Chapter II

ABNORMAL BEHAVIOUR OF ROBERT, ANDREW AND RUTH IN BEYOND THE HORIZON

Eugene O'Neill observed the people who failed to listen the voice of their real self. In *Beyond The Horizon* he portrays Robert, Andrew and Ruth who fail to watch their inner conscience as well as rational mind and hence invite trouble for themselves. Due to temporary temptations they ignore their real self. This real self that is layer after layer hidden within. One can’t be careless about the voice of the subconscious mind. After all there is a difference between the conscious mind and the subconscious mind. Quite often the intellect is controlled by the present conscious mind and the result is catastrophe.

A few questions arise here — Does Andy watch himself? Does he not ignore the fact that he belongs to the field? Does Robert watch his real self when he confesses love for Ruth? No. Certainly not. Why does Ruth not peel her intellect while getting married with Robert? After all she has loved Andy for a long time. What inspires her to forget her love for Andy? The readers fail to understand — Why does she ignore her wisdom in the beginning of the
play? Had she moved within, she would not have suffered the whole of her life. After all there was no imposition or compulsion for her to marry Robert in place of Andy. Her will is totally free and she does not take the right decision. It confirms that her will power is weak. It further means that she possesses a weak and wavering mind. But Robert also lacks firm will power and hence possesses weak mind. The father of Robert and Andy feels shocked when the situation takes a turn all of a sudden. How can Robert prove to be a good farmer? How will he learn the skills of farming? So far Robert enjoyed loneliness and preferred to be alone with his books. Yet he fails to decide his goal of life. Actually he is not practical in life and has never enjoyed working on the farm. He looks towards the trees and sky and wants to know — What is beyond the horizon? May be life of adventures will satisfy him! By this time there is one decision of Andy and it comes from his strong will power and mind — it is to work hard on the farm. As a son of the soil he feels attached with the land of his father. He never feels tempted towards the world of dreams as he is a realist at heart. Since his mind is well trained, he is satisfied with the life of a farmer.

Andy feels emotionally hurt when Ruth and Robert decide to get married. How can he feel
satisfied in the presence of his beloved making love to his brother? His higher intellect becomes emotional for some time and he decides to lead a life of adventure. His decision is sudden and frightening to his father. The question is — Who will manage the field if Andy leaves the village? How can the worthy father trust impractical Robert for hard life? Suddenly Andy joins his uncle for sea-voyage and that confirms that he too lacks wisdom. While making the choice he is not perfectly clear in his mind. Has his ego not been hurt by Robert, he would have been a successful farmer. Had he not been proud of himself he would not have suffered during moments of loneliness.

In the poem *The Last Ride Together* Robert Browning asserts that there is always a difference between ambitions and achievements. Everybody works hard to achieve his aim and yet there is gap between hard labour and reward. In *Beyond The Horizon* Robert does not work hard on the farm and the result is tension in the family. Just after one month of marriage Ruth realizes her folly and boldly tells him:

But no! You never own up to that. You think you’re so much better than other folks, with your college education,
where you never learned a thing, and always reading your stupid books instead of working. I s’pose you think I ought to be proud to be your wife — a poor, ignorant thing like me! But I’m not. (97)

