

Brightening the Dark: A Study of Collective Hope and Healing in

Amanda Gorman's The Miracle of Morning

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Abstract

Through this paper it is attempted to explore the thoughts of the poet that she expressed in the poem entitled "The Miracle of Morning" regarding Covid-19 pandemic situation, and the response of the people towards facing critical and dangerous circumstances of Covid-19 pandemic. The collective hope and its healing impact is apparently presented by the poet. The imagery, language and the structure of the poem is studied analytically that reveals social unitedness, optimistic views of the people, emotional strength and heroic thoughts. However, the poem is written during the Covid-19 pandemic situation that offers poetic brooding over the loss, collective hope and resilience. The poem proves to be the greatest motivator and strength provider to the world to fight against pandemic situation of Covid-19 and to remain hopeful and positive. The purified notion of getting united, and emotionally connected in present and in future gives energy and strength for better future life.

Keywords: Collectiveness, Hope, Healing, Pandemic Situation,

Introduction

Amanda Gorman emerged as the greatest poet to spread the rays of the hope and inculcate positive thoughts in the minds of the people during the Covid-19 pandemic period through her poem entitled "The Miracle of Morning". This poem played significant role in

dispelling the fear of infectious disease as Corona virus from the hearts of the people this period. The poem supported the people to strengthen their mental power and remain calm and positive. The poem presents the fact of the situation through artistic expression, lyrical language and poetic style. With the use of metaphor, paradoxes, repetition, inclusive pronouns, optimistic tone Amanda Gorman tried to convert the sorrowful human mind during pandemic circumstances into the solace, soothing mind and healing process. Janice Gould asserts that poetry serves as a “restorative cultural force during times of crisis” (Gould, 212). The poem is arranged in irregular stanzas with free verse structure which makes the poem more interesting to read and thus becomes easy to get interpreted. The intention of the poet must be to imprint the thoughts of the poem deeply to the hearts of all readers. Regarding Amanda Gorman’s writing Emma Corbin writes in article,

Amanda Gorman’s works of poetry range from poems written on politics and social injustices, climate change, and the Coronavirus pandemic, but somehow they all support the same message of unity, fight, and perseverance. (Corbin, 6)

The focused and brightening word “morning” reappears throughout the poem, which represents positivity, rebirth and hope. The title of the poem implies that the approach of new day brings conducive miracle in the span of existing crisis. As the first line of the poem sets the tone of sadness. But transfiguration is found suddenly in the next line as the emphasis is rendered on occurrence of good and pleasant moments on golden morning. Thus, mourning and morning are juxtaposed here with the intention to show the upcoming conversion of mourning into morning. Two opposite ideas are presented skillfully and artistically which provide beauty and substantiality to the poem. Alisa Dahal writes, “But Gorman’s morning-miracle is the hope of resilience and recuperation while on an unwarranted threat to human health by an unknown disease.” (Dahal, p. 139)

Gorman has emphasized on the concept of collectiveness. The poem reveals the value of collective thinking and collective efforts with which hazardous moments can be overcome and can be replaced with new glittering hope. The poem unites individual boundaries and makes one voice.

The poem realistically makes presentation of the existing circumstances experienced by the people during Covid-19 pandemic period. In the poem the speaker is seen to be finding sorrow everywhere due to prevailing pandemic. The fear, perplexity, confusion and emotional storm had occupied the world. But poet's intuitive thinking pours her thoughts of hope and optimism as morning looks hopeful and bright. The sunlight looks magical, comfortable and wide. The heavy moments of sadness are lighted with the description of daily normal life. The life continues with joyful moments, children yet play and reminds the people of their enthusiastic lives. The prayer of the people in the hope of healthy future keeps wholesome atmosphere.

Isolation broke the companionship of the people but emotional connection and bond became close. In dangerous situation people started to support each other instead of wasting their time to think whether they would survive or not. The power of togetherness increases their strength and feeling of getting healed, resilience and flexibility. Gorman says in the poem "The Miracle of Morning" as,

"So, on this meaningful morn, we mourn and we mend

Like light, we can't be broken, even when we bend.

