

# A Psychological Study of Graham Greene's the Man Within

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## **Abstract**

There is another man within me that's angry with me.

-Sir Thomas Browne.

Psychology plays a vital role to understand the mental process. Greene with his lightened sensitivity deals psychic process with great insight. He knows very well what psycho analysis tells about the mind and its functioning. So he makes use of the introspective recollections of his characters under the provocation of free association, of dreamed incidents and childhood fantasies, to lighten the past of these characters as well as their personalities.

**Keywords:** Psychology, Introspective, Recollections, Provocation, Fantasies And Personality.

Graham Greene's first novel, *The Man Within* depicts the inner character of the protagonist, Andrews through his fear, cowardice, self-pity and divided mind. The novel starts with Andrew's plight from his fellow smugglers for betraying them. The reason behind his plight is, he betrayed Carlyon, the gang leader and his group (Smugglers). He fears that they would take revenge on him. The fear is a psychological response to a real external threat and danger. It is an unpleasant emotional state of Andrews.

Betrayal is another attitude developed by him because he was teased by his gang members telling that he is a coward and on top of that they keep on hurt him by telling that he is not like his father, who is courageous. His father too repeatedly utters when he was alive that Carlyon is his boy and no other person in the world is equivalent to him and ignores his own son Andrews.

Carlyon took over the leadership after the death of Andrew's father. These are the reasons, which developed a kind of hatred in Andrews against Carlyon and his group. So in order to revenge them he took betrayal as a tool. Gradually the novel clears that his hatred leads to betrayal and his betrayal leads to fear. In the novel Greene Portrays the character of Andrews fears for everything. He says Elizabeth that,

Andrew's muttered, and then added with a Convulsive pleading: it was only fear that made me come. You other people never seem to understand fear. You expect everyone to behave like yourself. It's not a man's fault

Whether he is brave or cowardly. It's all in the way he is born. My father and mother made me. i didn't make myself'. (52).

He tells her that he is made by his father and mother not by himself. His father was arrogant to him and to his mother. He bet them very often. These starts his fear, and from then onwards he fears for everything and everybody. His fear of his father as a seed grows into a tree later. As the number of branches in the

tree his fear for things also numbered many. In the novel it is shown that he is going to be made by Elizabeth too. She insists him to give evidence against his fellow smugglers in the court at Lewis. In the beginning he agrees but he is not completely out of fear. He doesn't have the confidence of giving evidence in the court. Graham Greene gives importance to the structural aspect of the novels.

The term, 'Greenland' which describes the characteristic landscape of his novels gives evidence that he has betrayal in his mind.

His cowardice and loneliness result in self pity. Self Pity is the psychological state perceived in adverse situations when the person does not have the confidence or ability to cope with it. He imagines that he is the victim of events and is therefore deserving sympathy. His inability to face the situation and having nobody to help drives him to self pity. When he takes shelter in Elizabeth's cottage she didn't give him food so Andrews says, "The more he thought of a girl the more he hated and pitied himself".(41). Andrews fear of being alone and his state of mind can be clearly understood by Jung's concept.

Hysterical neurosis begins as an exaggeration of all the usual characteristics of extraversion, and then is complicated by compensatory reactions from the unconscious. These latter counteract the exaggerated extraversion through symptoms that force the individual to introvert. Thus in turn constellates the extravert's inferior introversion and produces another set of symptoms, the most typical being morbid. fantasy activity and the fear of being alone. (40)

Throughout the novel we see him in fear. Though he developed courage of saving Elizabeth out of love, his fear made an imprint in his heart which cannot be removed easily until his death. He constantly watches through the window during his stay in the cottage. He prays to God to give him courage to save himself and his lover Elizabeth from the smugglers. The recurrence of his words, 'I am a coward, I am a coward' in the novel shows that he doesn't trust himself. The restlessness may also be one of the reasons for his irremovable fear. The two women in the novel clearly depict the two sides of the Young Andrew's divided self. Lucy represents the flesh and Elizabeth the spirit. He allows the former to dominate and shows cowardice, selfishness and fear for his life. Only in the company of Elizabeth, Andrews feels some peace. That too never lasts long. He fears when he hears the sound of the footsteps of Mrs. Butler, "fear was pressing in upon his mind" constantly, he is suspicious about the inhabitants of the village when they came for the funeral of Mr. Jennings (father like figure to Elizabeth). He feels that his heartbeats also work against him by beating loudly which can be heard by others and catch hold of him. Considering the divided self Greene comments that.

