

The Concept of Love in O Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*

S Vishnupriya

M.A., M. Phil., Ramanathapuram-623501, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract: *The Gift of the Magi* is a short story written by O Henry. The story tells about a young husband and wife and how they deal with the challenge of buying gift for Christmas each other by losing their own possessions. They both were from a middle class family and with very little money in their hand they wished to buy a surprise gift for each other to show their love. Money is important in everyone's life but love is more important than money to lead a successful and a happy life.

Keywords: Love, Marriage, Sacrifice, Money

1. The Concept of Love in O Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*

The Gift of the Magi is one of the famous work of O Henry. It is a story of a poor, young couple whose love for each other is most valuable than all. They both sacrificed their most valuable possession as they considered their love is the best among all. Sacrifice is the important ability which should be traced in relationship between a husband and wife. If they have pure love and a habit of sacrificing then their life will be the best one. Money is just a part of life but true love is a whole life.

The two main characters in *The Gift of the Magi*, James called as Jim and Della Dillingham who belongs to a poor family. They were surviving their everyday life. To cross each day they faced a lot of problems because of their financial crisis but they lived happily as they both loved each other a lot. Their only protection was their love towards each other. They both sacrificed each other at many situations. No matter what the situation is, they never give up their love for each other.

Money was not a matter for Della and Jim but the story opens with \$1.87. Della, one day after completing her shopping realized that the next day to be as Christmas and wished to buy a gift for her husband Jim. She didn't have any amount expect \$1.87 in her hands. She felt very bad for that and she didn't lose her hope. She had hope that she will find a right gift for her husband. Della went back to her house and started to think a way for her husband's gift.

Literally the financial condition of both Jim and Della is low. The only possession of Della is her long hair and for Jim is his ancestral watch. Della decided to give up her long hair to buy a gift for her husband. She felt very bad to lose her possession but felt thousand times happy to lose that for her love. She immediately went to meet Madame Safronie, a hair dresser. Safronie examines her hair and she was ready to give \$20 to Della. Della agreed and got ready to lose her hair. None of the women agrees to lose their hair but Della was ready to lose her long hair which grown below her knee. The only reason for this is her true love towards her husband.

Della now has \$21.87 in her hand. She rushed to a shop and found the right gift for her husband. Her husband's only possession was his gold watch with broken straps. So, Della decided to replace the broken watch strap with platinum strap which cost \$21. She loses her hair for the sake of her husband's happiness and went back to her house, and she felt little nervous that her husband would feel for losing her hair. But Della was quite happy that she lost her hair for the sake of her Love.

Della completed all her house hold works and she was waiting for her husband's arrival. She felt happy that Jim would feel very happy by seeing this gift and it is worth enough too. Jim was safe guarding his ancestral possession without wearing that in his hand because of that broken strap. So, Della felt happy that this surprise gift will make Jim to shed tears.

Evening Jim reached his house and he even conveyed Della that he has bought her a Christmas gift. Both were very much surprised to see their Christmas gift. When Jim noticed that Della has cut her hair he became in dilemma. Della couldn't understand the reason for his dilemma. Della after opening Jim's gift worried a lot because it was set of Combs which is not now useful for her.

Meanwhile, Jim opened the gift of Della, the platinum watch strap, and he even worried because he bought the set of combs by selling his possession. His possession is the only gold watch. He sacrificed his possession to buy a gift for his wife. Della and Jim felt bad that the gift which they both bought for each other's is useless.

Gift of Jim and Della might be useless now but somehow it will be useful in the future. Both Jim and Della in-order to show their love for each other lost their own possession. The both gifts are useless now but it traces their true love. They sacrificed their own happiness and belongings which they considered as their treasure. Finally, Jim and Della came to know that their only possession is not Della's hair or else Jim's Watch, but their True Love and Sacrifice.

Money comes and goes. It is not a stable thing in the life but true love is always a stable thing. Each and every Husband and Wife should build their relationship by having true love and sacrifice. If they have true love they could overcome

any hurdles in their life. Jim and Della lost their possession
but understood their strong Love and Unity.

References

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