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**Vision of Life Reflected in Harry Potter Series**

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## ABSTRACT

Harry Potter is not only famous for fantasy in literature, but also for the strengthening of life through fantasy's spectacular medium. Through fantasy, Rowling clings to real life. It is the charm of reality under the garb of magic that attracts the readers so much. These imaginative flights cannot be flagrant salts of the mind when there is always a dreamland of expectations and aspirations behind all our efforts. It strengthens life in Harry Potter, just as fantasy can help science. The philosophy of Rowling has a deepness, but the ease with which she thinks about the most difficult and delicate issues of life gives a practical value to her moral lessons. Its main concern is love, compassion, friendship, allegiance and even death and immortality. In a simpler vein, facts of our lives that typically pass without our notice are delivered; but they leave a lesson behind. Thus, this paper aims to observe and analyse these lessons of life as reflected in these series of novels.

**Key Words: Vision, Life, Fantasy, Philosophy**

## Introduction

Harry Potter, Rowling's seven book series, has made bestseller records so that five out of seven of her books have been filmed by renowned Hollywood directors so far, and the other two are on their way to being filmed and released. Rowling is an exquisite writer and her fantasy appeals to life. The 'cult of reading' has been revived by these novels. But life is the fundamental basis that carries the potential to invite such diverse readers to its literary feast. And Rowling assigns an elevated task of reinforcement to her imagination. Her vision in these books takes the vital ingredients of life into account.

J.K. Rowling finely crafted an intricate yet beautiful tessellation of human relationships in the seven novels of the series. Like the Lady of Shallot, the feelings and emotions of man and the complex human ties she sees in the mirror of fantasy, the only difference being that, unlike the Lady of Shallot, she has now



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successfully completed her masterpiece. All seven books, despite the reality that they are fantasy, bear human interest and produce real life effects. The dignity of being a true human being is upheld by the quintessence of a meaningful existence introduced through moral vision. Because the good is jumbled with the bad in the world, it is only necessary to recognise and value it. Harry Potter takes profound matters of life into account.

### Vision of Life in Harry Potter Series- A Study

It is a fact that no piece of high art can completely detach itself from ethics and morality. Without ethical values, life has no meaning, as these values elevate man to the heights of humanity. Art represents life and can never be tempted to eulogise the amoral pleasures and to present a false image of the predicament of man. In K.R.S. Iyengar's words:

After all, art and life cannot be kept in completely autonomous compartments, and aesthetic and moral values can also not be treated as entirely independent of each other. As Mr. Morgan rightly puts it, "Without, at the same time, beginning to think more or less of religion, of love, of equality, of possessions, of power, of everything else in which his mind and spirit are engaged, man cannot begin to think less of art." The values are autonomous. (660)

It should be noted that, at best, the entire Harry Potter series never seems to praise evil and amoral ideas. It offers readers a lot of elevated philosophy and moral values. Without professing anything, Rowling offers precious life lessons. Like the witches of Rapunzel and Hanzel and Gratel, the wizards and witches of Hogwarts do not threaten us but show the good, bad, and ugly sides of man in general to give us a true view of human life rather than an affected one. She thinks deeply about the truth of life and the search for immortality in the moral perspective of Rowling's novels dealing intensely with death. In these novels,



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there is a more significant quest, and that is the quest for identity. Harry is searching for his true identity in order to clear out his dilemmas and to lead a meaningful life like Voldemort, whose evil shadow he always tries to save his moral sense and goodness of heart from. In Rowling's novels, moral lessons as people get to learn are as clear as any child would understand and any grown-up would understand with the kind help of philosophy. Despite the pervading practicality, her philosophy makes sure that the ultimate choice must be the only good between the conflict of good and evil. Following Dumbledore's wise advice, one can fight off all sorts of discord and enmity.

