

# Common Attitude and Habits in the Selected Short Stories of “O’Henry”

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**O’Henry:-William Sydnor Porter was also called by his pen name O’Henry. His writing skill reflects humor and admire artistic skill for shadowing the life of common people which reflects their attitude, habits and manners in the characters behave. The Social outlook which transforms their life and outlook towards other characters in the selected short stories. He has an active social life in Austin due to his popularity as the most famous American short story writer. These foreshadows creative way to solve and resolve their problems. Which also entertains everyone the diversity of places and people. Due to health deterioration he dies in1910. His funeral took place in New York and buried in North Carolina.**

O’Henry describes in the short story, ”The Last Leaf “that love makes the lover win over an adverse situation as it provides them a second chance to their loved ones in describing humbleness, kindness and wisdom to explain that they are right so even Givens too explains Josefa that he is was there to save his pet and feels sad that his pet was no more so Josefa apologizes to Givens “I’m very sorry”, she said, humbly; “but he looked so big, and jumped so high that-“This symbolizes that Josefa’s kindness soon turns into sympathy. The love is eminent as O’Henry describes the affection as love plays an important role in their lives as the queen keeps modest, calm and soft in her tone as she always behaves in a modest way her humble nature attract everyone out of admiration while out of love, she tries to modify the voice of her husband. This shows that love reflect admiration and a change in attitude to become modest not only in attitude but virtue also. While her daughter Josefa is perfect in her skill as she makes a perfect shot with her .38 silver mounted gun in shooting a Mexican lion which was ready to attack her. As he said, “Della, said he, let’s put our Christmas presents away and keep ’em a while. They are too nice to use just at present. I sold the watch to get money to buy you combs.” This symbolizes that the watch was sold off by him to

purchase those precious tortoise- shell jewelled combs just like the magi they both also represented the symbol of love and sacrifice. Although the gifts became useless but their feelings and understanding increased as a sign of love increases within them. They were wise in wisdom and in acts like the magi who created the art of giving out of love on the festival of Christmas. As described by, O’ Henry describes the theme sacrifice as it is seen that Johnsy has a strange fear that she would die when the last leaf would fall so Sue and Behrman looked out of the window terrified to see that it would fall. Behrman went outside to paint the last leaf as ,” Johnsy was sleeping when Sue and Behrman were in the flat there they looks out of the window quietly. They looked at each other in a terrifying way. As the rain and snow falling mingles together. Behrman went to paint the last leaf in his blue shirt by painting the last leaf on the ivy tree”. O’Henry gives more importance to humanizing the feeling of hope and sympathy for a common man in a social way by discovering the power of artistic beauty of nature and love for the same making artistic creativity as a wonder in life which can even save someone who has lost the hopes to live like Johnsy in the story, ”The Last Leaf”. Where the creative outlook release the tension and conflicts in a realistic way giving the hope to live making tension relieved which is artistically resolved due to Behrman who paints the last leaf on the ivy tree. O’Henry describes in the short story, ”The Furnished Room” that love always struggle as he searches each and every corner of the room but found small records of previous tenants but nothing that belongs to her so he became hopeless as all his feelings and hopes to find her were shattered. Love is so strong that in spite of all efforts he tries his hard to find a single minute sign to study its physical existence minutely as if it might relate to his love. This also describes that the fight for love never defeats the eagerness and the desire to find his love was so intense that he never rests

comfortably in that furnished room. O'Henry describes that clever people are always admired just like Mrs.Purdy who was smart and intelligent in making all her tenants a fool as they all were unable to trace her lies .O'Henry lays emphasis that socially lies are accepted in the society and praised by those who are admired for their cleverness and smartness. Mrs.McCool tells her that this was right that by renting only they keep their business going and if the truth was told to the tenants then no one would have rented that room again still the young man rents room to the young man this shows her money-minded nature. Many time he is even seen enquiring from the house keeper about Miss.Eloise but she always lies to him. O'Henry describes that the furnished room was a living person which was filled with unpleasant odor that made the wooden floor more uncomfortable to move on it as it had a solid covering of linseed oil mixed with rotten woodwork. O'Henry describes the obsession of the young man who could feel that the room was filled with a sweet smell of mignonette was a symbol of love as he remembers Miss.Eloise whenever the smell of mignonette was felt it also came as a living person with such sureness that he could hear it calling him out,"What,dear?" so he moved rapidly to see from where the smell came so he gets confused. O'Henry describes the loneliness to fill the vacant room in the haunted room which appears to gobble anyone who came to live in it so the struggle faced them to rent a good and comfortable room which makes them feel helpless and lonely as no amount of love, care and protection is provided to them not by the furnished haunted roomO'Henry signifies that within this furnished room many sounds and unpleasant odor could be smelled like in one of the room someone was laughing ; an everlasting laugh came in the form of a loud cry; a cat was crying miserably ; above all a banjo sound rings to a full volume. From somewhere the doors started to bang ; the high roar of an elevated train came all these miserable and unlucky sounds made the abused room haunted and uncomfortable for him to live. And he could feel the room as a living visitant which was very unpleasant more than the unpleasant odor which was so harmful that it made the floor covering solidifies with linseed oil mingled with rotten woodwork. O'Henry describes that the young man feels happy and excited whenever the sweet odor of mignonette was there he feels that Miss.Eloise was there but as the