Robert is shocked to know the reality about his real self. But it is too late. Yet he continues to survive in the world of dreams. Unfortunately, he makes no serious efforts to succeed as a farmer. The more he fails, the more frustrated Ruth feels. Gap widens between husband and wife as they were not meant for each other. Now Ruth recollects her past and repents for her decision. No good things happen in her life and the field does not give sufficient yield. Yet husband and wife struggle through the mind and fail to reconcile with each other. How can they transcend their mind? How can they improve the situation? Inspite of all these agonies, Robert wants to know — What lies beyond the horizon? How do people live in other continents? As a result he fails to get any solace in life because his mind becomes his greatest enemy. Since Ruth can’t change her attitude towards Robert and field, she suffers immensely. Both of them aspire for freedom.
When Andy returns back from his adventures, he too is sad. Life has not been pleasant these years as he had to experience disgusting events in other countries. The heat of the tropical countries was unbearable for him. The narrow and crowded streets were intolerable to his sensitive mind. As the captain failed to be his supporter, he remained alone on the ship. Like S.T. Coleridge’s ancient mariner, he had nothing else to see except the sea. As he was ignorant of the fundamentals of Hindu philosophy, he failed to enjoy the company of Hindus. Quite often he recollected the time he spent on the field and found peace. As a child gets scared of darkness, he got scared of uncivilized people, rough weather and the lonely sea. The child feels delighted with the arrival of his mother as she brings light for him. But it was not so with Andy. As he was not found of reading books, loneliness proved troublesome on the ship. It is true that he has reached home. Yet he struggles to get peace and joy. But alas! The hostile and sick atmosphere of the family adds to his agony. Psychologically he finds himself lost as he has no emotion of love for old beloved Ruth.

In the beginning of the play the artist described the prejudice of Andy against the married couple. Due to the growing illness of Robert, he forgets his prejudice as well as love. However, he wants that
Robert should survive with the blessings of God. But Robert fails to control his mind till death. He dies as a slave of his obsession for adventure.

Actually Robert and Ruth don’t make serious efforts to seek happiness after marriage. They fail to identify themselves with each other and naturally face a life of differences. Ruth fails to admire Robert’s interest in books as she attaches undue importance to field life. For her, Robert’s passion has no significance and hence it is futile. As Robert asks her to see the world and enjoy a life of adventures, she shows her unwillingness to see the outer life. The life of the village is satisfying for her as she has no broad vision of life. Every adventure is meaningless for her. Even Robert’s passion for studies is mere fuss. She fails to appreciate the joy that he gets from his books. Naturally she invites the agonies of dull life for herself as she fails to adjust in the new environment. Happiness is not natural for the newly married couple. As time passes, they ignore the passions of each other and survive in their own world. Nothing is charming for them and the realities of the wide world have no significance for them. They survive just physically as they have their own mental existence, without any harmony in the family. Their small daughter Mary is the only connecting link.
between them. Actually physical existence and happiness are poles apart in their case. Both of them observe the natural objects and finds that birds are happy. Weather changes and yet the fields look deserted. Trees stand fixed and hopeless in times of storm. Yet their ego does not allow them to change with the changing weather. There is something stupid between them as they fail to enjoy the songs of birds. Their tension reaches the climax when Ruth does not have sympathy for ailing Robert. She does not bother for the survival of her husband as she repents for making a wrong choice. When Andy returns from the voyage, she expects a new future with him. Now she hopes to be reconciled with him. But alas! Andy has lost all interest in his past. How can he survive in his past? Why did she betray him for Robert? He has no interest in her misery though he hopes for the survival of his brother. Here Robert does not want to discuss his illness with friends and family members as he has prepared himself for the next journey. There must be something beyond the field. He hopes — There is something beyond the ocean and the horizon. Let the windows be open so that he may look towards the horizon for future. He hopes to see something new even after death. He asks himself — Why to be miserable about this death? Why to cure sickness? What is new in life to survive for? Will Ruth ever change for the better? Will he be able to prove his skills as a farmer? What is the
meaning of this purposeless life? His happiness dissolves with his hopes. His anxiety ends with his life. He has lost interest in the questions of hope, life, prosperity, harmony, delight, beauty, love etc. Death proves to be a bitter truth for him as there is no desire for survival in his heart. Everyday he moves farther from nature and happiness and ultimately dies a tragic death.

