

SYLVIA PLATH: A “GODDESS” WHO MOURNS HER DEAD FATHER

ArjeteLuani

University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi”, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Department of American and English Studies, Albania. Email: arjetaluani@live.com

Abstract

This article focuses on the peculiarity of Sylvia Plath relationship with her father. This relationship is viewed in terms of a “Goddess” that mourns her father: a relationship that is due to Electra complex that characterizes not only the speaker of the poems, but also the writer when she was little. However, why is given such importance to her relationship with her father? Why a “Goddess”? She went through the realm of pain, disillusion, and desolation due to her father as he died when she was eight, leaving her in pain, heartbroken and “betrayed”. She was betrayed because she was left alone without his love. This relationship is best highlighted, by contrasting it with the mythological figures as even her father belongs to the distant past. By taking a comparative approach, this relationship is viewed in different dimensions and the evidences are seen in her earlier work *The Colossus and the Other Poems* and later in *Ariel*. These two volumes of poetry provide evidence how the intensity of this relationship has gradually changed from a very mythical relationship in which the speaker mourns her dead father, into a very aggressive one in which she attributes her father lots of traits none of which has to do with the fondness she once had. Regarding the glorification of her father in the first volume, a series of mythological figures explain her mourning, her pain, and her desolation after she lost him when she was eight. There are deities and mythological figures such as the White Goddess, Electra, Clytemnestra, Agamemnon, Dionysus, Persephone, Iphigenia, Colossus, Meanad, Osiris, etc. In conclusion, Sylvia Plath’s relationship with her father is to be analysed in different spectres. Different aspects such as her isolation or the feeling of loneliness that accompanied her for thirty years and which became evident when she got divorced from her husband. She had strong feelings of isolation and distress that exploded in notes of anger and revolt not only towards her father, but also towards her husband and the patriarchal society.

Keywords: *electra complex, deities, mourning, isolation, father*