



HOLDING THE EXISTENCE IN FIVE POEMS BY MAHMOUD DARWISH

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Abstract

The purpose of this analysis is to expose the issue of holding the existence which is done by Palestinian and to know the contribution of poetic elements; repetition, imagery, metaphor, and tone in revealing the issue of holding the existence. This analysis is related to the concept of *Myth* by Carl Gustav Jung. The result of this analysis shows that the Palestinian stick to their culture and keep loyalty for holding the existence.

Key words: Holding, existence, Palestinian

A. INTRODUCTION

People in this world have their own homeland definitely. The sense of belonging to the homeland is very strong and even fervently. It is difficult for them to tolerate everything that can endanger their homeland. They do not give the permission towards subjection from others. Ironically, this affair occurs to a state up to now. There is a state that get authorization from others. The people who have own homeland must do hard effort to keep their homeland. Even they get eviction from their own land, they do not want to eliminate their old day in there. Thus, they maintain their homeland although there are many tortures for themselves.

Despite the tortures they receive, they keep to hold the homeland. Risa R. Simanjuntak in SPEARA or Specific English for Academic Research Assistant (Dikti, 2016) says that *holding* means to keep something and not allow it to leave. They sacrifice to keep theirs even they have to die. They keep struggle to get their existence in any strategies. They save their custom to maintain their own land. They try to prove that they are able to protect themselves as the owner of their homeland.

People have many ways to defend their homeland. One of them is to maintain their own identity. They have principal that their existence is the most

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important value to keep their life as human being. They prove to give the hard effort totally. The tortures do not pretend them to lessen for maintaining their existence. They do not want to surrender without any reason.

Palestine is one of states that get authorization from others. The people in Palestine can show their struggle to keep their homeland. They are the one who have strong commitment to defend their homeland. It can be seen through their struggle to fight the powerful people who attack their existence as Palestinian. They commit to save their identity. They have principle to keep their ethnic by showing their characteristic as usual. They have hard effort to keep their custom. They do not have doubt to keep their life style. They protect the central of their custom of life whether in their land or not. They do not get the influence from others for the custom. They show others that they are proud to be the owner of their homeland.

The Palestinian keep their own culture to be original as the owner of the homeland. They have to live in tent of the camp, and they challenge the threats that can lose their existence. They show that they exist and stay in the land even their life is not cushioned as human being. They maintain their identity although they have been chase away from their state. Whatever the condition, they have dedication to strive for standing in the land and keep priority to be solid to save and protect their own country.

The affair of Palestine is known in the world. Even the literature where authors also take part to express it. There are novel, short story, and poetry reflect the issue which is related to the persistence of Palestinian in keeping their own homeland. The five poems by Mahmoud Darwish entitled *I Come From There*, *Identity Card*, *The Promise of Liberty*, *We Journey Towards Home*, *The Passport* expose the struggle of Palestinian, and these are interesting to be analyzed in term of holding the existence.

B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The analysis of five poems by Mahmoud Darwish entitled *I Come From There*, *Identity Card*, *The Promise of Liberty*, *We Journey Towards Home*, *The Passport* is done through text and context-based interpretation. These poems are analyzed by combining the elements of poetry; repetition, imagery, and tone. Each of that element contributes to reveal holding the existence. Repetition explains the insisting of the pride to identity of speaker in the poems. Imagery reveals the condition and the atmosphere in the poems. Tone expresses the loyalty of the speaker to maintain theirs by keeping solidarity in the poems. These devices are also connected to context-based interpretation. It deals with the concept of *Myth* by Carl Gustav Jung.

C. DISCUSSION

This chapter analyses of five poems; *Identity Card (IC)*, *The Promise Of Liberty (TPOL)*, *We Journey Towards A Home (WJTAH)*, *The Passport (TP)*, and *I Come From There (ICFT)* by using the elements of poetry that they are repetition, imagery and tone to reveal about *holding the existence*. In this analysis, holding the existence can be seen through two ways; stick to their culture and keep loyalty.

1. Stick to Their Culture

Stick to their culture is one of strategies of Palestinian for keeping their existence in their land. The Palestinian has strong homeland ownership. They are proud of being their tribe by showing their identity. They keep their characteristic by dressing as usual. They hold their life style by consuming their common food. They are pride to pose their extended family that the number of family do not consist of the number in nuclear family.