Due to the growth of new civilization and technical skills, people have lust for material things and hence remain tense. These days sons are not ready to adjust with their parents. Due to their greed they often migrate to other countries so as to satisfy their lust for money. Generally Asians and Africans migrate to Europe for new technical knowledge and technical jobs. Robert W. Lundin mentions various shades of conflicts in Principles of Psychopathology. Due to the faith of artists in Emile Zola’s naturalism, they do not attach emphasis to conflict between man and fate and man and God as the new socio-economic conflicts have become very important cause of tension in society. People often fail to take the proper decision due to confusion between opposite social forces. These days women often suffer due to cruel husband. Quite often the innocent prisoners suffer terribly and nobody is prepared to give them job. Ultimately they commit
suicide due to helplessness. At times there is no harmony between husband and wife and the conflict between the two becomes the cause of mental agony. It is commonly seen that the Haves fail to fulfil the demands of Have-Nots. The 20th century artists often paint racial conflicts in their tragedies. The situation becomes grim and highly pathetic when brothers fail to adjust with each other. Eugene O'Neill paints this conflict in his successful tragedy in Beyond The Horizon. Here the conflict is clear between reality and dream. Brothers suffer due to their contradictory ambitions and lead a frustrated life. The artist observed that many travellers often returned home with empty hands and pitiable memories. They start their journey for the unknown lands and hope to discover things unknown. Like Ulysses, they wish to bring new knowledge with them. Once Eugene O'Neill heard the story from an ordinary Norwegian named Buenos Aires who felt frustrated due to his dull life on the sea. During 20 years he sees only water and the sky every time. He tells O'Neill that he has been impractical to leave his work as a farmer. Had he lived on his farm, he would have been a happy fellow. O'Neill believes — Who can check the ways of God? May be he might have suffered more, if he had stayed at home. His sea voyage may not be the cause of his restlessness and frustration. Many moral questions are involved
in life. Who can dare to forget the ‘romance of sex’? Eugene O’Neill accepts:

...But I realized at once, he never would have stayed ... It amused him to pretend he craved the farm. He was too harmonious a creature of the God of things as they are ... And from that point I started to think of a more intellectual, civilized type from the stand point of the above-mentioned God a man who would have my Norwegians’ in-born craving for the seas’s unrest, only in him it would be conscious, too conscious, intellectually diluted into vague intangible under lust. His powers of resistance, both moral and physical, would also probably be corresponding watered. He would throw away his instinctive dream and accept the thralldom of the farm for why, for almost any nice little poetical craving — the romance of sex, say. (66)

Like Robert Mayo, many young people look towards the horizon and feels interested in the unknown world. In *Odd To A Gracian Urn* John Keats
aptly said — 'Heard melodies are sweet and those unheard are sweeter.' Lovers of adventure want to know — What is beyond the mountains? What is the reality of life? What lies outside home? Like Columbus and Vasco de Gama, they see various countries of the world and form their impressions about people. Robert wants to start his sea journey for three years to satisfy the inner urge of his heart. But Andrew, the son of the soil, enjoys working on the farm and feels satisfied with the manual work. So far Andrew does not have interest in world affairs and his father is pleased with his conduct and work. Unfortunately his brother's beloved Ruth expresses her love for him and ignores Andrew. This is how the two brothers develop hatred for each other.

It is not unusual to see conflicts between the ideologies of two sects, and organizations. Conflicts may arise between husband and wife, father and son, and teacher and the taught on major and minor issues. They may begin hating brothers and sisters and also members of an organization.

Ironically Robert has never enjoyed farming so far and hopes to find his centre in the external world. When the situation takes a turn he prepares himself to find his identity in the fields. Actually the artist deals with the tragedy of misfits. Yet the
merit of this play has been admired. Eugene O'Neill can be blamed for lack of knowledge of human heart and mind. Like Shakespeare, he deals with the psychology of people he had met. Eugene O'Neill shows his interest in this incident and writes to his friend Barrett H. Clark:

