Beloved – Ghost as Daughter

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Abstract
The present paper deals with the ghost in the house 124, in the Toni Morrison’s novel Beloved. The Beloved is sometimes mislabeled as a ghost story by critics. This article, on the other hand, is about Sethe’s daughter’s ‘Personified Spirit’. Beloved is not a ghost story, as this article demonstrates. In African-American literature, it also discovered a spiritual and oral legacy.

Keywords: Morrison, Beloved, Love, Oedipus Complex

Introduction
African-Americans have a great belief in the stories told by their elders. One of the beliefs is that ghosts pay visits to their relatives. Those tales are given for the sake of entertainment, but history indeed. Tony Morrison’s Beloved regards this tradition. Tony Morrison claims that she saw an article about a woman called Margaret Garner in a 19th century newspaper after telling her about Beloved in an interview. Margaret Corner, a slave who escaped from Kentucky and went to the independent state of Ohio in 1856, but was apprehended under the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, was Morrison’s inspiration. She’s had that piece for quite some time. It promotes a woman’s desire to be responsible for her children as well as the tensions that come with attempting to be a full-fledged individual. And she displays her belief in ghosts through this novel. As a result, she makes the ghost the protagonist of the novel.

Ghost tales may be found all throughout the world, and ghost storey literature can be found in a variety of traditions and civilizations. Many stories and books focused on ghosts and demons, known as Gothic novels, were written all over the world. For ages, the usage of ghosts and their function in literature has been a source of contention among writers. In such books, ghosts play an essential role. The story focuses on a terrible creature that is the greatest example of a Gothic tale, rectifying injustice or exacting revenge on William Shakespeare’s Hamlet, which has survived. Hamlet’s father appears in the play in demonic form and avenges his son’s death. For generations, ghost stories have been a part of popular literature in many forms, from Shakespeare to Dickens and Faulkner. The ghost was likewise a major tool in Tony Morrison’s story. Unlike the demon of vengeance, this ghost (beloved) comes to feel the mother’s affection.
Relationship between Ghost (Beloved) and Other Characters

The two characters that initially had an affair with their Beloved’s spirit are Sethe and Denver. Sethe acknowledges right away that her Beloved is bringing him her newborn baby girl. Sethe was convinced it was his daughter when her lover uttered her name, “Sethe was touched by the sweet name so deeply; the memory of the shining headstone made her feel especially affectionate.” Sethe not only recognised her as her daughter named Beloved, but her behaviour when he first saw her suggested that she was about to give birth to a loved one.

Paul D is haunted by the ghost of the beloved. Paul D., unlike Sethe, does not identify the beloved as a ghost at first. Paul D believed his lover was a genuine lady who had been raped by white men. At the end of the novel Stamp Paid, learns about a long-ago crime, in which Sethe murders one of his daughters in the woodshed of House 124. It’s possible there’s a ghost in the house. The truth is just now being revealed. Paul D was the only one who understood the ghost was Sethe’s daughter. Paul had assumed Sethe had just three children before to the occurrence.

The Oedipus Complex of Beloved

Shortly before the Oedipus complex, the child is linked to the mother. Foster care, for example, cannot separate a kid from his or her biological mother. When we look at this quotation closely, we can find that it also applies to love: “Sethe played all the harder with Beloved, who never got enough of anything: lullabies, new stitches, the bottom of the cake bowl, the top of the milk. If the hen had only two eggs, she got both” (1987:238).

While the Oedipus complex shifts the object of love from the chest, the kid develops feelings for the parents of the opposite sex. It also develops animosity against parents of the same sex. Despite the fact that Paul de does not like his girlfriend, she has a sexual attitude toward him throughout the narrative. She is enraged at her mother for adoring someone other than herself, and she seeks to snare Paul D from her mother. Because Paul is 124’s only father figure, Beloved forces him to fall in love with her.

It’s clear that Oedipus complex arose from her mother’s wrath. She adores her opposite- sex parents. Seth does not reserve all of his love for Beloved; instead, she shares a portion of it to Paul D, causing Beloved to get enraged.