The Palestinian are proud of their own tribe by showing their identity through their generation. It can be seen from the following quotation:

RECORD!
I am an Arab
(IC, stanza 1,2, 4, 6, 8)

This word is repeated five times in the five stanzas. Through repetition, the whole stanza can be revealed that the Palestinian do not have doubt and proud to say their original identity. They brave to say that Palestine is their identity. They claim bravely that Palestinian is the part of Arabian and they cannot be separated. There is nothing can change their mind. The word */RECORD!/? in capital letter indicates that their status is embedded in soul of themselves. The meaning of the letter in the text reveal that they enlist as citizen officially. The letter shows the speaker demands the attention to others that they are Palestinian. The tone in the text is serious to state their selfhood that they cannot be eliminated from anything. They emphasize to others their identity cannot throw out away from their land. Exclamation mark in the word show that they have bravery to show that Palestine is their origin. They indicate which they have principle to stick tight their personality in every situation.*

Another quotation to support they have their own generation in this following:

*All the birds that followed my palm
to the door of the distant airport
All the wheat fields
All the prisons
All the white tombstones
All the barbed boundaries
All the waving handkerchiefs
All the eyes
were with me,
But they dropped them from my passport*

(TP, stanza 2)

Through repetition of the word */All/* indicates that there is no space for others as gap to separate Palestine from their soul. The text reveal that aspects of life give confession of faith to their status. They stand each other to maintain their generation. They have strong commitment to defend and keep binding themselves. The tone of the text shows that the they are serious to claim their integrity. The speaker declares to the world bravely from the sentence */But they dropped them from my passport/* which they cannot be affected by their craftiness to eliminate their own.

The Palestinian also get admission from the surroundings aspects of life in the following quotation:

*Don't ask the trees for their names
Don't ask the valley who their mother is
From my forehead bursts the sword of light
And from my hand springs the water of the river
All the hearts of the people are my identity
So take away my passport!*

(TP, stanza 5)

Through repetition in the two lines in the beginning of stanza, they proclaim to others that they have good relation with the nature. The nature understand and recognize their entity. Through metaphor, the text shows the sources of life do not have doubt to embed their soul to Palestinian. The tone of the text shows the nature are serious and proud to give support to them. It also describes that the people is in their right to maintain their land. Through imagery, it reveals they have binding each other that they consistent to defend their personality. Exclamation mark in the last line indicates that they are angry to the power people who do not admit them as citizen. However, they do not care to the obstacle for them to keep their status.

In the strategy of maintaining their status, the Palestinian show their characteristic as usual in the following quotation:

*The color of my hair is black
The color of my eyes is brown
And my distinctive features:
The head dress hatta wi'gal
And the hand is solid like a rock*

(IC, stanza 6)

Through repetition word in the beginning lines, it indicates that they are proud to their originality. They show their anatomy is consistent completely. They are not influenced from other culture although they get many tortures. Through imagery, they brave to show their features to the world as their own. They explain detailly how they are proudly.

Another quotation to support who they are through their life style in this following:

my favourite meal

is olive oil and thyme

(IC, stanza 6)

Through imagery, they are faithful to their food as their culture. The word */favourite/* indicates that they do not change the food as their main food as Palestinian. It shows that they are not affected to their condition in maintaining their identity. They do not care to the elimination of the growing the origin food and they are try to eat their main food. They have strong commitment that their main food is olive oil and thyme as Palestinian.

The Palestinian also explain their life that is maintaning their life style as identity. It exposes in this following quotation:

And my address:

*A village isolated and deserted
where the streets have no names
and the men work in the fields and quarries*

They like socialism

(IC, stanza 6,7)

The quotation above expresses their condition as Palestinian in their area. Through imagery, it indicates that is their life gets many pressure. They live in unrecognizable place that they must fend their family. Ironically, they have life style to socialize with others, but they cannot have chance to socialize to live as well. The authorization placed them in the desolate area until there is no one know them. It effects the others cannot give confession to themselves as Palestinian. However, they keep their life style that socialize with others although they just keep communicate with their ethnic. They commit to maintain their life style although their job only in the places that get low income for their life.