The characters of Rowling are life-like and in his merits and demerits, Harry is human; but his genuine concern for even a poor house-elf marks a certain stamp of goodness on his character that gives moral intensity to these novels. "As he helps Dobby achieve his freedom from the Malfoy family's slavery, the elf's gratitude confirms it, "Dobby threw his arms around the middle of Harry and hugged him.' Harry Potter is far greater than Dobby Knew! He just sobbed." (249)

Life will surely have conflicts with man as a complex being. When two convictions collide, altercations arise. The conflicts in Harry Potter highlight the significance of good over evil. Between these two strictly opposite poles of nature, an arduous battle goes on. Love and hate, truth and falsehood, compassion and cruelty, hope and despair are constantly in contrast because through her characters the writer takes a keen view of the nature of conflict; Dumbledore finely believes, "It is our choices, Harry, that demonstrate what we really are, far more than our abilities" (245). And our choices, whether right or wrong, are the result of our long intense battles. It is the internal disputes that lie at the root of all our external disputes. Harry Potter's nature of conflict reflects the black and white as well as the grey shades of human personality throughout the series as good grapples with evil.

The revelation of his connection with the Dark Lord in The Stone of the Philosopher Quirrell



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ironically reveals how even a once straightforward person like Quirrell could easily be lured by the forces of evil. He ends up selecting the wrong one in his dispute between right and wrong:

He is with me wherever I go...I met him when I travelled around the world. A foolish young man I was then, full of ridiculous ideas about good and evil. Lord Voldemort showed me how wrong I was. There is no good and evil, there is only power and those too weak to seek it. (211)

It is ironic enough that in Voldemort's company, Quirrell finds himself safe while he is unaware of his own agony as his attendant. Unconscious of the fact that he himself is voicing his suffering. He does not readily forgive errors.

Voldemort makes his evil art of persuasion precise by saying, '...but there have always been those willing to let me into their hearts and minds...' 16 Quite the contrary is Harry's choice, which shows his strong willpower that can resist any attraction. His choices are always to thwart the evil Lord Voldemort instead of selfishly running away from the danger of saving his life, leaving others at risk—

...Did you not hear what it was like when he tried to take over? There will be no Hogwarts from which to get expelled! He'll flatten it, or turn it into a Dark Arts school! ... If I get caught before I get to the Stone, well, well, I'm going to have to go back to the Dursleys and wait for Voldemort to find me. It's just dying a bit later than I would have, because I'm never going to the Dark Side again. (197)

The power of love and compassion is as powerful as the disastrous forces of hate and cruelty, but the writer is surely leaning toward the morality and humanity of the former. Love strengthens human bonds and erects around those who love a protective shield. A mother's selfless love saves baby Harry from the



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callous Dark Lord, something that evil creatures such as Voldemort and Quirrell are unable to understand.

It is Harry's goodness of heart which, despite the fact that he indelibly shares many of his powers, makes him entirely different from his arch-enemy Voldemort. Dumbledore suggests that Harry has more special power, but Voldemort lacks it when he says:

...He did not know that you would have power the Dark Lord knows not  
\_...That power took you to save Sirius tonight. That power also saved you  
from possession by Voldemort, because he could not bear to reside in a body so  
full of the force, he detests...it was your heart that saved you. (743)

The strongest model of friendship and trust is Harry, Ron and Hermione, as the trio go through all the challenges together and become victorious by the strength of their relationship. On the one hand, the betrayal of Peter Pettigrew causes the murders of his friends James and Lily and the imprisonment of his innocent friend Sirius Black, on the other hand, as Sirius dies saving his best friend's son Harry, Black and Lupin show unflinching allegiance to their friends. Likewise, Lupin supports Harry up to his last breath in the battle against Voldemort. Rowling, however, offers a chance of remorse and redemption in the midst of this conflict. In accordance with Dumbledore's belief that Harry's noble act of saving the life of Pettigrew owed the latter and created a bond between the two, the moment he hesitates to kill Harry, we find a 'little, merciful impulse' in Pettigrew.