As one, we will defeat both despair and disease" (Gorman, Lines-13, 14).

The hope of healing and overcoming of sadness and disease highlight the miracle of human mind.

Gorman appreciates the endeavour of several social workers from different fields that they served dedicatedly in the service of the diseased people and also to make preparation for

the protection of the people during pandemic Covid-19 period. The professionals as doctors, police, business men, workers, teachers, and people from various fields are referred with eulogy. Their efforts with staking life transform the dark side into the light. Critical situation and the loss teach the people the need of collective efforts for helping one another. The suffering and the pain that the people were feeling unite them instead of dividing them. Gorman says in this poem as,

“For it is in loss that we truly learn to love.”

In this chaos, we will discover clarity

In suffering, we must find solidarity.” (Gorman, lines. 22 ,23, 24)

Amanda Gorman through this poem tried to strengthen the mental power of the people. She motivates and energizes the people with her poetic words. She asserts that the feelings of aloneness and grief do not suit the personality of the people, rather the people are known for their valour and intensity of their collectiveness. She appeals the people not to lose their hearts, rather to regain their courage and should feel strong inwardly. She lights up the hope of the people regarding to achieve their goal soon. She assures the people that their struggle will lead them to greater kindness. She says, “We’ll observe how the burdens braved by humankind/Are also the moments that make us humans kind” (Gorman, Lines 27, 28)

Gorman Amanda exposes the real value of collective actions that turns into collective hope. Collective actions of people can create better future. The people not only recover themselves from their health issues with collective actions but also reconnect their shattered bonds. Due to this, they are solidifying their weaken relationship and improving the social system. Every person’s action is valuable which inspires other. This is a kind of emotional and spiritual fresh beginning. Old normal is gone back and a fresh new start is now. In this way the future of human kind is better and more united.

The poem also gains appreciation of the critics for its artistic greatness, and the selection of effective words. Kevin Stein asserts to have balance in the lyrical and the collective value in the modern poetry. In this poem, Gorman keeps balance of rhyme, rhythm, and rhetorical words. This makes the poem effective public poetry. The use of metaphor as “morning” shows new directions of life in the form of spiritual and optimistic values. The metaphor “morning” has great significance which symbolizes the commencement of new social attitude along with an end of the darkness of pandemic. Use of simple, musical and understandable language discloses the fact of the life and presents the importance of moral and ethical values.

As the poem released, it received comprehensive acclamation. By the people of several fields the poem was circulated through several mediums which imprinted revolutionary positive impact upon the minds of human kind. Gorman not only puts forth the critical condition but also tries to heal it and thus shows the transformation. Gorman’s voice becomes significant not only for survival but, also for collective actions.

Amanda Gorman uses contrast between light and dark, morning and night which implies the conversion of despair into the hope. Gorman shows here suffering not as a ruin but way to revival, survival and growth. Through this poem the poet highlights the collective efforts rather than individual and thus enhances the value of unity and unified efforts. It explores that how difficult moments can become platform for positive upheavals and unveils the concept that the growth and revival also come after crisis.

Conclusion

Amanda Gorman’s “The Miracle of Morning” is a great artistic piece of poetry that serves the people. The poem is a blend of artistic beauty and healing power. The poem serves the purpose of literature. The critics view at the poem as the greatest model of literature which plays its role in healing the people, by making human mind solid and also by making the broken bond of relationship among the people strong. The poem artistically presents the existence of

pain and hope and reveals emergence of hope from the pain. The poem conveys the message to illuminate the dark with hope and significance of collective work. She assures that miserable moments move towards revival and healing and make the people humbler and more reformative. According to her suffering also becomes positively transformative.

Conflict of Interest: The corresponding author, on behalf of second author, confirms that there are no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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