You remember when you read Beyond, you remarked about its being an interesting technical experiment. Why it is, I wonder that not one other critic has given me credit for a deliberate departure in form in search of a greater flexibility? They have all accused me of bungling through ignorance — whereas, if I had wanted to, I could have laid the whole play in the farm interior, and made it tight as a drum a lot Pinero. Then too I should imagine the symbolism I intimated to convey by the alternating scenes would be apparent even from a glance at the programme. It rather irks my professional pride, you see, to be accused of ignorance of conventional everyday technique. (67)
It is true that Andrew is prepared to lead the life of adventures on the sea. He tries to forget his love for Ruth. So far he never thinks of the outside world as farm is a reality for him. As Ruth changes her mind Andrew joins his uncle and starts his journey. In lonely moments he recollects the time he has spent with her. He never expected to cross the open road like this. Physically he is free from the boundaries of the farm and not mentally. Quite often he suffers from sea-sickness and his present is totally different from his past. Many artists like Arthur Miller, Vladimir Nabokov, Satre etc. point out the relation between past and present. As Andrew fails to enjoy adventures with strangers he becomes a victim of gloomy forces. Life becomes unbearable and purposeless to him. Ugliness of Asia appears disgusting to his senses. He fails to explain the meaning of his life. The social and economic values of the people of the East fail to console him. He has no interest in the questions of God, soul, culture, society and journey. The values of Hinduism are beyond his comprehension. He has never expected to experience all such events. He never bothers to answer questions such as — What is the relation between spirit and matter? How to unite finite and infinite? How to explain working of Nature? Does God reveal Himself through the objects of Nature? Who creates birds and animals? What is transcendentalism? Basically he remains a pessimist.
Since he seeks nothing his journey remains dull. Just he thinks of present needs and not self-illumination. Just he leads a life of illusion for nearly four years. The artist is conscious of the gap between two brothers. Adler aptly says — If two persons seek the same purpose, their methods are always different. Generally they adopt different means to achieve their goal. One person may succeed wonderfully well and the other may fail badly. The same happens in his tragedy.

Similarly Robert fails to identify himself with the soil. Generally he remains a detached person. As a human being he invites miseries for himself, Ruth and parents. His father knows well that he has no zeal for manual work. Quite often he survives in the world of dreams. His whole life proves to be a waste land as he achieves nothing till death. The artist creates the feelings of pity and fear for Ruth in the heart of readers. Due to her emotional step she has to adjust with a worthless fellow. Naturally the fields become deserted and unwatered. Robert fails to understand the concept of home and hence Ruth feels disillusioned. *The Waste Land* describes the ugliness of life as people fail to realize the noble aims:
The time is now propitious, as he guesses.
The meal is ended, she is bored and tired,
Endeavours to engage her in caresses
Which still are unreproved, if undesired.
Flushed and decided, he assaults at once;
His vanity requires no defence;
His vanity requires no response,
And makes a welcome of indifference ...
She turns and looks a moment in the glass,
Hardly aware of her departed lover;
Her brain allows one half-formed thought to pass:
‘Well now that’s done: and I’m glad it’s over’.
When lovely woman stoops to folly and
Paces about her room again, alone,
She smoothes her hair with automatic hand
And puts a record on the gramophone.

(235-255)

Robert's ambition for adventure vanishes as he does not want to cross the open road now. Every family affair is troublesome for him. His wife feels disgusted with him and fails to tolerate the family chaos. She bitterly tells him:

I hate the sight of you, oh, if I'd only known! If I hadn't been such a fool to listen to your cheap, silly, poetry talk that you learned out of books! If I could have seen — how you were in your true self — like you are now — I'd have killed myself before I'd have married you! I was sorry for it before we'd been together a month, I knew — what you were really like — when it was too late. (98)

