

Self-Revelation in Mitch Albom's *THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN*

SHERLIN SHARON K¹, DR. R. VITHYA PRABHA², DR. S. SUDHA³

¹ Department of English, Dr. N.G.P Arts and Science College (Autonomous), Coimbatore.

² Professor and Head, Department of English, Dr. N.G.P Arts and Science College, Coimbatore.

³ Associate Professor, Department of English, Dr. N.G.P Arts and Science College, Coimbatore.

Abstract- *Self-revelation acts as the primary goal of all human actions and this reflects in the life of Eddie the protagonist of the novel The Five People You Meet in Heaven, written by American novelist Mitch Albom. This Article deals with Eddie's ignorance of Life and its chaotic impact on the life of others. Self-revelation has become very popular in the Western world. Its popularity is boosted by psychoanalysis, human psychology, a growing interest in Eastern religions, and the rise of Western eroticism. Eddie experiences self-revelation after his death by having a life-changing inquiry with the five people who he meets in heaven. All of the five leading characters, seem to live separate lives of their own, however, they all seem to be partially connected to Eddie. This article aims to explore and expound on the self-revelation experienced by Eddie and the posthumous life lessons he learns.*

Indexed Terms- *Eternity, Philosophy, Peace, Sacrifice, Self-Realization.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Self-realization is an expression used in western psychology, philosophy, and spirituality, as well as in Hindustan faiths. Psychoanalysis, humanistic psychology, improved awareness of Eastern faiths, and it gains popularity in Western esotericism. Mitchell David Albom, an American novelist, is best known for his motivational novels, and for his inspiring works. *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* indicates, philosophical connection between a single person's freedom and choice. It is the belief that, despite living in a materialist human world, mankind attempts to define its own life with purpose. The novel describes the life of Eddie on earth, who is 83 years

old, meet with a tragic accident while attempting to save a young child falling from amusement park ride.

Then everything was silent.
Where is Then he was under water.
Where is my worry?
Where is my pain? (24).

Eddie's worldly life is narrated by the five person he meets in heaven after his death. All of these five individual, The Blue Man, The Captain, Ruby Pier, Marguerite, Tala whether they are personal friends or complete strangers of Eddie, they will make him realize the hidden connections of his earthly life. As the story progresses the response Eddie receives a vision of eternity, and self-realization through the most unexpected people. Eddie visits Heaven after death and he meets The Blue Man, from Ruby Pier. Eddie is informed by the Blue Man that he will meet five significant people in heaven who will teach him valuable life lessons. The Blue Man recalls the tragic day of the accident while Eddie was looking for a thrown baseball. However, The Blue Man, considers his death as a sacrifice and helps Eddie to live. Eddie realizes, all humans are interconnected, any individual actions can cause someone else to suffer.

Eddie could not see faces, only the backs of hats and dresses and suit coats. "My funeral," the Blue Man said. "Look At the mourners, some did not even know me well, yet they came. Why? Did you ever wonder? Why people gather when others die? Why people feel they should? (50).

During World War II, Eddie a veteran soldier, attempts to save a young girl stuck in a house that is on fire, before Eddie could save the girl, he get shot on his leg and faints on the battle ground. All his life he is angry with the person who shot him. He didn't

realize that the captain shot him just to save Eddie's life, while he tries to save Eddie unfortunately, he lost his life. After Eddie gets to know the truth, sadness and guilt rushes into his body. The captain sacrifice may seem selfless but that make his existence valuable. Eddie realizes that sacrifice make an impact in lives of other people.

"Captain?" he whispered. "Is that you?"
"I'm dead," he said.
"You got that much right."
"And you're dead."
"Got that right, too."
"And you're . . . my second person?" (64).

Eddie's father has some form of affection for his son even though he didn't reveal it and treats him badly throughout his life. Eddie's rage makes him unable to realize that anger is an intoxicant that destroys you from within. When Eddie's father passed away, Ruby realizes that she has a connection with Eddie. Eddie's sudden rage seems to be thoughtless for Ruby. Ruby's revelation proves that love is much stronger than anger. After the revelation, Eddie realizes that anger leads to aimless destination and he realizes the value of forgiveness.

"Forgive, Edward. Forgive. "Do you remember the lightness you felt when you first arrived in heaven?" Eddie did. Where is my pain? . . . She touched his hand. "You need to forgive your father." . . . "When he died," Eddie said, "he took part of me with him. I was stuck after that." Ruby shook her head. "Your father is not the reason you never left the pier" (150).

After losing his wife Marguerite, Eddie feels lonely on Earth. Yet, Eddie encounters her in heaven, as a fourth person who she forces him to realize true love has no boundaries. She says, even after her death, she is waiting for him in heaven to reunite with him in after life, this shows how much her love is true and loyal. Eddie realizes that love may seem in a different form but it always protects the memories of the one left other half.

"find" love, as if it were an object hidden by a rock. But love takes many forms, and it is never the same for any man and woman". What

people find then is a certain love.... a grateful love, a deep but quiet love, one that knew, above all else, was irreplaceable" (164-165).

Tala the little girl tells Eddie that God knows that Eddie will feel guilty when he realizes his failure to save Tala from the burning house in the war, this in turn becomes the core reason for God to place Eddie as the maintenance in charge in an amusement park. There Eddie saves several lives of children daily. On one such day, Eddie finds out a missing girl whose mother got stuck in the Ferry Wheel which crashes accidentally. Eddie scoops the girl away but suffers losing his life to save the little girl. Later, Eddie encounters the five individuals in heaven who brings him to a realization of life's purpose, and destiny which cannot be altered by one's actions. Generally, people may not realize the impact of their actions in the life of others. So, it is necessary to appreciate and regard one and other to know the value of their existence. You keep them Safe. You make good for me.

"Tala?" he whispered.
She looked up.
"The little girl at the pier? Do you know about her?"
Tala stared at her fingertips. She nodded yes (204).

Self - revelation acts as the dominant force that changes and topples the lives of the characters in the intriguing novel about life, death, and afterlife. At times one may not know where life could leads them but all the incidents that happen in their life would surely connect with others, this connection teaches great life lessons of destiny and man's core purpose. In the novel, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, the protagonist Eddie learns his life changing five lessons and gain self - revelation of his life's meaning and purpose while he is alive on earth. Eddie's truth discloses after he enters heaven, and like Eddie, every individual also has to meet with self - revelation while they are still on earth. Eddie's life changes throughout the story from his birth to his death. In each stages Eddie goes through ups and down with or without knowing the impact he makes on others life. Thus self-revelation turn to be the hallmark of a truly change life. The simple lesson learns through experience has the

power to change a person inside out. And so, experience seems to be the best guide to achieve self-revelation.

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