

Movie 9 as a Science Fiction and Gothic Horror

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Abstract: *This paper analyses how Pritviraj portrays the theme of the movie 9 -How a psychoanalytic person creates various problem in his life. The Abstract and concrete themes of the novel can be categorised under the gothic and scientific elements ;are meticulously analysed to show the novelists acumen in establishing the strong bond between the man and universe. This bond and the subsequent interdependence help to initiate the quiet and deep rooted desires of the individual.*

Keywords: *Comet, space,omen,astrophysics,scientists, ghost.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The sci-fi Malayalam movie 9, by Jenuse Mohammed highlights the genre of horror and thriller parallel to each other. It was the debut film of Prithviraj production and was jointly produced by SPE film India. The casting crew comprises of Prakash Raj as Dr Inayat Khan, Mamta Mohandas as Annie, Wamiqa Gabbi as Ava, Master Alok as Adam and finally Prithviraj in the fat part as Albert Lewis. The snow clad mountains of Himachal Pradesh and the tropical Kerala bestows a striking scenario befitting to the background of the movie. The narrative revolves around the lives of Albert Lewis, a widowed cosmologist and his 7 year old son Adam. As a mixture of mystery, supernatural and science, '9' begins when Dr Inayat Khan asks Albert to conduct a research on a comet which will appear for 9 days. In pursuit of the comet, Albert and Adam along with his year of 4 go to Himalayas for further research. During his first sight of the comet, he meets Ava and decides to bring her with his to his cottage where both he and Adam are staying. At the beginning things were pretty normal and Adam gets very comfortable around her. Later, he starts to realise something strange about Ava and learns that she is alien entity who haunts on tragic memories. Deep down inside his mind, Albert blames Adam for causing the death of his wife Annie, who died when delivering Adam. Ava feeds on his hatred towards his son and targets Adams life, while Albert remains ignorant of everything. He even derives it when Adam confronts him with the truth, by writing it off as Adams repressed fear. Ava assumes Annie's form and try to overpower Albert by asking him to hand over Adam as he was the cause for their split. Somehow Albert regains himself and run to save Adam. He put Adam in the safe hands of Sandeep so that he can stop Ava and end everything. At the same time Ava attacks Sandeep who was on his way to the monastery with Adam. Adam manages to escape and take shelter in a local tribe. After a cat and mouse chase, Albert gets knocked out by Ava while Adam avoids danger in a nick of time.

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After a considerable amount of time, Albert finds himself in the presence of Dr Inayat Khan who reveals to him that mayhem was caused by Albert and not Ava. He

experienced a psychotic break that has dissociative sol entity disorder by being Ava. Soon he realise Adam is missing and approaches the monastery for help. There he learns to trace back his lost memories and come face to face with Ava again. This time he confuses his true love for his son and Ava transforms into Annie to show him the way to Adam. In the end, Albert finds Adam in the cave unharmed. The film ends with the reconciliation between the father and the son.

The question of whether Ava is real or not is left to the imagination of the audience. In the scene after the credits, the camera focuses on the painting in the cave where there is a picture that looks the same as Ava. Thus the truth about Ava's origin remains a mystery. The title of the movie is very symbolic both contextually as well as numerically. According to numerology, number 9 represents universal love, eternity, faith, universal spirituals laws, concept of karma, self sacrifice, selflessness, enlightenment, spiritual awakening, destiny, responsibility, intuition, romance and strength of character. The number also echoes with the learning to say 'No', sensitivity, brilliance, problem solving inner-wisdom, freedom, empathy, popularity, high ideals eccentricity, communication, perfection, understand forgiveness, the visionary, duty and calling, obligation, mysticism, and divine wisdom. The person with the qualities of number 9 are those of leadership, integration, the ability to see clearly, they also represents the 3 world of physical, intellectual and spirituality. They are also the seer, introspective with the high moral sense and a good advisor. They are intensely passionate and needs to control their wild impulses. The related planet to the number 9 is Uranus. The star sign is Sagittarius. The tarot card is the hermit. They are physic, sensitive and thoughtful. Quick temper is one of their negative aspects as they tend to lash out at whoever is nearest. The colour associates with number 9 are brown, blue and yellow as they are very earthy and soothing colour. Like numerology, many religions also contain number that carries secret and messages of the universe. There is always a number related to god, goddess, gemstones, colours etc. Both Greece and Egypt regarded number 9 as sacred. It also represents the gestation period, which is 9 months. 9 also associated with eternity. In bible, the number is a symbol of multitude and totality of human being as per Parmenides. It is the triple manifestation of 3*3 which is representatives of the 3 divine manifestations that is, the world of spirits, soul and matter. Jesus Christ passed away at the 9th hour during crucification. He also appears 9 times in front of his disciples after his resurrection. There are 9 spiritual gifts of god that includes wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracle, prophecy, discreetness of spirit, tongues and finally its interpretation Hoshea, son of Elah ruled for 9 years when he become the king of Israel. Jesus Bin Sira in ecclesiastic says these words that also supports the holiness of the number "there are nine things I can think of which strike me as happy and a tenth one which is now my tongue". The number 9 is also the number of judgement and stands for the divine completeness from the father. It also



