

## **MORAL VALUES IN T.S. ARTHUR'S SHORT STORY *AN ANGEL IN DISGUISE***

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*Received: 08 June 2022*

*Accepted: 09 June 2022*

*Published: 13 June 2022*

**Abstract:** Moral values refer to a set of principles that guide an individual on how to evaluate right versus wrong. People generally apply moral values to justify decisions, intentions, and actions, and it also determines the personal character of a person. The purpose of this research is to find out the moral values in T.S. Arthur's Short Story *An Angel in Disguise*. This research is qualitative research since the data are collected from the primary source in the short story *Angel in Disguise* and the secondary source are books and the references that can be support this research. In analyzing the research the researcher uses objective approach that focused the internal elements of this short story as plot, characters, setting and so on. The results of the research shows moral values such as: Caring and responsible to children, Sympathetic to everyone who needs it, Empathy is needed to save someone life, life need patience, Be kind-hearted by giving hand to others and The power of love.

**Keywords:** *Moral, Values, Moral Values, An Angel in Disguise.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Literature usually talk about life, human's problem, and life around a human, and all of those are being expressed in a specific way. " A literary works which has effective nature is a significant power to touch the deepest sense that can produce perfect consciousness as it successfully carries its mission as a form generator of human consciousness" (Wuntu, 2015:100).

Moral values refer to a set of principles that guide an individual on how to evaluate right versus wrong. People generally apply moral values to justify decisions, intentions, and actions, and it also defines the personal character of a person. According to (Wellek and Warren, 1948), moral values can be used as a reference norm for a person or a group of people to determine whether the attitudes and actions are good or not. As (Pongoh et al, 2021) stated as in the classical story the introduction of the hard – boiled detective leads immediately to the presentation of the crime, but substantial differences in the treatment of the crime give rather different implications.

The story being analyzed was written by T. S. Arthur. Timothy Shay Arthur was born June 6, 1809, and died March 6, 1885. He was a popular 19th century American writer, best known for his novels of simplicity: *Ten Nights in the Bar-Room* and *What I See There* (1854). Arthur's ideas may seem simple or even oppressive today, but many readers of his time found them relevant, helpful, convincing, and interesting.

In "An Angel in Disguise" it can be found many aspects of moral values that sometimes happen in real life in society, the moral value in this short story deals with the human problems in life, the characters in this story tried to build up the good moral value. Many moral values will be taken, for example when Maggie fell out of the window and injured her spine and when her mother died in front of her eyes. She is accepted her condition that nowadays most people can not do. Based on the story above, there was a moral value taken "Courage". That is one message that would like the author to deliver from this short story. There are still other moral values that would get on this short story.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### ***Research Design***

The research uses qualitative research because the data does not deal with numbers or formulas but in form of words and quotations. According to (Bogdan and Biklen, 1982:30), "Qualitative research is descriptive, the data collected are in the form of words, pictures rather than the number. The researcher result of the research contains a quotation from data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation". From the definition above, qualitative research is a suitable method for analyzing a short story.

### ***Data Collection***

The writer collecting the data into two categories, the primary and secondary sources. The primary sources are the short story itself, and the secondary sources are internet browsing, literary works, and dictionary related to this research and information that support the writer's research study.

There are some steps, which are to used collect the data of this study. They are as follows:

1. Reading and understanding the short story "An Angel in Disguise" by T. S. Arthur.
2. Finding out the plot, moral values, and character in "An Angel in Disguise" by T. S. Arthur.
3. Choosing and electing the data dealing with each problem that will investigate.
4. Collecting the data that are relation with the problem.

### ***Data Analysis***

According to Abrams (1965:26), "Objective approach regards the work of art in isolation forms all these external points of references, analysis is as self-sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relations, and set out the judge it solely by criteria to its mode of being". This shows that the objective approach

prioritizes more on the research of literary work based on the literary text itself. Things outside of literature, although still related to literature, are considered not in analyzing literary work.

Through this research the writer applies an objective approach, this research just focused on the literary work itself, in other words, the writer used the short story to get the answer to the problem.

The researcher analyze the data through the following procedures :

1. Identifying the kinds of moral values that reveal in the short story.
2. Classifying the kinds of moral values that reveal in the short story.
3. Identifying how the moral values reveal in the short story.
4. Drawing conclusion.

## **FINDINGS AND DISSCUSSION**

A positive attitude usually gets a good reaction from others. According to Hurlock the type of moral teaching itself can include problems, to be said, to be infinite. It can encompass the whole issue of life all issues concerning human dignity and prestige. Broadly speaking the problem of life and human life can be distinguished into the problems of the human relationship with oneself and the human relationship with another human (Hurlock, 1997: 323).

### ***Caring and Responsible to children***

Caring can mean many things including sharing your belongings, acting in kindness, using please and thank you, showing that you care. Just like how mothers care for their children this is what parents should be, but In the case of this woman, there is no sense of caring as a mother for her child.