Despite the prevalence of death and despair, hope and optimism always win over gloom; the vulnerability of Harry before the Dementors disappears when he conjures the Patronus with the power of his happy memories that drives his depressive feelings away. Harry betrays the restlessness of a person in search of his true self throughout the series. As a learned scholar, Deborah de Rosa says, "As a teenager and as a Hogwarts student, the key questions Harry faces are, "Who am I? (71) Hogwarts' letter gives him



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the first wave of curiosity to know if his existence is really important to someone. Before this letter inscribed on it, “Mr Harry Potter, The Cupboard Under the Stairs, Privet Drive Little Whinging, Surrey,’ even his small wishes are now nothing important” (72). For him, curiosity is overwhelming:

Harry picked it up and stared at it, twanging his heart like a giant elastic band.

No one had written to him, ever, in his whole life. Who would do that? He had no friends, no other relatives—he wasn't in the library, so he never had any rude notes asking for books. (73)

Living almost a lonely life with the weird Dursleys, Harry cherished the hope that some unknown relative would take him away, but none had ever come. The Dursleys kept Harry's knowledge of his parents and family secret and, in the most remote sense, his current family was not like his family. In him, they never inspired any emotional attachment, only total indifference. Harry, therefore, lives in a complete void where, except for his parents' names, he has nothing to do with his identity. While his parents regard Dudley's stupidest acts with great interest as a sign of his growth, Harry's existence is never recognised for not speaking of significance. We find him treated by the Dursleys time and time again, as if he did not exist. Harry's identity is in continuous danger at Privet Drive, where his very presence is taken as an ominous thing worthy of negation and disrespect. When Hagrid comes to his rescue, his search begins. He is astounded by the very prospect of his wizard status and freedom from the clutches of Dursleys.

While boarding the Hogwart Express when Fred and George ask him whether he is Harry Potter. Harry replies, “Oh him...I mean yes, I am” (76) which speaks of itself how ignorant and aloof he is about and from his own self and his past that made him the strongest offender of Voldemort, the evil Lord without even Harry's knowledge of it. Every information Hogwarts and his inhabitants provide him with about his family and the care he receives resumes his belief that he is not just an object of the bullying of





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Dudley and the disgust of Dursley. All these Harry statements express the rising sense of self-identification of the eleven-year-old boy; a boy moving from his childhood to adolescence Harry actively comes into contact with the world for the first time as his growth at Privet Drive was passive and suppressed. In fact, the revelation of his wizard status is a stimulant to his thoughts, reviving in him the dormant desire to connect with his lost family and the outside world. The freedom given by the magical world provides him with complete opportunity to search for his roots; in this search, ironically enough, even the obstacles and challenges gradually assist him.

Harry's quest for identity is not just a quest for his recognition as an individual, but also as a human being as well as a social being. The fact that his parents died fighting for the right cause contributes greatly to his search for identity as it plays a vital role in shaping his choices that decide a man's true self alone, as Dumbledore believes, "It's our choices, Harry showing what we really are far more than our abilities." (77). The uncanny connection with the Dark Lord, therefore, suffocates his conscience. The special powers he indelibly shares with Voldemort make him uncomfortable with the feeling that he might unconsciously have the same evil force working inside him that Voldemort characterises. It leaves him with a sense of guilt and unrest every time the connection brings misfortune to individuals and especially to his loved ones, and he curses himself for every loss of life.

### Conclusion

Thus, Harry Potter Series presents a large vision of life. There is always the possibility of change and redemption in Rowling's novels. In the end, even Dudley Dursley develops an understanding and positive approach to Harry. Like Dumbledore's belief in finding good in almost everything, Harry himself develops a strange sense of compassion for Draco Malfoy, whom he hated on principle. Harry didn't think Dumbledore would have been killed by Malfoy. For his infatuation with the Dark Arts, he still despised





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Malfoy, but now the tiniest drop of pity mixed with his dislike.' More reconciliations revive the spirit of life as Hogwarts is restored, Voldemort is finished and families are reunited after realising his fault Percy returns home.

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