represents hierarchy that is, the 9 generations from Adam to Noah and Noah to Abraham. Moreover it is also liked with Hecate, the queen of witches. In India the number is associated with 'navarasas' as a made of expression in art. Lord Rudra represents 'Roudra Rasa' or fury whose colour was unarguably red. The number in the bible also symbolic the meaning of finality. Outer space has always attractive scientist from around the globe from the time. They realize that god is not the most important be out there. From the heliocentric theory to the discovery of god particle science as advanced a lot. The space for a curious scientist is like a big riddle that never ends. New discoveries were made in every hour from planets to galaxies. The breakthrough occurred for the astrophysics as well as the rest of the ordinary folk's was the discovery of galaxy other than milkyway. The information that we are not alone in the cosmos sparked new theories among scientist as well as other diagnostics in various field in various field such as movies and literature. The existence of the other life forms which was referred to as aliens in other galaxies become in human and technological advanced than human beings in the imaginative power of writers and directors. Some are pictured as cruel and evil wants to take over the Earth and others as cute and friendly. Sightings of the UFO are also reported from various parts of the world. In the ancient times were people knowledge was limited, comets with their bright tales was seen as bad omen or the wrath of god sent from heaven. Every time a comet appears near the priest or shamans predict a death and performs rituals and sacrifice to avoid it. This is what is depicted in the cave paintings in the movie 9. The ancient myth and modern science clash with each other through the characters in the movie. Prithviraj represent the modern scientist who is skeptic about the myth and legend of the local, while Hakka belongs to the tribe that follows the ancient ways. The appearance of the red comet also triggers as the tripping point of Albert mind Albert mind which leads him to create Ava. Putting aside the fact that Ava is his unconscious mind, she could be both an alien as well as a ghost. She comes with comet and goes when it goes. The real form of the entity is not revealed. Ava is the face of his favourite teacher and nothing more. As a ghostly figure she isn't deformed in any sort that would woke any sort of horror and gore in the mind of the audience. Instead let's first think of her as a modern ghost. Although we can't deny the superb setting which also feeds tour fear. The first person who introduced Albert to the world of science is his own father. Even his name Albert could be inspired from Albert Einstein. His father always told him to look at the sky for answers that he could never find on earth. Later Dr Inayat khan took the role of a teacher who taught Albert about astrophysics. The sudden death of wife Annie and birth of his son made him cold and distant. The truthful words of Albert and new role as a dad got him thinking that his possibilities are suddenly limited. He was meant for much greater things but the take care of his naughty son, he felt like he was forced to give up a lot of things that could have proven his genius and earned him a reputation. The old cottage and the cold setting give it a gothic feeling in whole.

II. OBJECTIVE

To learn the characters style, tone and content of the movie 9. This is also for analysing this as a science fiction and

gothic horror. To approach the first science fiction movie in Malayalam in a different way.

III. HYPOTHESIS

If I do this paper then I will be able to show the scientific and gothic elements of the movie 9. This helps to create awareness in readers about the supernatural built-up in it. This also reveals how Albert Lewis personal life is threatened by powers beyond comprehension.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The dissertation has been planned in chapterization. Particular problem is analysed in each chapter. I will gather information which is connected to my subject and add it in the research with the proper guidance of my supervisor. I will visit libraries in Ernakulam for the accumulation of materials. I will also analyse resources like newspaper and internet. The typing and formatting of the work will be done will be done as per the MLA standard. Here I have tried to find out the gothic elements and scientific elements of the movie 9.

V. ANALYSIS AND FINDING

This paper analyses the issues of a psychoanalytic person. Schizophrenia and bipolar diseases creates lots of problem in Albert's life. The symptom of this disease is seen at every stages of his life. Even an intelligent person is seriously affected by it. It's clearly found in the character Albert.

VI. TABLE

Gothic Characteristics	Gothic horror features
Blood	Characters
Pain	Weather
Cruelty	Settings
Death	Landscapes
Aberrant psychological character	Themes

VII. CONCLUSION

There are certain things that are incomprehensible even to the greatest scientist. Ava is one such mystery. Dr Khan says that she is the unconscious darker side of Albert and he was suffering from schizophrenia, that conclusion seems incomplete for most part. We could confirm that Ava is Albert is Albert split personality. But there is one instance where both Albert and Ava part for a moment. During that time a woman sees, yells at Ava and questions her why did she came here. That is the only time Ava becomes something else and threatens the women to keep quiet if she fears for her life. Also there is a scene after the end credits that shows the cave paintings in which a woman is depicted which could be Ava. But the audience for sustaining this theory is very less in the movie. Also it is neither science nor myth that triumphs but loves. When



Albert confirms his love for Adam, Ava loses her hold on him. In the end both father and son confide in each other and the question to which answer is only known to Adam remains unuttered in the end. Humanity wins over science and belief.

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