"Idleness, vice, and intemperance had done their miserable work, and the dead mother lay cold and still amid her wretched children. She had fallen upon the threshold of her door in a drunken fit and died in the presence of her frightened little ones." (Arthur, 1)

Based on the above quote it can be said that this woman is a lazy mother who has no job and only becomes drunk until she finally dies in a drunken fit in front of her children. This shows that this woman does not care for her child and what might happen to the child's psychiatric growth.

### ***Sympathetic to everyone who needs it***

Sympathetic is the feeling of being sorry for somebody. It shows that we understand and care about people's problems of the other people (Hornby, 2010:1514). It is an extension of empathic concern or the perception, understanding, and reaction to the need of another. It is the act of entering into or sharing the feelings or interests of another. Caring for is the attitude of someone's behavior to care about living. Care is to do the things that are needed to help and protect (a person or animal), to look after (someone or something), and to feel affection to someone.

"Death touches the spring of our common humanity. This woman had been despised, scoffed at, and angrily denounced by nearly every man, woman, and child in the village; but now, as the fact of her death was passed from lip to lip, in subdued tones, pity took the place of anger, and sorrow of denunciation." (Arthur,

1). The character that has sympathy is the villagers, they are point out their sympathy to three children who just losing their mother in front of their eyes in a drunken fit. This woman had been insulted, ridiculed, and furiously denounced by almost everyone in the village.

"Neighbors went hastily to the old tumble-down hut, in which she had secured little more than a place of shelter from the summer heat and winter cold: some with grave clothes for a decent interment of the body; and some with food for the half-starving children, three in number". (Arthur, 1)

When the villagers heard her obituary, they are going to the old huts, some with shrouds for proper burial and some with food for the children there were three of them.

"*What is to be done with the children?* That was the chief question now. The dead mother would go underground, and be forever beyond all care or concern of the villagers. But the children must not be left to starve." (Arthur, 2)

From the quote above, we know that the villagers had a great sense of sympathy. This was proven when one of them asked the other what they have to do to the children because they already know what would happen to them who were parentless.

### ***Empathy is needed to save someone life***

Empathy is understood as the ability to share the thoughts, emotions, and direct experiences of others without being communicated directly on purpose.

"After considering the matter, and talking it over with his wife, farmer Jones said that he would take John, and do well by him, now that his mother was out of the way; and Mrs. Ellis, who had been looking out for a bound girl, concluded that it would be charitable in her to choose Katy, even though she was too young to be of much use for several years." (Arthur, 3)

The characters that have empathy are Farmer Jones and Mrs. Ellis. When everyone said to bring the children to the poor house but Farmer John try to talk to his wife and decide to take care of John, while Mrs. Ellis would take Katy with her.

### ***Life need Patience***

Someone who can refrain herself from emotions and passions and can survive in any difficult situation without complaining certainly has incredible patience. This is shown by the figure of Maggie when she is patiently waiting for somebody who comes to pick her from her cold bed to a warm place.

*"But poor little Maggie, the youngest, was hopelessly diseased. Two years before she fell from a window had injured her spine, and she had not been able to leave her bed since, except when lifted in the arms of her mother."*

"No one said, I'll take Maggie. Pitying glances were cast on her wan and wasted form and thoughts were troubled on her account. Mothers brought cast-off garments and, removing her soiled and ragged clothes, dressed her in clean attire. The sad eyes and patient face of the little one touched many hearts and even

knocked at them for entrance. But none opened to take her in. Who wanted a bed-ridden child?" (Arthur, 3)

The character in this short story who has the patience is Maggie. She is a poor little girl two years ago she fell from the window and injured her spine since that moment she had not been able to leave her bed except by her mother help. How can a younger little girl spend her time for two years on the bed without being able to do anything if not because of the patience?

### ***Be Kind-Hearted by giving Hands to Others***

Kind-hearted is the quality of being kind (Hornby, 1010: 822). Kind is equivalent to what has been offered or received. Kind is applying more often to the disposition to sympathy and helpfulness. Kindly is stressing more the expression of the sympathetic, helpful nature, mood, or impulse (a kind person with a kindly interest in the problem of others). Kind-hearted as having sympathetic nature: Humane, compassionate. Kind-heartedness is the equality or state of being kind-hearted (Webster, 1981: 1243).

*"Then take her to the poorhouse: she'll have to go there,* answered the blacksmith's wife, springing away, and leaving Joe behind." (T.S. Arthur, 3)

*"O, Mr. Thompson!* she cried out, catching her suspended breath, *don't leave me here all alone!* said Maggie. *No, dear,* he answered, in a kind voice, going to the bed, and stooping down over the child, *You shan't be left here alone.* Then he wrapped her with the gentleness almost of a woman, in the clean bedclothes which



some neighbor had brought; and, lifting her in his strong arms, bore her out into the air and across the field that lay between the hovel and his home." (Arthur, 4)

The value of this moral in the show by a man called Joe Thompson. At the moment when the blacksmith's wife leaves Joe behind Maggie begs Mr. Thompson not to leave her all alone, and Mr. Thompson with his kind-hearted said that he would not leave her and carry her with his strong arms out of the house went to his home.

