

# The Chair

(Theme in the chair's)

5 The Chair by Donoso analyses and glorifies the philosophical viewpoint of the absurd as accepted by Samuel Beckett. It has the inspiration from the philosophy of existentialism. It develops the belief that life has no meaning, no purpose and no destination. It has nothing final or absolute. Everything is intimately personal and subjective. Whatever is done in life seems to be automatic with no decided result. 10 The old man and the old lady are the only characters in the one act play with confused language and concealed communication. The couple has been living the married life for the last seventy five years. The man is now 25 ninety five and the lady is ninety. Both are basically bored with stale conditions of life with no nobility. The island is surrounded by the same stagnant water. Every evening the windows are to be closed to keep the mosquitoes. The lady is the wise listener. She energises the husband.

By appreciating the same expression every time — "At last be arrived...". She manages to forget the boredom by taking pinch of salt every night.

5 The play asserts the life to be the hallucination, the green world the loneliness and isolation. For the purpose of staying away from the depression and frustration, the characters in the story successfully create the world of fantasy, the fancy and the imagination. At every interval two matured characters slip to the past that has no proper identities. There is the measurable memory of the departed manna and the dreamy son. There is the nothing in the background to be shared with the positive side of life. It is almost absence of defeat and surrender that has been never accepted. The old man still exhibits the interest in the belle who is already the wife to the photo-anthropologist. The old lady is foolish enough to make the sexual gestures to the photo and gravestone. On the semi-circular stage, only two characters are their rest is to be imagined — The arrangement of more chairs, the arrival of the crowd of the guests, the most important

visit, imperor, the media man  
and many others.

The old man is determined to share the message from his passed with the world towards the betterment of the life. For the purpose, the orator has arrive. The time heavily passes by when the orator is to say something but without affect because he is both deaf and dumb. In a foolish manner he can only murmur the incoherent words to the illusory guests. The story closed down with the suicide of the couple by throwing them to the water. Suicide in itself is the behaviour of a coward who fails to justify life. The play stresses the repetitive present and the inaccessible past. It operates the sense of mortality at the same time. The circular movement of time coincides with the cyclic movement of life. The chair is just a symbol to certify the dormant condition of the men who occupies the same. The theme of nothingness is the firmly established in the peculiar expression of the dialogue without and weight. Eugene Ionesco is

Romanian Conservation and the  
French vacuum.

## Art of Characterisation in the Chairs

Characters in the one-act play, the Chairs are either dreamy or illusory. It is only the old man, the man of ninety five fills depressed or frustrated about his shaky passed where he fails to prove the existence. The man of dreams and ambition has only the vacuum, the loneliness as the reward. There is nothing to energise because he deserts his dying mother and the son on his own abandons after the killing of the birds. Still the old man has the faith that he has received a significant message from his life that can add to the comforts of life. But he is the man without courage and strength because he has no capacity to face the listener. Hence orator has been invited to deliver the message that has concluded the life of the old man. The central point here takes the old man to be the symbol and the of every man who sooner or later the vacuum, the loneliness, the frustration

the meaninglessness, the purposelessness and the emptiness in life.

The old man throughout the play makes no action proving the boredom and irritation in life.

The other characters such as the belle, the photo-and-graver, Colonel, the Emperor, the news man and many others are only to be felt because they are the invisible guests. The chairs are arranged, the door opens and closes but nothing is visual. It is the duty of the wife, ninety years old to comfort the shattered husband who lies down in her lap to cry and address her as the mother. She has the name Semiramis, the historical character who has been at the route of many bloody revolutions. She continuously talks of the latent powers of the husband who has still now behaviour as the General Factotum. He has done everything but at the same time has done nothing. He takes his wife to be his work house who takes the pinch of salt every night after getting tired the stale repetition of the old man. Nor has the physical satisfaction because the lady makes romantic gestures to the photo-and-graver and the

Old man is reminded of his past association with the belle.

The play indirectly takes the point of the sense of responsibility that is taken by none of the couple. The sense of defeat is shown picturing that both of them die before death by committing suicide after jumping from the window to the sea water. The stale smell of the stagnant water is the symbol to describe the absence of any positive principle behind creation. It is taken to be the personal literary frustration of the Romanian playwright, Eugene Ionesco who tries to launch the play as the self critique. There is the absence of the reader's response to his plays that forces him to analyse life in a psychological and philosophical way. The short play has the incredible words spoken by the orator who himself is both deaf and dumb. This technique in the theater of the Absurd pulls one to meditate upon the basic religion of life.