

**Reconciliation in Seize The Day By Saul Bellow****Seema G.Jagatap,**  
Research Student**Dr. S. D. Sindkhedkar****Abstract: -**

*Seize the day by Saul Bellow is about the progress of Bellow's sensible heroes from alienation to accommodation, a progress of the soul through its freedom from isolation to affirmation of ordinary life of Tommy Wilhem in the world of New York.*

Key words: - Reconciliation, alienation, humiliation, materialistic society, accommodation, affirmation.

**Introduction: -**

Saul Bellow is a well known American novelist and noble prize winner for his novels. Through his novels he always tries to show the pity and sorrow of modern man in America, and tries to show the struggle of American society. It is a generation that has to heal to assimilate itself into the mainstream of American life. *Seize the day* is a short novel about the struggle of the father and son relationship. It portrays a single day in the life of Tommy Wilhem. Tommy is not able to provide the sufficient money to his family and also struggles to provide the material strength and comfort to the family.

**Reconciliation of Tommy Wilhem: -**

Present society in America is presented as the materialistic society. It shows the decay of moral values and shows more importance to material comfort for the family and in that sense Wilhem is incapable to provide enough money to his family. Because of this problem he wants that his father, Dr. Adler, should help him in his money problem but Dr. Adler does not have money. This is the main theme of the novel. Tommy feels alienated from family and friends, he is unable to carry his burden and reconciles with the hard truth of life.

In Bellow's work the quest for freedom is always required for the deeper need for reconciliation. The tension between these two elements is skilfully explained in *seize the day*. The novella depicts in one day Tommy Wilhem's past guilt, present agony and future possibility. It's an epitome of American dream. The possibility for self-creation, material success and absolute freedom are the basis of the alluring American myth, but the odds are more often against that for the eager pursuers. Tommy Wilhem is in the mingling situation, he is

inspired by the American dream but on the other hand he is burdened by the American myth of success. But on this day he faces many disasters one by one, driving Wilhem to lament that it is a day of reckoning.

*Seize the Day* is unique in Bellow's novels because it is his only work which shows the relationship between father and son against the image of a complex view of the dissolution of the Jewish American family. Tommy is a man in his mid forties temporarily living in the hotel Gloriana, which is a resident for old men and women who were past the age of seventy. The old people don't have work to do so they sit to gossip or read the paper. But Wilhem was young and he was used to an active life. He had no job recently in his hand still he woke up early in the morning and had breakfast with his father. So he wasn't a part of the old people and different from them in every manner.

Now Wilhem blamed his looks for getting off to a bad start to his life. Because of his good looks, he considered himself as star material and because of this he wasted his crucial seven years in acting carrier and nothing came to him in his chosen carrier. After wasting such a long time he was not fit for trades and business. He had been slow to understand the situation and hence not capable to sort out where he was. He didn't feel himself responsible for his situation and blamed other factors.

He believed in luck, he was jobless and had financial problems, but still he played gin every night. He kept on losing in the game, wasting his money in playing gin instead of saving it to come out his problems.

Wilhem's father Dr. Adler was an old man and had more experience in understanding people's motives than Wilhem. He warned Wilhem in Tamkin's matter, was against his choice for marriage but Tommy is not in the correct state to understand his father's advice and got bitter with him. It shows that Tamkin was the only well wisher to him. All things that Wilhem had done like going to Hollywood or marrying his wife or investing his last money with Tamkin, he knew that it was not good for him, not in his best interest yet he did it. He brought the bad fortune upon him. He could have had all this from the very beginning but he went against his conscience and did it.

In the materialistic world of New York, Tommy feels out of place because he is not able to match himself to the society and not able to run in the race of requirements, so he is isolated from the society. There is no one in the crowd of people who spends a little time to listen to his anguish. He makes the same mistake again and again and trusts the wrong people. He is helpless, poor, unsuccessful and unemployed because he puts too much faith in rotten people. Dr. Tamkin is presented as a psychologist although it's not exactly clear what profession he has. Tommy finds him as a mentor and second father to himself. Dr. Tamkin believes in commodity market and he offers Tommy to make some investments together at a local broker's office. Dr. Tamkin clutches Tommy in his sugar coated words and Tommy signs a power of attorney for him.

**Conclusion: -**

In *Seize the Day* except Wilhem all characters are selfish and present themselves as they if they are being made for material success. They are not interested in the purity of man or his soul. They treat a pure soul like a stranger. Hence a pure soul such as Wilhem gets humiliated in such a society. Finally Wilhem comes to understand the death of a self in a harrowing scene in a funeral. He weeps uncontrollably for his own symbolic death. The story ends not in fragments but with the magnified image of man. Seizing the day is moreover, as Tommy learns in the last resonating adventure of his day, the principle of reconciliation, an act of love itself. Tommy's weeping is an acceptance of life, and therefore an act of love towards life within an acceptance of death.

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