Both of them live just for the sake of their small daughter as life is not charming for them at all. They fail to change the course of life. Ruth and Robert fail to accept that they can't change their previous decision. Unfortunately he does not dedicate himself to the field. Had he followed the
suggestions of his father, things would have improved. Had Ruth compromised with the situation, the results would not have been serious. Both of them fail to reconcile with each other and consequently feel tense. They fail to forget the past. They wonder if they will ever get any joy in life. Robert and Ruth feel that they have created problems for themselves. But then, everybody faces one or the other problem. He tries to solve the riddle of life and generally succeeds. The problem with Robert is that he never makes serious efforts to succeed as a farmer. Yet he remains absorbed in his books as dreams are important for him. Life is never easy for anyone. Much depends how one handles the situation. Problems become serious when people fail to struggle against them. Why to feel stress about problems without doing anything to solve them? Robert and Ruth never plan jointly for bright future. Ruth fails to make healthy suggestions for the working conditions of Robert. As she fails to be his inspiring life-partner, he is doomed.

Robert invites trouble for himself and other members of family. Arthur Miller and Barbara Gulb remark:
Robert makes the mistake of declaring his love for Ruth and staying with her on the farm, instead of following the sea as he had planned. Thus by winning he loses ... Andrew who having lost Ruth, takes Robert’s place as a sailor. But it was pure art that enabled O’Neill to alter an — unresolved personal situation into one in which the poet wins the girl while losing his soul and the adventurer grows materialistic in the face of poetic experience he cannot appreciate. (335)

Andrew returns home as a miserable and sad person and describes his miseries before the members of the family. He fails to enjoy the external life. Often he recollects the time he has spent on the farm. In Dockery And Son Philip Larkin describes the misery of such persons:

... To have no son, no wife,
No house or land still seemed quite natural.
Only numbers registered the shock
Of finding out how much had gone to life,
How widely from the others, Dockery, now
Only nineteen, he must have taken stock
Of what he wanted, and been capable
Of ... No, that’s not the difference rather how
Convinced he was he should be added to! —
Why did he think adding meant increase?
To me it was dilution. Where do these
Innate assumptions come from? (28-42)

In the poem Two Tramps in Mud Time Robert Frost unites vocation and avocation and need and love. As he leads life of self-control, he enjoys cutting the wood for pleasure on a rainy day. Sometimes the winds are chilly and sometimes warm and yet he continues to cut the wood with the hope to enjoy warmth from the blocks in winter season. But Robert fails to enjoy his vocation. Had he enjoyed the job of a farmer he would have been a happy person:
He does not know that 'love and need are one' and 'And the work is play for mortal stakes.' (50-51)

Towards the end of life Robert feels sad and confused as he has done nothing for his lovely daughter. At times he thinks of the future of his widow. Since she has been loved by Andrew, he requests him to accept her as his wife. She has proved false to him in the past and hence he fails to trust her anymore. So far Robert has been a faithless and hopeless person. His father has observed that Robert is a worthless person. Andrew observes the deserted field and feels frustrated. His brother failed to look after the farm properly. His father knew that the farm needed an active person like Andrew. Still Robert has a desire to see the unknown. So far his dreams give him nothing. He feels defeated as a farmer. Andrew is dull and sad. Due to lack of wisdom he remains a disappointed fellow. Like Robert, Andrew also fails to give practical shape to his vision. So, the brothers fail to realize their real-self and fail to perform noble deeds in life. There is a regular pull between 'reality and idealism' and also between the 'earthly and spiritual'. Here the artist describes the conflict between love and hate and also between hope and despair.
Eugene O’Neill has several questions in his mind while writing *Long Day’s Journey into Night* such as — Is James Tyrone selfish in his approach towards wife and sons? How does a father feel ‘isolated and lost in his family’? How is he lost in the fog? Does this fog wither away with his efforts? Why does Mary fail to love her husband? Does he save money against a rainy day? Why does Mary feel depressed though she is the mother of two sons? Can James Tyrone be blamed for all the economic hardships of the family? Why does she not leave him as he is too bad for her? Why does everybody feel hurt in the family? Why do the sons fail to love their father? Is James a villain to be hated bitterly?

