

Betrayal And Madness in Ha Jin's The Crazy

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Abstract

This article focuses on the study of betrayal and madness in Ha Jin's novel *The Crazy*. Chinese American writer Ha Jin's novel provides as with a platform to rethink modern literature in the global context. Jin's writing is above China, he also delivers universal humanistic values and explores cultural element entrenched in Chinese tradition. The crazy, cantering on the June Fourth incident in 1989, is one of the most controversial novels written by Ha Jin, in which the author successfully reproduces a distorted and depressive world with individuals of contorted souls. The novel centers around the crazy professor Yang who constantly betrays "forbidden truth and Beijing's" incident in 1989, ingeniously married by the gradually awakening protagonist Jian Wan. This paper aims to probe into the relationship between individual power relation through the contrast of madness and betrayal.

Keyword: madness, power, oppression, humanity, and transparency

Introduction

Chinese American Literature is the body of literature produced in the United States by the writers of Chinese descent. Ha Jin's is a Chinese American poet and novelist, who writes and effective exile. In exile he writes from the four corners of China, signing songs of lament, and Chinese tradition. Jin is associated with the misty poet moment. The misty poets are a group of Chinese who reacted against the restriction played on the arts during the Cultural Revolution. Certain socio-political issues like multiculturalism, cultural interaction, riots immigration, identity, crisis, deprivation and discrimination are commonly counting Ha Jin's novel. Ha Jin's uses a different set of language to depict the inner crisis in the lives of the character with a focus extensively on helplessness, agony struggle and submission. Jin's writing is effective and precise his narrative bringing to life horrific battles, constant privation, of the worst sort and abusive behavior by the Nationalist mainland Chinese officers and even the Americans.

The Crazy draws on the author's own experiences in Pre-Tiananmen Square China to tell the story of the relationship between a graduate student and his aging advisor. As the older man slowly loses his sanity after suffering a stroke, the younger one listens to his mentor's ravings, wondering whether he is hearing the voice of a truth telling prophet or a demented lunatic. Unable to avoid his professor's influence, the graduate student slowly finds his perspective on his country changing in ways that put him directly in harm's way.

In Mr. Yang's ravings he mentions that his wife has betrayed him, but it was just an interpretation.

You ask me to forgive you for sleeping with him? I forgive you for that, but I shall never forgive you for writing me those false letters telling me how much you loved and missed me. You deceived me. It would have been better if you had told me the truth. That would have prevented me from dreaming. I survive only because I held fast to an illusion. Oh, what a fool I was! Why was I such a coward? Why didn't I slash my wrist two? (172).

Yang was under the treatment of the doctors and suffers a lot. He was oppressed and suppressed inside the room. Even he feels the room was a jail to him. He cannot be able to sit and often he lies on his bed. Jin novels may not only subvert the national framework of literature studies and challenge the assumption that a literary text exists in stable or consistently identifiable form. Social political issues like multiculturalism, cultural interaction, insanity, oppression, riots, immigration, identity crisis deprivation and discrimination are the common themes founding Jin's novels. Jin's characters mainly suffers because of mental illness and alienation. Insanity and oppression have been one of the major problems confronting mankind in every society.

At the university Tang was a retiring professor with his new glimpse into his personal life he was immersed in love affair with colleagues. Often battles with his quiet wife self-doubts about being a scholar. One in his madness he tells Wan that he would prefer to have been a party functioning rather than a stodgy professor teaching Dante, Wordsworth, Ezra Pound are the medieval Chinese poets.

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Yang is unfaithful to his wife he has an affair with one of his students. In the beginning of the chapter itself Mr. Yang murmured half lucid endearments to a young woman with nipples “like coffee candy” (48). When Jian heard this, he wandered who was the woman? He became to analyse the female personalities who visits Mr. Yang at last from Mr. Yang ravings he recognizes it was none other than Weiya Su one of the scholars and the same girl he too has crush. Jian is forced to watch as Weiya su visits her lover Mr. Yang in the hospital bringing him and expensive out-of-season watermelon. She had fed him! She didn’t even bother to conceal their relationship. Jian was touched and upset at the same time Mrs. Yang was unknown about her husband’s affair with the young girl after the visit in secretary’s office she reveals the real character of Mr. Yang, and she explained Mr. Yang that she has saved their family from the great insult in the society.

“Heaven knows how much I’ve done for him and you.” I took step to keep him from sinking deeper into an illicit affair with his student. Don’t you see that you are a beneficiary of my effort too? I helped save your marriage. Shouldn’t you be more grateful to me (255)

Jin presents Jian and Meimei’s problematic relationship. When Jian pursue his carrier to be the policy officer at the Provincial Administration. Meimei owns Jian to pursue a scholar life like her father Mr. Yang but Jian refuses after hearing the ravings of Mr. Yang while hospitalized and his visit to the countryside made him to change his mind by these their relationship breaks out Secretary Peng is one of the master minds behind the separation of Yang’s daughter from Jian. Peng knows the son of Vice-President of the University loves Meimei and wants to marry her. To help the president son date Meimei successfully is of course to please the Vice-President which in return is rewarding her with benefits in promotion. In doing show the first step is to split Meimei from Jian.

Mr. Yang reveals inner torment and rage that Jian had never imagined the mild – mannered teacher to possess. He shouts out revolutionary songs and slogans, and also, he gives lecture on the different between Western poetic tradition and Chinese poetry and recites, as lurid dialogue, bits and pieces of his love life. Alternatively rational and delirious faced with Mr. Yang’s increasingly bitter diatribes against academia, Jian is forced to reconsider his conviction that a carrier in the university is the highest possible calling and that devotion to his ambitious girlfriend’s name Meimei. Forjin the Tianenmen tragedy was the ultimate betrayal to Chinese people. It was an isolated event and that their history betrayal. Insanity become a way of escaping societies oppression and constraints and obtaining more freedom. Mr. Yang craziness begins in the aftermath of his stroke. One of the prominent issue is Mr. Yang repeatedly talks about is the suffocating surroundings of living and working environment as well as his personal feelings.

The narrator of *The Crazy*, with the ere of Cultural Revolution behind them, are scared into conformity, always fearing denunciation and banishment by Party officials. The peoples and the student fed up with the china’s government repressive ways marched on the square and on the government to demand democracy. Jian also joins the moment to escape his life. Jian faces the struggle for personal reason.

Sitting in the deepening twilight, I felt like a small insect snared in a spider web. The harder I struggled, the tighter his strong entwining filaments would enfold me, choking the life out of me little by little. Then came to mind the image of the dark, rubber – surfaced room (294).

At last Jian losses everything. Jian indecision can be seen differently. When a regime appears to be found upon insanity all the rationalizing and calculating in the world is nothing. He loses his carrier, fiancée and all the benefits. Finally, the narrator Jian left without identity. This paper concludes by mentioning the betrayal and madness faced by Mr. Yang, Jian and others in the novel *The Crazy*. It also describes how power declined in individual life.

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