

Return of Klytaimnestra

In Spanish restaurant saturated with vivid color of La Mancha where everywhere is full of wind, a beautiful woman is singing tango, Volver with touching voice as if all people fade out by bright lights of her. The woman starts to cry with singing while her mother is peeping at her figure of singing in a red car. This is a scene of film, Volver meaning "to return,". It is mostly set in La Mancha which is hometown of director and about three generation of women while men hardly appear in this film. This dreadfully feminine movie comes from Pedro Almodovar, the director of "Volver", "Talk to her", and "All about my mother", all of which relied on a similar, women. That is, Volver clings tight to women and maternity.

Main character, Raimuda bears lots of resemblance to Klytaimnestra who is one of the women in Greek mythology in a side of ill-fated life. Klytaimnestra's images are founded in life of Raimuda life. Above all, two women represent maternal love.

Let's start with Raimunda. She lives with her daughter whose father is same with herself; She was rape by her father and had a baby. What is worse, her daughter came close to be raped by her stepfather, Raimunda's husband, and then the budding girls stabbed his valley with a knife; she killed him. Blood was spread on her kitchen. "Volver" is emblazoned with a scarlet reel of fire hose, a mopful of human gore, the slicing of red peppers, and a station wagon that appears to have been spray-painted with tomato soup (Anthony). This redden movie goes on "women's troubles". The tragedy interspersed fratricide began with Raimuda's mother who killed her husband who had still cheated with other woman as disguising the killing as a hill fire. However Raimunda struggles and bustles them with maternal love and passion, at the end she returns not only to her hometown and but also her mother's bosom.

Let's move on Klytaimnestra. She was wife of Agamemnon who was well known for war of Troy. Actually she had a first husband, but Agamemnon killed the husband, after the event Klytaimnestra became a wife of Agamemnon. Above all, her

daughter was killed by his father as a sacrificial offering of Troy war. After Agamemnon came back to war with paramour, Cassandra, Klytaimnestra having maternity killed his husband. At the end, the son of Klytaimnestra, Orestes killed her mother, Klytaimnestra and founded his innocence. Finally the revenge was end.

These two protagonists are very similar in a side of ill-fated life full of adultery, parental abandonment, and death. The men who appeared in a circle of two women are also similar one another in a side of crucial and immoral behavior. However these two women are totally different from ending of story. While Raimuda established her maternity as solving all disaster and returning her mother with her daughter, Klytaimnestra was killed due to her maternity and then taken away her maternal right. The result tells collapse of maternity.

Some people might think that the interpretation of the myth is distorted and the movie is outcomes of feminist who always tell women are victim. However, be more patient.

Between the similarity and difference, we can find many implications with hindsight beyond the existing views. First, we can find changes of maternity of the world. It has changed in a small scale bit by bit. Secondly, we can reevaluate Klytaimnestra as a strong mother not a wicked wife. Third, we can discuss maternal love is a human instinct or not. Lastly, we can find peculiarity or greatness of maternity through these two women.

First, visage of Klytaimnestra is in Raimunda, but their results are totally different. That means as women's right has extended, maternal right also has broadened. The ancient philosopher, Aristoteles said that women had no propagation as existence of imperfection and added that women were congenital deformity. This comment is truly descriptive of mother's status in the era. Meanwhile, the director of Volver said, "I'm talking about my roots, when I go back to La Mancha, it's like going back to my mother's breast. Women have more freedoms to express their feelings and emotions. They are less shy and have less prejudice too. I think women can surprise us

much better, probably because for centuries women were forced to live in silence in the shadows. So they have that capacity to surprise us much more." Apparently there is a change of maternal rights between a failed mother, Klytaimnestra and Raimunda who keep her maternity. This is no wonder, but the point is how the maternal rights have changed. Maternity which Klytaimnestra showed is quite different from modern maternity. At one point maternity was getting passive, so when we hear the word, 'maternity', we might think sacrificial spirit. That means ancient maternity was not passive and did not only mention endless love of child. It was stronger than we might think. The strong maternity lost their light and then changed in a passive way. However the maternity came back and renewed like Raimunda.

