



## Man To Man Relationships In D. H. Lawrence's Novel 'Kangaroo'

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### ABSTRACT

*Relationship between two males is also one of the themes of Lawrence novels. His novel 'Kangaroo' is regarded as the fictional version of Lawrence's theory of man to man relationship as a force to transform the world. Lawrence believed that creative motives are the first motive of all human activities. Man is not confined to one direction only. Apart from his sexual impulse which is important but is not predominant, man has his creative or religious impulse also. The present study focuses on relationship of men to society for some great creative or religious or constructive activity.*

**Keywords : Friendship, Human, Religion, Soul.**

Lawrence believed that creative motive is the first motive of all human activity. Man is not confined to one direction only. Apart from his sexual impulse, man has his creative or religious impulse also. The creative or religious impulse is "the pure disinterested craving of the human male to make something wonderful, out of his own head and his own self, and his own soul's faith and delight, which starts everything going". In all human activities, the sexual motive is present and even important; but it is not predominant. The prime motive is the religious or creative motive. The creative motive leads man to act in unison with other men for some great common purpose.

In **Kangaroo**, the chief protagonist, Somers, has lost faith in European social and political values. He wants to "move with men and get men to move "with him, in order to change the world. He is an Englishman and has come to Australia after wandering all over the world. Somers concludes that the social system of Australia is "like a machine running on but gradually running down". This socio-political scene baffles him. He believes that politics is the game of materialistic peoples with no human soul in them. He hates politics, but he also does not believe in that part of Christianity which preaches the despising of the material world. He wants positive intervention in the affairs of the world by men with soul and thus a 'new life-form', a 'new social form' to take the place of old politics. At Australia, he wants to put into practice his idea that sincere action by men could transform human life and save it from being reduced to a mere struggle for the acquisition of material possessions.

All his life, Somers had cherished a beloved ideal of friendship. He had always wanted an absolute friend. Here in Australia, Jack Calcott, who is engaged in a 'purposeful male activity', offers him his friendship and comradeship with absolute loyalty in the cause of the transformation of Australia. Jack is an important member of the Diggers organization. The aim of the Diggers movement is to establish a kind dictatorship in Australia on the basis of the values of love and life. As per his passion i.e. 'move with men and get men to move with him, he had been attracted to Jack. He trusts him and believes that his affection is genuine. He is tempted to pledge himself to be life and death mates with him. But soon he realized that Diggers is merely a materialistic aspiration and it is not prompted by his soul & he should reject it. Yet in his soul he wants a living relationship with some man or men. But the nature of this relationship is not yet very clear to his mind. The interpretation of this 'living relationship' between men, given by the narrator of the story, makes it appear to be esoteric. Jack

had offered Somers to meet Kangaroo, the supreme leader of the Diggers. Kangaroo wants the help of him in teaching the Australians to love one another with 'pure and fearless love'. Kangaroo says to Somers that he believes in the man who is true to the flame of love within him must be recognized as a friend and the man who is false to the flame of love within him must be regarded as an enemy. But for Somers, Lawrence love, reason, will and wits are made of the same stuff. All these belong to the material reality. His love is the one face of a coin the other face of which is hate. Love, according to Somers, is not the only inspiration of creative activity.

Willy Struthers, the leader of the Australian labour party, also offers Somers a leading role in bringing about a social-revolution in Australia. Struthers wants the love between comrades to be the new passion bond in the new society. Struthers inviting him to take charge of the communist paper to "breathe the new air of trust and comradeship" into the working people in order to establish "Christ's Democracy". Somers declines this offer by saying that the "belief of men in each other" is not enough. As Somers believes that the only absolute thing is "the God" i.e. the primal spontaneous self in every man and woman, who is the source of all passion. Without "God-passion", the willful love of comrades would be a disaster.

Obviously, for Somers/Lawrence it is futile to work for the creation of a new mechanical social system based on the principle of the wage. However, it is a different matter to work for a new organic social system which depends on the spontaneous soul of men. Kangaroo has no use for the 'God' of Somers and Struthers is not interested in his 'religion'. Each one of them wants to use him for his own ends. When Somers refuses to play Kangaroo's game, he becomes furious and accuses him of being fraudulent. His face of love changes into the face of hate. He intimidates him and suggests leaving Australia at once. It arouses great fear in Somers and he is reminded of his wartime nightmarish experiences in Cornwall. Jack accuses Somers of being a spy and insults the man for whose friendship he had been so eager. Kangaroo's men disrupt the meeting of the labour party where Struthers is delivering a speech. Where in the shoot out Kangaroo dies & Jack inflicts mortal wounds on labour party sympathizers, and gets deep satisfaction out of the act. The wheel of willful love had come full circle. There was only hate all around. The incidents prove that Somers's decision not to accept Jack's or Kangaroo's or Struthers's hand of friendship and comradeship had been right. It had been the decision of his soul; and the soul

cans never error. He always wanted to 'move with men and get men to move with him', not in the mean of mechanical civilization of either Kangaroo or Willie Struthers. Kangaroo had called him 'the enemy of civilization. He does not contradict him but his own definition of civilization is different. In Somers means, civilization involving "the deep, self-responsible consciousness in man".

In conclusion, Kangaroo and Willie Struthers appear to be

powerful leaders of men, but in reality they only follow the great revengeful mob. They are only capable of taking revenge on the old system and old ideals. They are men with only faculties, however sharp, but no divinity. Their mental concept prevents them from listening to the voice of the soul. They cannot establish and sustain a really new and living system. That can be done only by natural aristocrats, the men who have realized their divinity.

## REFERENCES

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