"Though rough in exterior, Joe Thompson, the wheelwright, had a heart, and it was very tender in some places. He liked children and was pleased to have them come to his shop, where sleds and wagons were made or mended for the village lads without a draft on their hoarded sixpences." (Arthur, 4)

The quote above also shows that Joe Thompson was not being nice when Maggie begged him not to leave him alone, but because Joe Thompson was initially kind and liked children and having fun when they came to his shop.

"Where were John and Kate? asked Mrs. Thompson, farmer Jones tossed John into his wagon and drove off. Katie went home with Mrs. Ellis, but nobody wanted the poor sick one. 'Send her to the poorhouse,' was the cry."

"Why didn't you let her go, then. What did you bring her here for?"

"She can't walk to the poorhouse, said Joe; somebody's arms must carry her, and mine is strong enough for that task."

"Then why didn't you keep on? Why did you stop here? demanded the wife."

"Because I'm not apt to go on fools' errands. The Guardians must first be seen, and a permit obtained." (Arthur, 6)

Mrs. Thompson was in an angry temper when she saw her husband bring Maggie into their house, and ask him why was he doing that and Joe Thompson said that there is nobody wanted to take the poor sick one to the poorhouse and his arms were strong enough for that task. This kindness is giving a poor sick child a hand and does not let them alone.

### ***The power of Love***

Love is an important part of the life of humans because it can use the interaction with another person. Love is a strong affection or deep concern for another person. Love can be communicated in many different ways. It is expressed through words, for example, other actions that show admiration and concern (Mifflin, 1987: 80). So the power of love is a strong affection for another person, care with fellow humans and it can be communicated. It is empty and meaningless when human beings cannot interact with one another to make themselves exist.

"Mrs. Thompson looked rather strangely at her husband for sonic moments and then dropped her eyes. The subject was not again referred to during the meal. At its close, Mrs. Thompson toasted a slice of bread, and softened, it with milk and butter; add to this a cup of tea, she took them into Maggie and held the small waiter, on which she had placed them, while the hungry child ate with every sign of pleasure."

"Is it good? asked Mrs. Thompson, seeing with what a keen relish the food was taken."

"The child paused with the cup in her hand and answered with a look of gratitude that awoke to new life old human feelings which had been slumbering in her heart for half a score of years."

"We'll keep her a day or two longer; she is so weak and helpless, said Mrs. Joe Thompson, in answer to her husband's remark, at breakfast-time on the next morning, that he must step down and see the Guardians of the Poor about Maggie.

"She'll be so much in your way, said Joe."

"I shan't mind that for a day or two. Poor thing!" (Arthur, 9)

Base on the quote above Mrs. Thompson shows her concern by brought Maggie a piece of bread, and softened, with milk and butter and a cup of tea, and asking if the food is good. Maggie paused eating and answered with an expression of gratitude that awakened new life to the old human feelings that had been sleeping in Mrs. Thompson's heart for several years. With those feelings of love, Mrs. Thompson told her husband that they will keep Maggie for a day or two days longer.

"What light and blessing did that sick and helpless child brings to the home of Joe Thompson, the poor wheelwright! It had been dark, and cold, and miserable there for a long time just because his wife had nothing to love and care for out of herself, and so became sore, irritable, ill-tempered, and self-afflicting in the desolation of her woman's nature. Now the sweetness of that sick child, looking

ever to her in love, patience, and gratitude, was as honey to her soul, and she carried her in her heart as well as in her arms, a precious burden. As for Joe Thompson, there was not a man in all the neighborhood who drank daily of a more precious wine of life than he. An angel had come into his house, disguised as a sick, helpless, and miserable child, and filled all its dreary chambers with the sunshine of love." (Arthur, 9)

From the quote above we know that why Mrs. Thompson became hot-tempered, hot-tempered, and self-harming in the destruction of her female nature was because she had no children to give her love, patience, and gratitude. But now love has its way to changes Mrs. Thompson's heart, and with all of that loves she has for a poor little Maggie. Therefore As for Joe Thompson, there was no one in their neighborhood except him who drank the precious wine of life every day, for to him and his wife Maggie were like angels who filled all his gloomy rooms with the sunshine of love.

## **CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION**

### ***Conclusion***

In "An Angel in Disguise", there are moral values conveyed by the author where the most dominant is the values are being conveyed explicitly, can be seen by the readers. Based on the analysis, the result revealed that there are moral values in An Angel in Disguise written by T.S. Arthur which are presented through the action and statements of the characters in the short story. The result of the research shows moral values such as: Caring and responsible to children,

Sympathetic to everyone who needs it, Empathy is needed to save someone's life, Life need patience, Be kind-hearted by giving hands to others, and The power of love.

### ***Suggestion***

From this research, the researcher would like to suggest to all the readers that:

1. It is important and useful to read literary works such as short story. Literature is something interesting to study because in literature we can identify and learn about human characters and behavior by experience to humanity itself.
2. By reading, study, and analyzing the moral values in short story *An Angel in Disguise*, as a human the researcher realizes that still far from perfect.

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