sweet odor of mignonette disappears it makes him feel lonely, depressed and sad so lost love shatters all the hopes and desires in finding it. The draining away of hope to find her made his faith lost in finding her so he stares at the yellow, singing gaslight so the symbol of the yellow singing gaslight which describes death and mortality as after death he would be able to meet Miss.Eloise .Soon he walked to the bed and began to tear the sheets into strips with the help of a knife.Then he tightly blocked all the small narrow cracks around the windows and door. And when he felt comfortable and warm he turned out the light to turn on the gas to its full and then laid on the bed gratefully. O'Henry transforms the feelings of love which remains unbreakable regardless of what would happen so he commits suicide to turn his lovable feelings towards Miss.Eloise to meet her even when a soul dies by turning the unbreakable bond of love in an honest and eternal way by reflecting the emotional bond of togetherness in a sympathetic way. O'Henry describes that a week before this same room was rented to Miss.Eloise who committed suicide a week ago. And this was the same day a week ago when a pretty girl with a mole over her left eyebrow rented this room she was none other than Miss.Eloise the mole over her left eyebrow describes her bad luck as it was the sign of ill fate which brought disaster in her life.O'Henry explains the curiosity and eagerness of the house keeper who wanted to rent that room.She always needed money before giving that room for rent as she usually describes that the room was rented by most elegant people of the society. This reflects her greed for money. O'Henry describes the negative outlook of a selfish house keeper who was cruel,cold,unkind and unfriendly as she does not have any sympathy or oneness in her feelings to overcome the emotional disturbance nor was she kind and humble in her feelings towards her tenants so she was having no humble, noble and kind feelings towards her. The theme money-mindedness is reflected as Mrs.Purdy has no family support, love ,generosity, loyalty, kindness or affection with anyone and has got no virtues like humanity and kindness. Mrs.Purdy is always busy earning money so she hardly gets anyone to support or love her. Socially lives hardships and disaster makes her money-minded making life pathetic and unsympathetic The theme selfishness is eminent as when Mrs.Purdy tells,"Rooms" are furnished to rent rooms only so she did not tell him the

truth. O'Henry describes that clever people are always admired just like Mrs. Purdy who was smart and intelligent in making all her tenants a fool as they all were unable to trace her lies. O'Henry lays emphasis that socially lies are accepted in the society and praised by those who are admired for their cleverness and smartness. Mrs. McCool tells her that this was right that by renting only they keep their business going and if the truth was told to the tenants then no one would have rented that room again.

O'Henry in the short story, "The Gift of the Magi," describes that the couple were wise just like the magi who were wise men—wonderfully wise men—who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. "This symbolizes that they invented the art of giving gifts on the Christmas festival for Jesus as a token of love towards him to honor and respect the lord—Jesus. O'Henry describes that love makes everyone happy in life as love itself makes lovers more worthy as they both sacrifice their most precious priceless possession which made both happy as they both value love more than the materialistic possession. O'Henry explores the difficulties of a married life condition where the theme love occupies an everlasting effect while making love the. Using technical transformation which enriches each and every part of people to solve and improve life. Love—And then the next two hours, she searched each and every store for Jim's present. A gift as worthy as he himself was to Della so she struggles in finding a perfect gift for Jim which he would love while Jim also brought a perfect gift for Della. These gifts help in attaching emotional values in the form of memorable thoughts and feelings which helps in motivating each other to sacrifice the most priceless possessions.

O'Henry in the short story, "The Social Triangle" describes that love is always admired by all the social classes of people out of social help, respect, success and achievement. The most wonderful and the greatest of all with whom everyone wanted to be and whom everyone liked to be with and greet just like Ikey who admires Billy McMahan. While Ikey is seen valuing the success of his ideal more than money and his family members so he admires O'Henry describes that the rich like Billy McMahan enjoys a social reputation and respect by all those who highly admire him and whose hard work made him win the elections freely so they all were given this party out of admiration

which shown favor provided to Billy Mc Mahan it also describes the importance of give and take relationship as he gave this party to honour all those who made him win the election. O'Henry describes that the highest grace of wisdom at any point of time helps in wiser analysis of the noble virtues and grace. And this the noble virtue was to deliver the message of love to all those who wins the success out courage, respect, love and admiration as they usually acted in a wisdomful way to help the society for a social cause. And as they socially work for the society so their social life helps them in enjoying all the glories and gratitude in enjoying equal opportunity by meeting those who admire them and also by meeting those whom they highly admire as their ideal just like Ikey who gets the opportunity to meet his ideal and to enjoy and cherish his dream by offering them wine and enjoying their success party under a single roof with the most eminent class of the society. The socially rich and the eminent class like Billy McMahan and Van Duyckink enjoys a more luxurious life in meeting social respect and status so they enjoys higher respect and admiration of all. As culturally they enjoy greeting the people who adores them and also enjoys the social respect by showing humbleness and kind desire to those who adores them O'Henry completely changes this tragedy with the single ray of hope in the form of Van Duyckink who could help them in overcoming this problem. In the form a receiver and giver this problem can be solved in meeting each other out of love and admiration. O'Henry completely changes this tragedy with the single ray of hope in the form of Van Duyckink who could help the poor in overcoming the problem of poverty. In this form the social triangle becomes complete as a receiver and giver get this chance as they met each other out of a social cause to eradicate poverty and to socially get help from each other so the social triangle starts from Ikey and ends as Ikey was able to resolve the social problem which was solved when the human circle socially meets their requirements from meeting the richer and the eminent class in meeting each other out of love and admiration. Culturally social belonging helps in organizing social parties and get together which helps them in exchanging nobility and virtues expresses conscious behavior and attitude to sacrifice something more valuable utility which is money to overcome social disasters in the society like disaster like fire, diseases, shelter and food. Selfless—While social help provided

is the collective responsibility of in empowering the key of success through a social community help also which is quite difficult for single person to fulfill .As Van Ducykink himself took the responsibility to help them out of charity.