The artist describes the widening gap between James and Mary as they fail to come out of mental darkness and fog. Most of the times they are victims of confusion and disagreement. This is the reason that their family has no normal and moral modals before them. The spectators and readers fail to understand — Why do the members of family feel prejudiced against James Tyrone? There is no feeling of satisfaction here as they don’t know the meaning of self-illumination. Due to irrational approach to life they fail to accept that James is a human being with his own ambitions and responsibilities of work.
In this tragedy Eugene O’Neill becomes a little personal as he has his family in his mind. Like James Tyrone, Eugene O’Neill’s father shifted to many houses and wanted to live in a decent house with his family members. His father felt heart-broken as he left New York for France. He was tense when he lived in Georgia and California. Due to particular situation he felt compelled to shift to New York and found himself miserable. Every time Eugene O’Neill’s mother adjusted with the feelings of loss and despair. Life was not pleasant in Massachusetts also. His father got three houses built and yet failed to provide peace of mind to his wife. Eugene O’Neill’s mother and father failed to enjoy the pleasures of a decent home. It was frustrating for her to purview in a dirty home. The search for home has been presented in this tragedy. In Long Day’s Journey into Night Eugene’ O’Neill is highly conscious of man’s relation with his world. He refers to a small book case that contains lofty works of Stendhal, Zola, Nietzsche, Schopenhauer, Ibsen, Strindberg, A.C. Swinburne, Rossetti, Baudelaire, Wilde, Ernest Dowson, Rudyard Kipling, Sophocles, Euripides etc.

The members of James family have a lot of unfulfilled desires. Due to growth of capitalism, Americans aspired to possess a lot of material things. The middle class people had the ambition to
maintain high standard of living. People like James were not prepared to play the price for costly carpets, imported furniture and other domestic items. As a result his wife and sons blamed him for his miserliness.

Like Abbie, Mary Tyrone leads a tense life due to her obsession for decent home. Inspite of his hard work James Tyrone fails in life because his wife and sons are not pleased with his conduct. Generally women wish to live in a decent house so as to feel comfortable. Her sons have the same obsession for reputed life though they don’t make efforts to raise the standard of home with their own efforts.

James Tyrone always works hard to make money. Yet he survives in the world of illusions and often his energies go waste. Other actors fail to understand his complex nature. At times he visits the brothers and yet fails to feel real love there. Quite often he drinks wine excessively to forget himself. He is never in a hurry to meet Mary and sons. Wide gap exists between wife and husband and Mary fails to adjust with him on so many occasions.

Tyrone and Mary Tyrone fail to escape the hard realities of life. Even Jamie and Edmund feel
frustrated in life and blame their father for not managing physical comforts for the family. The artist creates feelings of pity and fear for Mary Tyrone in the hearts of people. Actually James Tyrone fails to get inward peace in his life. How can he boast of his achievements on the stage? His ideals of life are not accepted by family members. The result is that he is a victim of the forces of evil and destruction. The artist asks — What is wrong with the psychology of husband and father? His conduct is not absurd like that of Cabot. Throughout his life he survives in the world of love-hate relationship. But he does not feel guilty at heart and of course, he is often a victim of futility and despair. Due to the rough behaviour of sons and wife James becomes a stranger for them. Nobody makes sincere efforts to improve the matters with a positive approach. In a sad mood Mary remarks:

Oh, I'm so sick and tired of pretending this is a home! You want to help me ... You don't know how to act in a home! You don't really want one! ... never since the day we were married! You should have remained a bachelor and lived in second-rate hotels and entertained your friends in bar-rooms!

