

Exploring the Affinity beyond Race in W.BRUCE CAMERON'S *A DOG'S JOURNEY*

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Abstract- Literature opens up the world to teach or display truth and beauty. It is the written information produced by the writers who try to expose their personal (or) universal concepts to the readers. It is believed that Dogs can understand humans' feelings far better than other pets. While compared to other animals, dogs play the most important role in human life. Psychology says that dogs' love helps humans come out of all their feelings of loneliness. It has been vividly exemplified in the novel *A DOG'S JOURNEY* by Bruce Cameron. This article explains the deep attachment between dogs and Humans. He is one of the most important contemporary writers in American literature. In this novel, he explores the love between humans and dogs. Hence, the present study brings a line light into the unrequired love between humans and dogs with reference to Cameron's *A DOG'S JOURNEY*.

Indexed Terms- Affection, Animal-Human bond, Attachment, Behavior, Love, Reincarnation

I. INTRODUCTION

Bruce Cameron is an American author who is famous for representing dog's love in his works. He used some of the important themes in his novel including Adventure, Fantasy, and Comedy. The major novels written by the author are *A Dogs Purpose*, *A Dogs Promise*, *A Dog Perfect Christmas*, and et.al. The novel *A DOG'S JOURNEY* reveals the relationship between a girl and a dog. In this novel, the dog reincarnates several times to find and fulfill her desires. It considers this task as a purpose throughout its life. The attachment between the dog and the girl is vividly discussed in this paper. This paper also deals with the bonding which man and dog holds.

The intense relationship between the main character and the dog can be witnessed through various incidents quoted by the author. These instances attract the mind of Cynophile.

Dog shares time, shelter, and most importantly Love and Companionship with humans. In *A DOG'S JOURNEY*, Buddy shares everything including his life with his owner. The man named Ethan had an old black dog that is Buddy. Ethan was his past owner. The dog has to take care of Ethan's family. Dog's duty is to take care of Ethan's granddaughter Clarity. Buddy saves Clarity whenever she is in trouble but Gloria misunderstands the dog.

It is the nature of dogs to help Humans but at the same time, it is human nature to misunderstand the dog. Dogs are used in a variety of situations today that take advantage of their responsiveness to human guidance, such as assisting humans with disabilities, moving livestock, and doing security work. This attachment has a deep and sensitive relationship between two individuals.

Gloria does not like dogs and she tries to detach her kid from the dog. Buddy protects the girl from the horse yet again Gloria blames buddy, but Hannah knows that the dog helps the little girl. Gloria blames their buddy for everything and she starts scolding Clarity when she shows him affection. Buddy has been separated from clarity and its purpose is to find his girl and fulfill her duties. After some days, Buddy dies and thought that he will be reborn and he hopes that there will be a dog for her because she needs one.

Buddy doesn't fulfil his duty. So, he again reincarnates as a dog and he starts to fulfill his purpose. He reincarnates as a dog four times, till he has achieved his purpose. Sometimes a reincarnated

animal will look the same as its previous life, and sometimes not. But, in this novel *A Dogs Journey* the dog remembers his past life and purpose and he tries to fulfill his duty. Once the dog has reincarnated, he searches for his girl and tries to fulfill his duty. This reborn shows the attachment towards humans and dogs. Whatever the situation happens the attachment between the girl and the dog will never get ended.

This is a deep sensational bond between two individuals. The dog will understand every moment of human behavior. It can observe the human's stress, happiness, and emotion and it helps humans to come out of it. Humans have emotional and psychological benefits from having interactions with dogs. Dogs can understand everything by human behavior; it is the inborn nature of canines. There is some evidence of interaction between canine and human attachment. Dogs are easily developing attachments between their owners or handlers. A healthy human-dog relationship has emotional advantages that help both dyad members. Humans are the essence of existence for dogs. Humans appear to be social companions in addition to being a source of food. Through training and observing, dogs can understand humans' words. If someone praises their owners it gets enthusiastic and reacts to it.