One of the most prominent aspects of the Oedipus complex is hostile and furious views toward same-sex parenting. Nonetheless, it was not simply Sethe’s refusal to share his love with the image of his father that caused the loving anger toward him. She’s also enraged because he abandoned her because he couldn’t forgive his mother for the murder.

Beloved seemed to be being punished for abandoning his mother without apologising. One could believe that Beloved returned in retaliation for Seth’s actions. Because she believes it is her due to have the best of everything, Beloved believes she has lived such a dreadful life because of her mother. In addition, she obtains Paul D for herself. Finally, she is expecting a child:

Sethe opened the door and reached for Beloved’s hand. Together they stood in the doorway(…)The devil-child was clever, they thought. And beautiful. It had taken the shape of a pregnant woman, naked and smiling in the heat of the afternoon sun (1987:261).

One last thing, we must consider the possibility of a lady giving birth to a child for her father during the fleeing phase. Beloved was pregnant, according to Beloved, in order to compensate for her loss. Sethe murdered her and tortured Beloved alone in a cemetery, but now the baby in her womb is laughing at her.

Analyzing the Ghost, Beloved

House number 124 alludes to the birth order of Beloved Sethe’s third child. No. 3 has disappeared from her house; Sethe murdered her as a baby, and she is no longer the third child. She returns
home as a baby in the body of a young woman, and as such, she is Sethe’s final child by birth order. As a result, Sethe now has Beloved as her final daughter. Sethe felt bad over murdering her kid when she was young. The ghost came by the name of the Beloved. When she killed the infant, Sethe was engraved with the name ‘Beloved.’ The ghost turned out to be her long-dead baby.

Another thing that happened was that Beloved sang a lullaby that only Sethe and her children knew.

Leaning forward a little, Beloved was humming softly. It was then, when Beloved finished humming, that Sethe recalled. “I made that song up,” said Sethe. “I made it up and sang it to my children. Nobody knows that song but me and my children.” Beloved turned to look at Sethe. “I know it,” she said. (1987:76)

The beloved would not have recognised the song Sethe had written for her children if she had not been Sethe’s daughter. Beloved gradually sends messages to her mother.

Sethe’s realisation that the beloved is her daughter is the most apparent confirmation.

BELOVED, she my daughter. She mine. See. She come back to me of her own free will and I don’t have to explain a thing. I didn’t have time to explain before because it had to be done quick. Quick. She had to be safe and I put her where she would be. But my love was tough and she back now. I knew she would be. Paul D ran her off so she had no choice but to come back to me in the flesh (1987:200).

Sethe feels that her love for her deceased daughter is so strong that she must resurrect her by the name Beloved in the flesh. She is overjoyed to have discovered her and acts as an adoring mother to her Beloved from that point on.

The beloved claims to have returned to the flesh simply to meet her mother, and she acknowledges that she doesn’t require anybody else. If another point is brought up, the loving mother’s adjustment becomes even more apparent.

Beloved certainly longs for her mother, who is sincerely attached, as seen by these lines. Beloved also appears in the form of a ghost, seeking her mother’s affection.

Conclusion

Finally, the most significant distinctions are seen when comparing Sethe and Denver’s connection with Sethe’s Beloved mother-daughter relationship. The basis for these variances is due to Denver’s and Beloved’s opposing perspectives of life. The adored is considered to be of the sort who is fully reliant on her mother. Beloved has piqued Sethe’s curiosity, and she is ready to answer. “Denver began to withdraw from the play after it became evident that they were solely interested in each other. A mature lady loves her mother, isn’t as reliant on her as her sister is, and even looks after her when she gets sick after divorce. In a nutshell, Beloved merges into one. She is a ghost in the guise of a young lady, but she is not a mature woman; she longs for her mothers’ love, and she vanishes after receiving it.

Glossary

• Sethe – Main Character, Mother of 4 children including Beloved
• Beloved –Sethe’s Third Child
• Denver- Sethe’s youngest child
• Paul D –Paul D was a slave at Sweet Home along with sethe and her husband
• Howard and Buglar – Sathe’s Sons
• Stamp Paid- Former Slave , Sethe’s Neighbour

References