



Decline of Hero Jay Gatsby in F. Scott. Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby

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ABSTRACT *In the novel, F. Scott. Fitzgerald demonstrates that how a dream of the hero is corrupted by material wealth, greatness and power which causes decline of him. The tragic hero in literature is someone who is of noble character or highly esteemed in the society. Gatsby's corruption and materialism continue to hold on to a belief in his supposed idealism and difference from other characters. He breaks the law for no larger purpose and loves an insignificant and weak woman who is as materialistic as the rest of this corrupt society. He has no true identity and does not believe in himself which causes damage to the society. While the novel does not argument the clash that the ideal of self-reliance is noble, it argues that such an ideal is unrealizable in the corrupt and materialistic society of the Jazz Age. There is a decline of the hero because he is worthy of honor, miscalculated his fate and received an unjust punishment.*

The great Gatsby is an exciting literary work that contain tragic hero. The tragic hero in a literature is some one who is a noble character or highly valued in their society. But he must commit some inaccuracy that leads to their downfall and end. The decline of the hero can best be defined as a person of significance, who has a tragic flaw and who meets his fate with courage and goodness of spirit. There are three certain characteristics for a tragic character. First, the character is responsible for his self downfall because of a weakness, flaw or other human imperfection. The Second is when a hero receives a punishment that is greater than his mistake. Finally, the last one is when the tragic character is of noble figure and has greatness.

Jay Gatsby in 'The Great Gatsby' can be considered a tragic hero, because he brings about his own downfall. Although, the author tries to portray Gatsby as a perfect person, there are some imperfections that are still evident. Gatsby is a hero for himself. He has a 'platonic conception of himself' thus he feels he has achieved his dream. Gatsby's biggest weakness is his love for Daisy. He is determined to get Daisy back. He sees her as perfect and worthy of all his affections and praise. In reality she is undeserving and through her actions proves she is pitiable rather than respectable. Jay Gatsby is an enormously rich man and wealth defined importance in the flashy years of the jazz age. He has endless wealth, power and influence but never uses material objects selfishly. Everything he owns exists only to attain his vision. In spite of all his financial success he did not achieve his purpose in life. His goal was to get the girl Daisy. Even worse, he died at the end of the book with only one friend who did not base Gatsby's value as a person solely on his money and lavish parties.

In the beginning we observe Gatsby's lifestyle to be showy and gaudy. In addition to his simulation mansion, Gatsby holds lavish parties on weekends during summer. He is very famous well-known person. Like his mansion, his life is also very sad and empty. Gatsby's "incorruptible dream" is flawed and disillusioned as Gatsby's American dream turns into an American tragedy. Gatsby's biggest weakness is his love for Daisy. He is determined to get Daisy back and he thinks that for him Daisy leaves her husband Tom. The story of his love for Daisy is one of the great love stories of American literature. He sees her with her as the result of his dream. He needs her to be complete. Even though she's married to Tom, Jay buys a mansion close to her house, holds lavish parties so that she'll pay attention to them and may be even come herself. He uses Nick (Daisy's cousin) to finally meet her. He believes that the love he and Daisy felt in the

past was so strong and so special that Daisy couldn't possibly have loved her husband when she married him, and will leave him for Gatsby if he can just meet her and rekindle the romance. Nick organizes a party for Gatsby and Daisy but Gatsby is disappointed that he is not able to impress Daisy as he wanted. Nick tells him not to put too much weight on her because Gatsby could not revive past with her. This belief is his undoing. Daisy will not affirm that she never loved Tom and she does not leave Tom. Gatsby wants to revive his past with Daisy and go back to his romance with her in future. Gatsby believes that if he gains so much material wealth then he marries to Daisy. But it is his fate that he never gets married to Daisy. He cannot accept that reality. So Gatsby's miscalculation that he controls his fate is responsible for his downfall. Gatsby's love for Daisy is romantic and beautiful, but ultimately misguided. His obsession and inexperience doom him to failure.