(58)
Once Eugene' O'Neill enjoyed reading A.C. Swinburne's poem *Before The Beginning of Years*. He accepted the role of time that brings grief in life. Pleasure is often mixed with pain. Flowers fade soon Love hardly survives the whole life. A.C. Swinburne said:

*Before the beginning of years*
*There came to the making of man*
*Time, with a gift of tears;*
*Grief, with a glass that ram;*
*Pleasures, with pain for heaven;*
*Summer, with flower that fell;*
*Remembrance fallen from heaven;*
*And madness risen from hell;*
*Strength without hands to smite;*
*Love that endures for a breath;*
*Night, the shadow of light,*
*And life the shadow of death. (1-12)*

Similarly time brings a lot of tears to the members of Tyrone family. Mary feels that life is short-lived and proves to be mere shadow of death. A.C. Swinburne's *A Leave Taking Confirms* the futility of love. The lovers pretend love rather than
possess it. Someone may sing of eternal love though it may not prove to be so:

Let us go hence, my songs; she will not hear.
Let us go hence together without fear;
Keep silence now, for singing-time is over,
And over all things and all things dear.
She loves nor you nor me as all we love her.
Yes, though we sang as angels in her ear.
She would not hear. (1-7)

Mary fails to be a source of inspiration for James as he has no eager desire to please her at all. His success on the stage does not please her much. In the beginning of his married life they stay in dirty hotels. She fails to forgive his nonsense. Whenever she thinks of the past, she finds herself in fog. She felt herself lonely among the strange and unknown people. Whenever he returned drunk, she lost her patience. He failed to understand the cause of her lonely moments. Consequently she laments her fate. Still she struggles in her inner mind. Her desires prove to be burden for her. The irony is that James is not prepared to pay heed to them. Due to husband she has lost her vigour, zeal and real self:
None of us can help the things life has done to us. They’re done before you realize it, and once they’re done they make you do other things until at last everything comes between you and what you’d like to be, and you’ve lost your true self forever. (53)

Loneliness is the source of frustration for Mary. While living in dirty hotels she has no friends to share her thoughts. Quite often she thinks of her past when she wanted to be a nun. The questions are — How to enjoy the life of bars? How to wait for long hours for the arrival of James? How can she forget that the unqualified doctors regularly gave her morphine to reduce her pain? Will this process continue in the family as the qualified doctors prove to be costly? How does James fail to pay for proper medicines and qualified doctors? After all time leaves its own impressions upon her. Life changes as the day turns into night. And then the concept of fog! In *Desire Under The Elms* Eugene O’Neill refers to the field, stones, animals, sun, nature and other aspects of Nature. However, the artists rarely have correct and perfect knowledge of geographical and historical facts as Edward said says:
Yet there is no use in pretending that all we know about time and space, or rather history and geography, is more than anything else imaginative. There are such things as positive history and positive geography which in Europe and the United States have impressive achievements to point too. Scholars now do know more about the world, its past and present, than they did, for example, in Gibbon’s time. Yet this is not to say that they know all there is to know, nor, more important, is it to say that what they know has effectively dispelled the imaginative geographical and historical knowledge I have been considering. (55)

Mary is not conscious of regular moral degeneration in James Tyrone. Many popular actors know well that James Tyrone is well acquainted with the skills of theatre. Unfortunately he sells his ideals for cheap profits. At times he is a victim of the sense of insecurity and ultimately loses the love of his wife and sons. He spends a lot of dollars on useless financial schemes so as to become prosperous. He fails to please his wife and sons as
decent home is beyond his purchasing power. She fails to adjust with him:

And Mr. Tyrone is never worried about anything, except money and property and the fear he’ll end his days in poverty. I mean, deeply worried. Because he cannot really understand anything else. (87)

But he has no mind to become sociable and hence remains lonely. However, he sacrifices his whole life for work. Yet he remains a depressed fellow. His wife Mary has no so soft corner for him.

