



Life, Purpose, And Spiritual Destruction In The Novel “Martin Eden”

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the conflicts of not only one person, but also an entire era and society through the inner world, dreams, and struggles of the main character of Jack London's novel “Martin Eden”. Martin's tragedy is that a person is expected to be happy after achieving the lofty goals he has set for himself. However, life does not always go, as he wants. Martin's iron will, dedication to work, and ultimately his loss of himself in a meaningless society are shown as a symbol of a person who has lost himself. Through this work, the author deeply analyzes the issues of self-discovery, conflict with society, depression, and loneliness. The article also draws warning and thought-provoking conclusions for modern youth.

Keywords:

Martin Eden, Jack London, iron will, dream, loneliness, search for meaning, mental breakdown, society, recognition.

INTRODUCTION. The work of Jack London, a prominent figure in 20th-century American literature, occupies a unique place in the history of world literature. Through his life experience, social activism, and literary talent, he widely promoted a new direction in literature - a naturalistic approach based on the study of the social and spiritual layers of human nature. His novel “Martin Eden” embodies all these aspects and invites the modern reader to deep reflection. “Martin Eden” is the story of every dreamer, every hard worker, every person who tried to determine his own path. Martin was a sailor. Then he became a writer. However, first of all, he was a dreamer. He wanted to please society, prove his love, be recognized. And he achieved it all. But in the end, he could not share these achievements with anyone. His soul remained empty. In the novel, we

see how a person changes along the path of life, how he loses his identity, and what this loss ultimately leads to. Martin's path is not just a climb. The image of Martin Eden is not just some literary hero, but a person who is similar to the realities of our lives.

LITERATURE VIEW AND METHODS. Earle Labor's Jack London: An American Life examines the prototypicality of the character Martin Eden in Jack London's life and its direct connection with the writer's biography. Labor emphasizes that through this novel, London reveals his personal suffering, attitude to society, and literary struggles. In this regard, the novel is studied as a work written in the autobiographical-philosophical genre.

Clarice Stasz analyzes London's personal relationships, in particular, with Mabel

Applegarth, and identifies the real-life source of the character Ruth. This method - the biographical method - helps us to understand the themes of love, trust, and betrayal in the work more deeply. Stasz's approach reveals the psychological layers of the work.

According to the theory of naturalism put forward by Donald Pizer, Martin Eden is a person formed by the social environment and disappears when he tries to challenge it. Based on this method, the events of the novel are interpreted in a deterministic manner. Martin wants to determine his own destiny, but the real forces in society are eroding his inner world.

In her book "Approaches to Teaching the Works of Jack London," Jeanne C. Reesman explores Martin's isolation — that is, his state of social alienation. Reesman argues that Martin lives outside of life, not within it. This situation becomes even more acute after his success. The ideas in Frankl's "Man's Search for Meaning" are also directly related to Martin's life. Frankl shows that a person's mental health is related to their belief in meaning. When Martin loses this meaning, he falls into an internal collapse. There are views on this novel not only from foreign scholars, but also from Uzbek literary scholars. For example, Associate Professor Sirojiddin Ortikov, in his article "The Conflict of Society and Personality in the Works of Jack London," emphasizes that London's characters cannot find a place in society and ultimately fall into a state of spiritual isolation. Professor Khairulla Khudoyberganov, in his article "The Motif of Self-Search in American Literature", presents Martin Eden as a hero who is unable to maintain the balance between self-awareness and loss of identity. Another methodological basis is intertextual analysis. London's essay "What Life Means to Me" is directly related to the novel, both thematically and philosophically. Through this text, the author reveals his personal philosophy about life and work, and we trace these thoughts through the processes in "Martin Eden".

RESULTS. Martin Eden achieved his goals through his own hard work. This was the path from a simple person to a writer; this was the struggle from an unrecognized talent to the recognition of society. He read books every day, wrote every night, and devoted his every thought,

every breath to knowledge and creativity. He wanted to be recognized, to be worthy of love, and this desire prompted him to act. The most important result was that this path led him to inner suffering. When he reached his goal, recognition did not bring him the happiness he expected. Fame, money, articles and books - none of this could fill the void in his heart. He realized that the literary community that had previously seemed divine to him was actually superficial and artificial. Every word, every smile - was built on profit. The level he had achieved as a writer did not bring him inner comfort. Because this recognition was not sincere. The people who once despised him now admire him, but this admiration was a lie for Martin. He felt lonely. What he had dreamed of before was now alien to him. This state of affairs was eating him up from the inside. Even when Ruth returned, Martin could not accept her - because he remembered not love, but the past. Now his heart had cooled, his spirit was broken. If his greatest achievement was the manifestation of his identity, his greatest loss was the alienation of his identity from himself. He won, but this victory was not personal, not over society, but over his own soul - painful, meaningless and solitary. Thus, Martin's results - although for the outside world it was a great victory, for his inner world it was suffering, loneliness and spiritual breakdown. It is no exaggeration to say that it is this state of affairs that constitutes the most tragic and profound layer of London's creativity.