Later I stood guard while Hannah and Clarity played a new game. Hannah would carry Clarity to the top of the stairs and then watch while clarity turned around and went down the stairs in a backward crawl. Usually, Hannah would say "Good girl," and I would wag my tail. When Clarity got to the bottom step I would lick her in the face and she would giggle; then she would raise her arm to Hannah. "Mo," she would beg. "Mo, Gramma. Mo." When she said this Hannah would lift her and kiss her and then take her to the top of the stairs to do it again.(Cameron 13)

These kinds of activities and understandings show the attachment between two individuals. Dogs can cooperate in many ways, as they can guide blind people, rescue people, and are used for police training. Guide dogs are also called assistance dogs which are trained to help disabled people. Dogs can understand and react to human gestures. Owners use

extreme gesturing during teaching and the dogs respond to the owners' commands. The dogs take more time to develop into guide dogs and they are trained in various environments until a dog can be attached to a new companion. Guide dogs truly are the eyes of their owners in helping them see the world independently. Dogs play the most important role in disabled people's life. Here, it shows the attachment between two individuals.

Human characteristics can influence dogs' behavior by changing their emotions. Human behavior may contribute to more positive expectations in a dog's life and character. Owners' attitudes have been connected to dogs' behavior and that makes the dogs get more attached to the human.

Every second Dog proves that it is a good companion for humans and it fulfils its purpose. "I went up to Clarity and touched my nose to her to let her know that if she wanted to pet something there was nothing better than a dog"(Cameron 22). Here, the dog shows an attachment to the girl.

When a dog meets a human for the first time, it thoroughly watches the new companion before deciding what to do. This demonstrates their adaptability and intellect. Once the dogs feel comfortable with their owner, they will react to it. They show their love toward the owner and adapt to it. Dog and human attachment can be developed by certain methods. For example, regular exercise or regular training makes the dog get attached to Humans. Dogs show love toward humans until their life ends. If it's the loss of their owners, dogs may try to figure out where that person has gone.

Ethan's smell had slowly left the farm, but I still felt his presence in some places. Sometimes I would go and stand in his bedroom and it would seem as if he were right there, sleeping, or sitting in his chair and watching me. I took comfort from the feeling. (Cameron 31)

A dog would do anything to please its owner once it joins a human family since it views them as the pack leader. Dogs are known to be devoted to their owners in several ways, including by following them about, guarding them, and showing excitement when their owners return home. Dogs are extremely perceptive

to their owners' emotions and can frequently tell when they are angry or distressed. They might provide consolation and assistance in such situations. The dog can understand Human feelings and it tries to bring people out of their stress.

She made a ragged sound and then knelt in front of the water bowl and vomited. I paced behind her, distressed because I could feel her pain and upset. I could smell the sweet scent from the treats she'd eaten earlier, and then she pulled the handle and the smell went away with a whoosh. I wagged my tail as hard as I could, trying to climb on her and lick her, and after a while, it seemed to do some good, though she was still a little upset. (Cameron 72)

A behavioral study says that the dog and Human relationship resembles the bond between a mother and a child but it remains unclear. Dogs depend on Human care, and at the same time, Dogs are so special when compared to other pets. The dog can understand every bit of human behavior. It can make people happy and that happiness makes people come out of their depression.

CONCLUSION

This article brings out the attachment between two individual souls. Though some people are very rude towards their pet animals in return they give their love to their owner. Dogs have the special skills to understand and interact with Humans. Attachments between Dogs and Humans are intense, selective, and vary in quality. Some researchers suggest that in animal-human interactions, Dogs have a beneficial effect on Human health and well-being. Affinity plays a motivational role in Dogs' behavior and shapes the Dogs' attitudes and interaction with Humans. The relationship between dogs and humans shows the positive attachment between two individuals. Humans should build trust with dogs to make them good companions.

In the fourth reincarnation, Dog reincarnated as Toby. Toby realizes that his purpose in life is to love humans and finally he has fulfilled his duty and purpose as a dog. Finally, conclude the affinity between these two souls is proven through various

efforts done by the dog. To fulfill his duty the dog reincarnated and protected the girl. In this selfish world, this pure relationship amuses our minds.

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