Jay Gatsby is a tragic hero because he fits Aristotle's guidelines. Gatsby is great, but has a weakness or a flaw, and he got fates that he didn't deserve and the punishment he got exceeded his crime. The punishment he got was not deserved. Gatsby and Daisy were driving together and Daisy hit a woman Myrtle Wilson on her way. Gatsby was willing to take the blame of Daisy so that he could achieve of being with her, as his dream was. As a result the husband of the woman Myrtle Wilson recognized the car that it is in fact Tom's car. But Tom told Mr. Wilson that Gatsby was driving the car. Mr. Wilson was in full of rage, went to his mansion and killed Gatsby and after that he killed himself. Gatsby did not deserve this punishment because he was not the one that hit Myrtle it was Daisy, but Tom blamed Gatsby to get his wife back as one of his "possessions." Ironically, Gatsby lived for Daisy, believed and had faith in her and his vision and end up to his death. So it was his weakness that led to his downfall, which also makes him a tragic hero.

In the last way Gatsby is a tragic hero in the sense that lies in his greatness and of noble stature. He moved from the east to make money because he belonged to a very poor farm family. He wanted to become a rich man so that's why he came to east to become rich man. Now in the book Gatsby is very rich and has a stylish house. He also has parties all the time. We get a number of hints in the novel that how Gatsby got the fabulous wealth. For the sake of this wealth he is said to have lowered himself to an abject position of having been a bootlegger, owner of drugs store and even a murderer. The kind of society he lives in draws its impetuous for life in earning fabulous wealth. The only device that he can think of or

use to regain his lost mistress, Daisy, is to amass riches with its entire related such as lavish parties in which drinks are profusely served and endless rounds of dancing along with flattering. The only reason, why he wants all this material wealth is to impress Daisy so that she may possibly come back to him. He is great in the view of Nick that he is a very well mannered person. He is not like the other rich people who are busy in drinking all the time. In addition, even the title of the book is called "Great Gatsby" which shows that Gatsby is a great man. Actually his greatness is increased from his wealth, because he made parties and invested time and money into them, and even let homeless sleep at his house which shows that he is not selfish but instead has a great character and cares for others. He is also great by dedicating his life for his true love, Daisy, and not going with many girls. His greatness also lies in that case when Daisy killed Myrtle Wilson by the car then at that time it is Gatsby who took all the blame on our self. He did not deserve this punishment, but for the sake of Daisy he is ready to deserve this. So he is a character of noble stature and a great person.

In 'The Great Gatsby', Jay Gatsby is an extremely rich man, and in the ostentatious years of the jazz age, wealth defined importance. Gatsby has endless wealth, power and influence but never uses material objects selfishly. Nick respects him for the strength and unselfishness of his romanticism. Gatsby

is a romantic dreamer who wishes to fulfill his ideal by gaining wealth in hopes of impressing and eventually winning the heart of the materialistic, superficial Daisy. Gatsby believes in The Great American Dream, for that is the basis for his ideal originated. Gatsby's tragic flaw lies within his inability to see that the real and the ideal (Daisy) cannot coexist. The reader sees irony here, knowing she is far from sophisticated, but superficial, selfish and pathetic. Gatsby's vision is based on his belief that the past can be repeated. To become worthy of Daisy, Gatsby accumulates his wealth and with the evidence of material success he wanted to rewrite the past and Daisy will be his. Gatsby's downfall is choosing Daisy to represent his great vision. Gatsby dies with faith. His dream falls apart in front of him, yet he still holds his faith in Daisy. Gatsby never lost faith in his vision, it was totally pure and he pursues it with such great intensity that by the end of the book he is recognized as an admirable character. Gatsby is a man of extreme capabilities but he fails to see the inescapability of his vision's failure and in his inability to see this, he keeps trying to attain it. He does everything in his power to accomplish this vision, until his death. So Gatsby is a tragic hero because he meets the entire criterion of a tragic hero. He is a thrilling character that proves he is a tragic hero because he is the commendable of the honor he receive. His false impression about life leads to his decline. Tragic hero is certainly heroic but he is also disastrous. This is the irony of a decline hero.

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