriam and the gift of manhood from Clara.

The Novel is an experiment in the exploration of tension of emotional life. It gains its vivid power and appeal from the fact that Lawrence is living through his own Psychology. He divides the body into two poles — upper spiritual and lower sensual. It is the flow and recoil of sympathy from these poles that determines emotional life. If Miriam functions at her upper pole she is withered at the sensual level. The whole experience in the novel releases the flow of energy from both the body and soul of Paul Morel. Oedipus complex is the leading theme of the novel. The author has largely concentrated his attention on the relationship between Paul and his mother and the author has through this relationship projected his own relationship with his mother as it had actually existed. The language used by author to describe the outings and excursions of Paul and his mother is same as the outings and excursions of young man and his sweet heart. Paul cares

his mother and she fondles him very much in the same manner as a lover might caress his beloved and as a beloved might fondle her lover. Mrs. Morel sub-consciously feeling that in Paul she had found a substitute for her husband whom she had discarded.

Thus Lawrence has presented some central truth about the nature of modern civilization, projecting through his personal situation i.e. the relationship between Lawrence and his mother.