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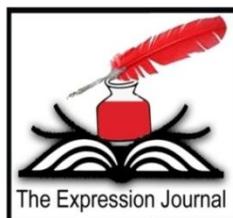
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## **A DEPICTION OF INESCAPABLE EVILS IN CORMAC MCCARTHY'S EVENTS IN THE NOVEL *THE ROAD***

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### **Abstract**

McCarthy is a manipulator of violence in the post apocalyptic world full of darkness and evil surrounded with less human being, among the most powerful aspects of human art is its ability to reveal our emotional appropriation of crucial theological issues. The literary genre of tragedy probes with emotional honesty how human projects and relationships are prevented by the inevitability of death. In *The Road* McCarthy depicts tragedies through natural calamities and the road agents through their atrocious evil behaviours. McCarthy as an American writer exposes the physical disaster and catastrophic accident and leads to tragedy. McCarthy's *The Road* describes the journey through the interstate highways, pursuing the novel visualizes colorful dream that the protagonist helping his lovable wife, then he realizes the real world which is dark, very dark world with everything burned and destroyed and looted the perpetually grey land is ash, dark emotionally and intellectually, and the place of unimaginable dangers and horrors. The author represents good and evil through natural and unnatural calamities like storm, cannibals etc. McCarthy's concept in his novel *The Road* explores the atrocities of evil and the goodness is portrayed through the affectionate relationship between the father and son. There are only less characters in the novel to lead the evil and horrors which the father and son faces lot of struggles despite their affection. Thus, the author of this paper analyses how the two main characters struggles in the dark world without any proper shelter.

### **Key-Words**

Violence, Tragedies, Natural Calamities, Physical Tragedy, Evils.

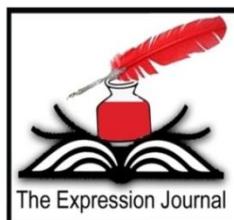
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The disaster starts from the death of man's wife to till his death. The father and son start their journey in the post-apocalyptic world where they experience extreme sufferings, what not. The man gives his son moral guidance and teach good and evil. They always they carry the fire with them; the man encourages the boy that they can accomplish anything in the world if they have spark within them. Here the author represents spark through fire as goodness of knowing how to live right and how not to live with the painful world. The father believes that he has a God- given duty to care for his son and that his son is a living sign of God's presence. The father is willing to face the challenges and also teach his son to face the evil things and encourage him in the hopeless world. In every novel or genre we can see the evil in the middle or in the climax but in this novel McCarthy shows the evil from the beginning through the death of his wife and the novel begins with the death of destroyed civilization.

McCarthy's descriptions of a destroyed civilization and the environment and the entire situation in the novel exposes the horror, where ever they move they see only the skeletons of houses, human beings, factories and shops. Without losing their hope they continue their journey and they feel some kind of experience in every place they reach. The readers mind is tinged by empathy and sympathy about the struggling met by the father and son. Their sweet and lovable relationship, urges the readers to see the abundant complexities like their meeting with a wandering old man, for him they offer food and

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they spend for some time with him and the old man shares something with them, when they leave from the old man the boy feels pity on him, after that they enter into a big house in which they enter happily and thinking that they found safety place for shelter. In that big house the man found a bunker, the father went down into the bunker with the lighter in the darkness. The author portrays the horrible situation as follows

He started down the rough wooden steps. He ducked his head and then flicked the lighter and swung the flame out over the darkness like an offering. Coldness and damp. An ungodly stench. The boy clutched at his coat. He could see a part of stone wall. Clay floor. An old mattress darkly stained. He crouched and stepped down again and held out the light. Huddled against the back wall were naked people, male and female, all trying to hide, shielding their faces with their hands? On the mattress lay a man with his legs gone to the hip and the stumps of them blackened and burnt. The smell was hideous.” he feels an ungodly stench and the evil surrounded him but he wants to know what is happening in dark room, he is able to see the horrors which is shown in the innocent people who are naked and one lost his leg up the hip and full of blood stained after seeing the man these people are cries for help from this man, ..... (116)

Further the natural disasters such as meteor colliding with the earth, or from human devastation, such as nuclear holocaust inseparable, that the human and natural evil is essentially intertwined within the universe.