He does not want to face the poverty that he has experienced in his childhood. His childhood is not dead for him. According to Adler, many people remain aggressive while working hard for their aims. They seek security, promotion and joy with work. But everybody differs from other as he adopts unique ways for progress. Adler says:

It is the most general human striving, an intrinsic necessity of life itself. It is at the root of all solutions of life’s problems and is manifested in the way
in which we meet these problems. All our functions follow its direction. ... Whatever premises all our philosophers and psychologists dream of — self-preservation, pleasure principle, equalization — all these are but vague representations, attempts to express the great upward drive. The upward drive, which stems from feeling of inferiority, is the cause of human culture and progress.

(Qtd. in Benjamin Wolman 289)

Due to isolation she laments:

There is no-where I could go. Who would I go to see? I have no friends.

(72)

She fails to understand what to do now. Her uncertainty is responsible for her abnormal behaviour. S.K. Mangal confirms:

Many times conflicts in the form of what to do or what not to do, out of the given choices or alternatives, become sources of frustrations and
stresses that ultimately lead to the development of abnormality and behaviour disorders. The central idea behind any conflict — the choice to make — is the inability to determine what is good or bad, desirable or undesirable. Sometimes the conflicting situations are loaded with extreme anxiety, feeling of threat insecurity and indefiniteness. Under such stresses one is likely to fall victim to abnormalities or mental disorders. (84)

Often she recollects the night of her honeymoon when she found herself all alone in the hotel room. She felt scared as there was none to share her agony. Now her tension reaches its climax and she offers prayers to God for security. Whenever his friends carried him dead drunk to the room, she feels disgusted. As this happens many times she feels disgusted with her married life.

Edmund blames his father for the mental agonies of his mother. He wants to know — What has he done so far to please her? Even the summer house appears desolate to all of them. It is lonely and secluded. It is usual for James to return to the hotel
room when the doors of the bars are closed. The result is that Mary Tyrone fails to get-rid of her depression and mental sickness.

Eugene O’Neill is conscious of the fact that qualified doctors were rare in small towns. Their fee-structure was unchecked by the government of U.S.A. Secondly, the costs of good medicines were rising regularly. Unfortunately the government failed to provide decent facilities in the public sector hospitals. Good doctors were running their private nursing homes and ordinary people failed to meet the expenses there. As a result the ordinary and middle class Americans consulted the government doctors and often invited new diseases there. The ordinary quacks did not have proper knowledge of the disease and right medicine was never prescribed. Her second child died due to lack of medical aid in time. When she was pregnant, the doctor gave her Morphine as he did not know the proper medicine. Now she is habitual of taking drugs to kill her pain. Due to frustration she hates doctors. Here Eugene O’Neill is a realist and the people feel pity for Mary and her children. They feel fear also lest it should happen with them. She feels — If her husband sells himself for money he is bound to be in hell one day. When
she became conscious of the folly of the doctor, she attempted to commit suicide. Both the brothers support the mother and hate the father for his act of negligence. The artist indirectly suggests that qualified doctors should be appointed in the government hospitals also. Let the patients get proper medicines in time.

When Edmund is a patient of consumption, qualified doctors are not suggested for him. The son feels ignored due to the miserly nature of his father. It appears that James Tyrone is not in a mood to spend money on medicines. Ironically Edmund is not conscious of the hard realities of life. The son is worried as he is going to be sent to an ordinary state-sanitarium. He does not want to invite death for himself. Good doctors are not supposed to attend him in a state-sanitarium. It means that he is going to die as an orphan. Now his brother Jamie supports him and they regard James 'bastard'. How can a loving father trust unqualified doctors? The conflict between father and sons is apparent here. Douglas and Holland opine:

Conflict means a painful emotional state which results from a tension
between opposed and contradictory wishes. (42)

Thus, Robert, Andrew and Ruth are victims of temporary temptations. The artist reveals the difference between conscious mind and subconscious mind. In Long Day's Journey into Night he asserts that people attach excessive importance to a very decent home and consequently suffer. They fail to follow the concept of detachment that the artist accepted in personal life. In these tragedies he answers the question — How to live? He asks people to come out of fog and face the realities of life with a pragmatic approach.
WORKS CITED