his father's had been a stubborn ghost, but it was laid at least, and he need no longer be torn in two between that spirit and the stern unresting critic which was wanted to speak. I am that critic, he said with a sense of discovery and exhilaration (220)

On the way to Lewis to give evidence as per Elizabeth's wish, he thinks that he would never return back after giving evidence. This thought was prompted in him by his fear. Even he felt like slipping out of the hotel at Lewis, the day before his trial. He is overwhelmed by his own name when it is called out in the court. He is not able to face his men so he bent his head down. He feels that his condition is worse than that of the prisoners in the dock.

The name, his own name, overwhelmed him where he stood by the window. He turned and faced the officer who called him as he would face an enemy. With clenched fists, 'Get on, you sneak', A voice came to him from the benches. He wanted to stay and explain. To tell them that he was about to stand in greater danger than did the prisoners in the dock- 'betraying them thus openly I stand above them' (135) Everything goes against Andrews, the smugglers are acquitted and the lawyers who helped him in the

beginning could not help them further. he shouts at them for his safety. Helpless Andrews feared that the smugglers will take revenge on Elizabeth for giving him shelter, so he plans to go back to the cottage. But love, the most powerful feel in the world won the fear of Andrews. He goes back to save her.

When he is in fear of the smugglers coming to the cottage to attack them, Elizabeth sees Joe, the smuggler approaching the cottage. She sends Andrews to the well to fetch water in order to save him. Out of her love she sacrifices her life for the life of Andrews. Here love triumphs, this has been proved in her words, 'I had no right to make you risk your life'. Andrews realizes the situation when he comes back from the well. He could not go to save her immediately because of his fear. Fear is his shadow. It cannot be separated from him so easily. He goes to the neighbour to get help. But the neighbour asks him to help by himself. Andrews gets a horse from him and rides towards the cottage. This act of his is right but dangerous. But there is no use of developing courage because before he could go there they killed her.

By seeing her dead, the left out hope, fear, and lately developed courage have gone. He says to the police that he is responsible for her death by doing so he thinks that he shows justice to her death. According to him it is he who killed her because he didn't take quick decision of saving her with courage.

When the police take him away he feels that he has got an everlasting peace. As the title indicates, there is a man within him who always stops him doing this, who keeps on act as his inner voice. To him the man is none other than his father. He had been a stubborn ghost. After accepting o himself as the murderer of Elizabeth, he feels happy of killing his father in him. For the first time he feels happy of being alone without his father, fear and cowardice.

In the novel Greene portrays the character of Andrews as the personification of fear. Fear is the root cause for his tragic fall. Andrews develop negative attitude because of fear. He never trusts anybody. From the beginning of the novel we see him disturbed. The phrase 'Judas-complex' (63) gains importance in the novel. The relation between Andrews and Carlyon is described so. Their relationship is more than friendship. Like Judas who betrayed Jesus, he betrayed Carlyon is described so. Their relationship is more than friendship. Like Judas who betrayed Jesus, he betrayed Carlyon. He did so to rove himself among the gang who always bully him by saying that he is a coward. The betrayal psychology, summed up in the phrase Judas complex is a favorite Greene abstraction, underlines the view that the cruelties and betrayals of adult are born in childhood. in this essay 'The Lost Childhood' Greene remarks:

In ancient shadows and twilights  
Where childhood had strayed  
The world's greatest sorrows were born  
And its heroes were made  
In the lost childhood of Judas  
Christ was betrayed (19)

Father complex in psychology is a group of unconscious associations, or strong unconscious impulses which specifically pertains to the image a archetype of the father. These impulses may be positive or negative. Thus Andrews has got negative impulse against his father. Instead of selecting betrayal as his weapon he would have selected another mean. He didn't continue to possess the courage which he had when he gave a note to the cops regarding the smuggling, he failed to realize the consequences of his act. Greene clearly brings out the connection between the psychological elements like fear, cowardice, self pity, love and betrayal and the Freudian relationship between the protagonist and his deceased father. This shows that he is one of the greatest authors, who had the sharpest eyes for troubles, and who knows the human weakness. This also has that he has got a fullest experience of his whole country.

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