Secondly, we cannot but reevaluating Klytaimnestra in a new way. Actually there are so many interpretation of Klytaimnestra, but I disagree about their argument. For example, the ancient play writer, Aischylos said that era when mothers governed was dirty, disordered, confused, so after

fail of mother, bright and silver lining would come. That means unless society focused on women ruins, there is no hope and new order run by men. Widespread these ideas were enough to make Klytaimnestra be a wicked wife as a murder, so her death and proving innocence of her son who killed his mother tell the truth about decline of maternity. That is, Klytaimnestra known as a wicked wife must be reevaluated by modern view. Although she was finally taken away maternity in a struggle for power, she was foundation of women who have fought for their rights. Although her fail represent fail of all mothers, she is figure who keep dignity of human as rejecting needs for men who is more powerful. To confront against enormous power is basic condition of activist or protester. Maybe she might be progressist. "A very queer, composite being thus emerges. Imaginatively she is of the highest importance; practically she is completely insignificant. She pervades poetry from cover to cover; she is all but absent from history. She dominates the lives of king and conquerors in fiction; in fact she was slave of any boy

whose parents forced a ring upon her finger. Some of the most inspired words, some of the most profound thoughts in literature fall from her lips; in real life she could hardly read, could scarcely spell, and was the property of her husband(Virginia)". Like these passage, Klytaimnestra was kind of slave of Agamemnon because Agamemnon killed her first husband and make her be a wife of himself. Above all in the myth she was wicked wife who killed his husband, while adultery and murder of men are available and no guilty. Therefore, obedient and passive women were descriptive as a "highest importance" as a result Klytaimnestra's description in myth tells the truth of her passionate determination.

Third, like Klytaimnestra and Raimunda so many works have dealt with maternity or maternal love, if so is it true maternity is instinct of human bodies especially for women? Actually today this topic is quite controversial and discussed by so many people. The bestseller writer, Bernard Werber's opinion in his book, Empire of angels, is a fake of maternal love. More specifically, Bernard argues that is maternal love

is forced to be as a human instinct. He insists that people always think maternal love is natural emotion from mother's body, however, till the late 19th century the infant mortality rate was more than double, so people realized that to have maternal love is beneficial for their nations like aspects of military and population.

In author M. Scott Peck's view, Bernard is totally wrong in his book, the road less traveled, because he argues maternal love is a human instinct. Therefore, he seems to be against with Bernard on the subject of maternal love. Bernard tell that stuffs for kids like vaccinations and diapers were made due to benefit for nations not from maternal love, while Peck thinks that pure love don't be involved with a sense of duty, but maternal love involves with a sense of duty, so maternal love is close to human instinct. However I totally disagree with these two opinions and I also disagree with ideas having one side of maternal love. For example some feminist claim that maternal love is forced by a men and settled down as a human instinct because women's rights were fallen. That means

women have no choice but to have maternity to live because in the past maternity only remains for women, and other rights already were in men side. These kinds of thought are quite dangerous because the world is full of ambiguity not of dichotomy. All of things are being piled up one on another complicatedly, so maternity is also not exception. There are so many factors interacting with, so it is so difficult to decide maternal love is instinct or not.

Lastly, Raimuda and Klytaimnestra let us peculiarity of maternity. If maternity is a human instinct or not, there is a peculiarity not to explain in a logic way. The apparently point is the maternity is not permitted to men, also the origin of maternity is not clear, so it is quite mysterious. In addition maternity can make impossible things be real, so it is kind of miracle. Let's go back to the movie, Volver. The very menless movie is full of adultery, arson, incest, fratricide, parental abandonment, cancel, and death. The important thing is the movie is quite mischievous and not serious. The reason is the movie is formed by heap of women

who have maternal love. There are two scenes of movie showing peculiarity of maternity. One is the gaggle women who wear black dress follow the Raimunda's aunt funeral with fanning with black fan. How mischievous it is! The other is Raimunda talks at the door to a guy who runs the restaurant next door, and he becomes aware of a smear of blood on her neck. Raimuda says "Women's troubles,". "She could be describing the whole film" (Anthony). If maternity is assumed as a peculiarity that cannot explain by logic, the movie is well descriptive of the traits. Among the verge of tragedy women are not serious and the movie has fantasy, fun, mischief, and mysterious. Moreover, ability of maternity is to make conflict be smooth, and there is greatness of maternal love.

Return has many stuff of thought, after all returning hometown involves in returning to maternity as mainstream of human. Raimuda show the return of Klytaimnestra. As time goes by maternity has changed in a variety forms so the reputation also has changed since people could write something. If maternity has been acquired, born, forced, and learned or not,

there is peculiarity not to find the origin. However the
maternity always circulates in our life like current of broad
sea.

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