ANALYSIS. Martin Eden's spiritual destruction was no accident. It was the painful price of a victory built on an iron will. Martin fought, worked, endured, endured pain, and shaped himself in every way. Nevertheless, in the end, his own willpower defeated him. Because with this will, he conquered the outside world, but neglected his inner world. Jack London very subtly expresses the human psyche and internal contradictions through the image of Martin in this work. The fire that shone in Martin's eyes was faith in finding the truth in society, in justice, science, and art. However, over time, he realizes that these values are also built on lies, hypocrisy, and self-interest. It is this realization that is the starting point of suffering. As Martin begins to deeply understand his identity, he becomes increasingly alienated from society. Because where

he looked for sincerity, he found artificiality, where he expected love, he found selfishness, and where he dreamed of friendship, he found loneliness. Then his iron will cracked. He overcame everything, but he could not overcome the emptiness in his soul. This emptiness tormented him relentlessly and finally led him to the bottom of the sea. Literary critic Clarice Stasz writes: "Martin is a mirror of London asking itself questions. "In this mirror, in fact, each of us sees ourselves. Especially today's young people - those who dream of fame, recognition, and praise. Martin sounds like a warning voice to them: "If there is no meaning in these achievements, this is external brilliance, internal decay." Martin's suffering associated with love also forms a separate layer in the work. He sincerely loved Ruth. To achieve her, he worked on himself, gained knowledge, and changed himself. Nevertheless, even his love could not save him. London reveals a deep truth here: love can sometimes be a source of suffering, not spiritual salvation. Because society corrupts, even the purest feelings and turns them into profit. At this point, Martin Eden reminds us of the image of Saidi in Abdulla Khahhor's novel "Mirage". Uzbek literary critics call this situation "a fracture in the spiritual discourse between man and society". According to Professor Kh. Khudoyberganov, "Martin did not exchange his spiritual truth for artificial values in society — that is why he disappeared." This novel reminds us or teaches us that a person can be as strong as iron, but if he loses the tenderness, humanity, and warmth in his soul, this strength itself ends in tragedy. If suffering is hidden in an iron will, it will certainly crack. Martin Eden is the story of a man who paid the painful price for victory. He makes us think: "What is true strength? Is victory recognition or inner stability?" These questions live in the heart of every young person today. In addition, Martin is like our inner voice. In fact, the novel teaches many life truths. It shows how a strong-willed and determined person can rise by his own strength. It teaches you to be persistent in any situation, to defend your position. At the same time, the author also reminds us that the goal you set for yourself may not be what you want in the end. This leads a person to spiritual decline.

Every reader who loves the book asks himself the question: "Did Ruth really love

Martin?" London leaves this question open. However, the main idea in the work is clearly expressed: an honest and pure person cannot live in the stuffy and artificial environment of bourgeois society! The values that initially seemed attractive to him eventually become completely alien and insignificant. As a result, a person falls into a whirlpool of inner depression. Anvar Obidjon very deeply expressed this situation in his following lines:

*Dalli tug'yon,
Alamkor bir his
Sig'dirmadi uni jahonga.
Masxaraboz hayot,
Didsiz qiz,
Molparast qiz tig' sanchdi unga.
Olchoq mulkdor,
Johil noshirlar
Qaydan bilsin – nedir ehtiros.
Ular-chun zavq – so'qqabosh lohar
Mansab
Va pul atalmish qog'oz...*

The novel itself has an autobiographical spirit. There are many similarities between Martin Eden and Jack London: both came from the lower strata of society and reached great heights in literature only through their own labor. London also worked in various hard jobs in his youth: he was a sailor, a factory worker, and an employee of a laundry company. These experiences became a solid foundation for his work. The image of Ruth is a reflection of London's first love, Mabel Applegarth, in life. Martin Eden is a work that expresses the inner suffering not of one person, but of an entire generation. Each of us can see our own reflection in this suffering.

CONCLUSION. Martin is a hard worker, a true lover, a person who wanted to prove himself to the world. However, these are exactly what consumed him. Not just success, but inner emptiness, loneliness, incomprehensibility - became his real enemies. In our opinion, this novel tells one truth: it is good to be strong, but do not let your heart be left behind by this strength. You need to fight for your dreams, but do not let those dreams become alien to you. It is good to be worthy of love, but do not let love itself destroy you. Do not give up on yourself to prove yourself.

Martin was not defeated; he used too much strength and consumed himself. He flew so high that only a person worthy of that flight can understand it. Martin's downfall is not from his weakness, but from the alienation in his heart. Others did not understand him. In that misunderstanding, he lost the simplest, most true parts of himself. This novel by Jack London teaches the reader that when a person is elevated by society, but does not believe in this elevation with his heart, he cannot remain at that height for long. Because no achievement is, complete without the participation of the heart. If society recognizes you, it does not mean that it understands you yet. "Martin Eden" is a work written for every dreamer, every heart full of desire, and every lonely soul. This novel will lead you to your goal - but at the same time, it will ask you a question: "Will the path you are taking actually lead you to yourself or take you away from it?" Achievements, recognition, love - all this is beautiful. Nevertheless, if the inner meaning is lost behind this beauty, then even victory becomes painful. Martin's story is not heroism, it is a quiet but deep echo of inner suffering, inner destruction.

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