Altogether they cannot communicate with others, they keep to stick their life as well as others in the following quotation:

*I do not supplicate
charity*

at your doors

*Nor do I belittle myself
at the footsteps of your chamber*

(IC, stanza 3)

Through the word */doors/* as a symbol describes that the Palestinian is authorized by power people from their ability. However, the Palestinian survive their life by their own self without asking help from fellow people. They do not want that the help as the cause the people are easy to eliminate them. Through the tone, they are serious to give satire for the power people that they can hold their life.

Another quotation to support they are serious to survive their life by their own in this following:

*Beware beware of my hunger
and my anger!!*

(IC, stanza 8)

The quotation above shows they are brave to face every situation. Through repetition in the first line, they claim clearly to threaten the authorization. They are ready toward obstacle in maintaining their existence. The word */hunger/* expresses that they are not patient through the situation for them. Exclamation marks in the last line indicate they are brave to state their resistance. The tone of the text is angry to the power people who disturb their life. They shatter confidently the author who is arbitrary to them.

In this analysis, the most poetic elements which occur are repetition, imagery, metaphor, and tone. These poetic elements expose the detail of Palestinian life, their total struggle to maintain their identity. Repetition is important to describe the bravery of Palestinian to show the world who they are. Imagery explains the nature and other aspects of life give them support to maintain their status. Metaphor reveals the relationship between Palestine and nature to defend their personality. Tone is important to give expression how they express their resistance to the author.

2. Keeping Loyalty

Keeping loyalty is another strategy of Palestinian for keeping their existence in their land. The Palestinian has endeavoured totally to keep their land. They fight to strive their own land although they get many risks. They have a principle that they have to give totality for maintaining theirs. They always have priority to keep their solidarity to seize their own in every situation. They do not migrate from their land for getting better life although they get suffering in their homeland.

The Palestinian fight to strive their own land although they get many risks. It can be seen from the following quotation:

*My spilt blood. My feet are torn,
Swollen by a dagger- rooted in the land
Where we walk, band after bold band!*
(TPOL, stanza 1)

The quotation above shows the struggle of Palestinian to defend theirs. Through imagery, they do not give up to the risks for them. They do not care how they are physically tortured. The most important thing for them is their land. The sentence */Swollen by a dagger- rooted in the land/* describes the length of their grief to reach their freedom to defend their own land. The word */dagger/* reveals that there are many barriers in their journey for their land. However, they stand to face the power people who want to attack their struggle. The exclamation mark emphasizes that they are brave towards every thing for them.

Another quotation to support that the Palestinian show their strategy with their unity for their land. It can be proven by this following quotation:

*We are a soft breeze to our fiends,
And gunpowder against hostile trends:*

We march, and act, and we never sleep,
(TPOL, stanza 1)

Through metaphor, it reveals they resist to the power people who authorize them. They do their strategy as well as their mission together. Then, they get tortures as the effect for themselves in maintaining their own land. However, they ready to resist in every condition. They survive to reach the freedom for their land although they must die. Through imagery, the sentence */We march, and act, and we never sleep,/* explains that they are awoken to keep their goal and do not let themselves in careless.

Furthermore, the Palestinian do not want everything can be deleted in their homeland in this following quotation:

*I come from there and I have memories
Born as mortals are, I have a mother
And a house with many windows,
I have brothers, friends,
And a prison cell with a cold window.*
(ICFT, stanza 1)

Through imagery, it can be revealed that the speaker has old day there. The speaker does not want to eliminate without any reason. The word */mother/* describes that the homeland is life for the speaker. The homeland care, protect, and shelter for the speaker. It cause the speaker do not want let the homeland throw away. The speaker is strengthen to do struggle totally.

Another quotation to support they have their stuggle totally can be seen in this following:

*Mine is the wave, snatched by sea-gulls,
I have my own view,
And an extra blade of grass.
Mine is the moon at the far edge of the words,
And the bounty of birds,
And the immortal olive tree.*
(ICFT, stanza 1)

The quotation above shows the speaker has own principle of being Palestinian in life through word */Mine/*. The sentence */I have my own view,/* reveals that the principle cannot be changed. Through imagery, it describes clearly they resist who can change and threat their selfhood. The word */immortal olive tree/* can explains how the speaker as the representation of Palestinian stick to their identity.