In the review *Understanding Cormac McCarthy* Steven Fry suggest the issue of a simple metaphorical reading of the destroyed landscape and talks about how the author describes about the importance of relationship and maintenance of love and care that is exposed between father and son. Without woman’s care, the man gives much love and affection wherever they move and whatever dangerous they face, that is clearly exposed when the man wants to kill his own son because the man doesn’t want to give his son to the evils hand, instead of dying in others hand horribly, the man thinks if the situation comes he decides himself to kill his son this itself shows the evil and also the extreme love and care of the father. In this novel the author exposes humanism and also the disasters faced by man through man and nature. The basic necessities without which how the people suffer and after finding out their needs how they feel and survive their life whatever they deserve.

This is depicted in this novel when the father and son found a luxurious house after many struggling, they have all the necessary things which they can’t expected in post apocalyptic world, they feel like their own house, take bath, prepare food and juice and they enjoy the moment. After experiencing struggles in many situations he feels that he finds a safety place and motivates his son to become a strong and to live the right path.

*Illuminating Character Identity, Motivation, and Conflict in Cormac McCarthy’s “The Road”* Chris Gilbert states that his students typically describe number of internal challenges facing both father and son. They mention father’s struggle to his dreams and memories at bay, as the past is dangerous distraction from the precarious present. Students also discuss the father’s challenge to be a good parent; in the post-apocalyptic world they inhabit the father must shelter his son but also allow him the freedom necessary for growth. Readers recognize that the father must create their own purpose for persisting; the

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father tells his son that there will be other “good guys” at the coast, and emphasizes, “This is what the good guys do. They keep trying. They don’t give up.”

The author represents the evil by portraying natural calamities and through the representation of strangers and their immoral actions and the author portrays the good things through affectionate relationship between the father and son and their care for each other. The humanity and affection depicts when they visit the old man they provide the food what they have and another boy like him, the boy continuously pester his father to take the old man and the boy along with them. The man refuses the boy’s wish not because of his unwillingness but because of their dangerous condition. Even though the novel is full of horrors and violence, it depicts the human intimacy;

*In the review of Understanding Cormac McCarthy* by Steven Fry says that this novel the road is a novel of human intimacy. Fry draws numerous connections mainly on increased violence of the modern world that this novel *The Road* is a novel of human intimacy the search for hope and the simultaneous struggle against hopelessness. The blighted earth in the *Road* could result from a natural disaster, such as meteor colliding with the earth, or from human devastation such as nuclear holocaust, and ambiguity of the novel’s language on this part ‘suggest perhaps that the two are co-implicated and inseparable,’ that essentially intertwined within the universe.

Fry takes up the issue of a simple metaphorical reading of *The Road’s* destroyed landscape urging the readers to see the abundant complexities offered by the novel. It’s a great wonder that every reader moved into the post apocalyptic world and the horrible environment with full of evils in the form of natural calamities and the evils like cannibals. At the same time the good relationship between the father and son.

Thus, the author expresses the theme of good versus evil in *The Road* is perhaps most appropriate for a post-apocalyptic novel. This theme may be more precise in this novel than in any other novel. More than once, the boy seeks confirmation from his father that they are the "good guys" and that the "bad guys" are those who seek to hurt them--thieves, murderers, and cannibals. According to the man, the good guys are those who "keep trying. They don’t give up". A symbol of the goodness in human perseverance and hope is the "fire" that the father assures his son to carry. As a “good guy”, the man and the boy carry the fire internally, meaning that they strive to live under all circumstances.

“As there are only two main characters, a father and a son, *The Road’s* principal relationship is one of paternal love. The man and boy are “each the other’s world entire,” and it is only the man’s love for the boy that gives him the will to preserve. Their love is generally of the stark, silent kind, as the pair’s whole existence consists of surviving from one day to the next. In such a world, however, the conflict between the good guys and the bad guys is not at all clear. To the father, they are the "good guys," even though the father commits a murder for the sake of his son. The man does not consider acting violently in defense of his son's survival of evil. People’s actions taken at face value are far from enough to determine whether someone is a “good guy” or a “bad guy”.

Thus, we came to know the father and son’s meeting with the people and the love exposed when the man dream about his lovable wife, and immediately come to the real world and think of protecting about his son. Both of them do not want to separate from each other but the fate

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already decides their life and they were separated through death.

Hence McCarthy gives us a vision of horrors and goodness that everyone faces in the real world, however evil is narrated through scarcity, darkness, bad guys and death. Goodness is exposed through affection between father and son and other human beings, thinking about god to preserve his son and giving good future for the boy, the man displays a profound belief in the goodness of god and after the man's death sudden appearance of the good guys with the positive attitude and expecting that his son will be taken over by them with the accompaniment of their two children.

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