

Quandary as a Central Theme Projected in Isaac Rosenberg's *Dead Man's Dump*

M. Priscilla, II M.A. English

Department of English and Comparative Literature
Madurai Kamaraj University
Madurai

Abstract

This research paper brings out the impact of the World War I through Isaac Rosenberg's *DEAD MAN'S DUMP*. This poem describes about the battlefield and the inhuman attitude of the human beings. The poet uses a lot of metaphor to picturize the battlefield cruelly. The biblical term is also symbolized. Through the poetic lines of the *DEAD MAN'S DUMP*. The person doesn't care the dead and dying bodies in the battlefield. Spectacular imagery is noted in the poem. Finally, the poem ends with the soldiers beg to the wagon to pick him up yet they get to him, just as he takes his last breath.

Keywords: battlefield- struggle- survival- bloodshed- death- inhumane- impact

This poem was published on 14th May 1917. The battle of Somme which claimed many destructions. This world war lead to Human Predicaments. Isaac Rosenberg is the war poet who was lived as a poet and soldier, He also died in the first world war. In the poem, "THE DEAD MAN'S DUMP" He exposed the happenings or impact of war towards soldier. This poem written during the World War I; by Isaac Rosenberg, readers clearly understand or notice the suffering the soldiers. According to the poet, the soldiers have scarified their life in the name of duty in the war. For a soldier's participation in a war is the only victory. That they are attaining throughout their life. They won't have any fear about death. They are showing or exposing their power, sacrifice and also grief. This poem is in the soldier point of view because, Isaac Rosenberg is also the soldier of first world war. "Dead Man's Dump itself means that The Dead Bodies of Soldiers were left in a place which is getting decay, the dead and dying soldiers are considered to be a meaningless object, the soldier or poet exposes the atmosphere around him, he notifies the sounds, grief and cries of the dead and dying soldiers.

"The plunging limbers over the shattered track"

The very first line of the poem is showed as the horrified scenario that is happening in the battlefield, -- driven by the donkeys are moving on the physically broken pieces that means the

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carriages track, these mules are moving near to the dead and dying bodies of the soldiers and also near to the unburied dead.

“Stuck out like many crown of thorns”

The above Biblical allusion throws the Light on the Jesus Crucifixion, while crucifixion the crown which is made up of Jesus and that hurts him by punching his forehead like the crucifixion, here in the battlefield, the soldiers are also attaining the same pain because of the injuries while fighting’. This line is also considered as a symbolism suggests the sufferings inflicted on the common soldier in the battle.

“The rusty stakes like sceptres old”

The objects in the war field which is twisted and broken is also carried by the limbers. In this poem, poet expose the inhuman activity of the human beings who are disguised as a soldier. Here poet exposes all these the happenings clearly as one among the soldiers.

“The wheels lurched over sprawled dead”

Soldiers or a poet exposed the shocking and unacceptable scenes that was happened in the war field the wheels of the carriage is rowing on the body of the soldiers, it doesn’t hurt them because, the body of the soldiers is an insensible object now which means, they are seems to be died.

***“Earth has waited for them
All the time of their growth
Fretting for their decay:
Now she has them at last!”***

From the above four lines of the readers could understand the mercy of the earth, poet show cases the was waited till the growth of the soldiers and it also saw the unacceptable death of those soldier’s body.

“Earth! have they gone into you?”

Here poet asking a question to the earth, are those dead and dying soldiers are taken by you?

***“And flung on your hard back.....
Is their souls’ sack,***

These lines are metaphorized like, the God created the human beings as a essence, but now their bodies are fallen as a hard material such as sacks in the battle field. Here, poet exposed his grief.

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*“Who hurried them out? Who hurried?
None saw their spirits’ shadow shake the grass”,*

Poet exposes the grief; he also exposes that the soul of the dead and dying soldiers was left from their bodies and no one of their souls are seen in the battle field even their shadow doesn't shake the grass. Here, the poet says that the souls of those soldiers are really divine, in inner so only they don't even shake the grasses.

*“The air is loud with death
The dark air spurts with fire”*

Poet says that the time is leaping but the death in the war field is keep on happening.

*“They left dead with the older dead”
Stretched at the crossroad”.*

In the above line, poet exposes some myth and also he says that the dead bodies of soldiers' are also kept with the older one and he also states that the cross road is a land known to be a holy land where the living and the dead meet and also the poet says that the cross road as a life and death of the human beings.

*“Will they come? will they ever come?
Even as the mixed hoofs of the mules,
The quivering-bellied mules,
And the rushing wheels all mixed
With his tortured upturned sight”*

Those above lines are exposing the mindset of a dying soldiers who was half dead are eagerly waiting for the mules to take them and also poet exposes his eagerness to suggest the sound of the turn up of the wheels that riding in the war field.

*“We heard his scream
We heard his last sound,
And our wheels grazed his dead face.*

The above lines show that the dead and dying soldiers voice was heard by the mules which makes the terrific and haunted ideas in the readers mind about the battlefield. Isaac Rosenberg have clearly exposed about soldiers suffering, struggles faced by soldiers, to survive

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in the battlefield and war, that take place.

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