The Palestinian have their own principle of life and they loyal to that. It can be seen in this following quotation:

*You have your glory, we have ours. Of our home we only see the unseen:
our mystery.
Glory is ours: a throne carried on feet torn by roads that led to every home*

but our own!
(WJTH, stanza 1)

Through imagery, it reveals that the Palestinian have principle solidly for their land. They do not influence to change their principle. Their goal is only their homeland. The word */mystery/* indicates confusion that they cannot be free in their own land. Exclamation mark expresses the seriousness of them to stand on their principle of life. They are strengthen themselves to resist totally to the power people.

In order to resist the power people totally, they do the strategy to maintain their homeland. It can be proven in this following quotation:

*I learnt all the words worthy of the court of blood
So that I could break the rule.
I learnt all the words and broke them up
To make a single word: Homeland.....*
(ICFT, stanza 1)

The quotation above, it can be revealed that the Palestinian have loyalty to reach their goal in the land. Through the word */learnt/* can shows the most important thing which have be the main priority is their homeland. They try to do every things for the freedom of theirs. The tone of the text explains that they are serious to get their homeland back as the citizen.

Another following quotation to support the Palestinian are proven the reach their goal that is free for their land in this following:

*Because we have promises to keep:
Freedom beckons along the horizons afar,
Leading our footsteps, like the polar star.
We spare no effort, sacrifice or toil
Till we celebrate the liberty of our soil.*
(TPOL, stanza 1)

Through imagery, it can be revealed that the sense of belonging to their homeland is the biggest one. Their dream to be free in their land embedded to their soul. They try to seize it by struggling totally. The tone of the text can be expressed they are serious to seize their land. There is nothing can replace their goal.

Their goal is the motivation for them to stay and loyal in there. It can be proven from this following quotation:

The soul must recognise itself in its very soul, or die here.
(WJTH, stanza 1)

The quotation above describes the strong commitment to struggle in order to be an owner of their homeland as well. Through imagery, there is nothing choice for them to leave their own. They do not migrate to get better life although they are in

suffer. The tone of the text shows the loyalty of them who have the sense of belonging of homeland.

In summary, the poetic elements which occur are imagery and tone. Imagery is important element to explain the struggle totally of Palestinian to be free in their land. It describes how the loyalty of them to maintain their identity. The tone is also important element to express the atmosphere of commitment to be the owner of their homeland.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Five poems by Mahmoud Darwish entitled *I Come From There*, *Identity Card*, *The Promise of Liberty*, *We Journey Towards Home*, *The Passport*, reflect the issue of holding the existence. Holding the existence refers to the strategy of Palestinian for keeping their existence in their land. These poems are analyzed by using the concept of Myth by Carl Gustav Jung. It also uses poetic elements such as repetition, imagery, metaphor, and tone to reveal the meaning in the five poems. In this analysis, the strategies for holding the existence are stick to their culture and keeping loyalty.

The first is stick to their culture. The most poetic elements which occur are repetition, imagery, metaphor, and tone. These poetic elements expose the detail of Palestinian have totally struggle to maintain their identity. Repetition is important to describe the bravery of Palestinian to show the world who they are. Imagery explains the nature and other aspects of life give them support to maintain their status. Metaphor reveals the find relationship between Palestine and nature to defend their personality. Tone is important to give expression how they express their resistance to the author.

The second is keeping the loyalty. The poetic elements which occur are imagery and tone. Imagery is important element to explain the struggle totally of Palestinian to be free in their land. It describes how the loyalty of them to maintain their identity. The tone is also important element to express the atmosphere of commitment to be the owner of their homeland.

Therefore, holding the existence is the strategies the Palestinian to hold their existence in their homeland. They are proud to show their identity, characteristic, life style, and extended family. Furthermore, they are loyal to struggle for their land. They do not migrate from their land, and they fight for the risks. They have priority to keep solidarity among them. Here, the Palestinian have sense of binding each other to their homeland. They try to maintain their existence to the world. Finally, this is the power of literary work. It is able to demolish reality which is sometimes taboo to be discussed.

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