

## 1. Water, Water Everywhere

### General Concept

Water is a liquid substance. It is liquid between 0°C and 100°C. While 0°C is its freezing point, 100°C is its boiling point. Water is a common substance on the earth covering a two-third of it.

To trace the origin of water, one needs to describe first how the earth itself came into its existence. It is interesting that water and fire are quite opposite to each other but the source of water is fire itself or the sun. According to *The World Book Encyclopedia*:

The question of how water began on earth is the part of question of how the earth itself began. Many scientists believe the earth was formed from materials that came from the hot sun. These materials included the elements that make up water. As the earth cooled and grew solid, water was trapped in rocks in the earth's crust. The water was gradually released, and the own basins filled with water. (73)

Water, in accordance with chemist, is a mixture of Hydrogen and Oxygen. It is colorless liquid with the formula H<sub>2</sub>O. The formula suggests that each molecule of water contains one atom of Oxygen and two atoms of Hydrogen. Both are gases. Hydrogen is light and Oxygen contains 20 percent quantity of the atmosphere. If one separates any one atom from water, it no longer remains water. And if the Oxygen and Hydrogen are mixed, it automatically becomes water. All living beings need Oxygen. So, the life without water is impossible.

Water is found in different forms. They are dew, fog, ice, steam, sweat, tear, blood and so on. Most of water on earth is not fresh. Only three percent is fresh. Water in the ocean, contains ninety seven percent, and is too salty. Most of the fresh

water is not easily available to people. It includes water locked in glaciers and icecaps. Rest of one percent water, half of it is under the surface of the earth. Rivers and lakes contain only about one- fifteenth of one percent of the earth's water. Water in atmosphere is in a form of vapour which contains only one- thousand of one percent of the earth's water. About eighty five percent of the vapour is in the air that comes from the oceans. At one time or another, all the water on the earth enters in the air or atmosphere as water vapour.

Most scientists believe that life itself began in the water especially salty water of the sea. It is the fact that the origin of life is sea. So, the quantity of water in the body of living beings is maximum (high) and life without water is impossible. Human body has got about two- third water. A chicken has about three-fourth water, a pineapple contains about four-fifth water and a potato has got about 95 percent of water.

An interesting thing about water is that all the things in nature are useless after their use or they can not be reused with the same purpose again but water is only one substance that can be used again and again with the same purpose because of its never ending quality. One can easily use the polluted water for drinking after certain purifying process. The quantity of water on the earth is always equal. It was the same; it is the same and it will be the same even later on. There is circulation of water on the earth. At any time one's urine and the water after bathing first go to the river or lake and it goes to the sea. Then it enters the atmosphere and become cloud. After being cloud it goes higher and higher. At a point it condenses. Again it returns to earth as rain.

Water is essential for human being to proceed the life. It is used for drinking, for washing clothes, for bathing, for cleaning waste materials, for irrigation, for

dissolving nutrients, for industry and so on. It can be used in recreational purpose such as fishing and sailing. Watery solutions help dissolve the nutrients and carry them to all parts of an organism. How much essential the water to human being is clear by the fact that a man can live without food for more than two months, but the same man can live without water for only a week. If the body loses more than twenty percent of its normal water content, a person will die painfully. Human beings must take in about 2.4 liters of water a day.

Water always runs down-hill. When it runs down wards, there appears power. This power is used and a large amount of electrical energy is supplied by hydro-electric generators in many countries. Electric power is truly the modern slave because of its use in various fields such as to run the factory, to pump the water from far distance, for lighting at the home, for ironing the clothes, for cooking rice and so on.

A quality of water is surface tension. It is the ability of a substance to stick itself and pull itself together. Water's surface tension is extremely high. A dripping tap shows how water sticks to itself. Water molecules cling together so tightly that water can support objects heavier than itself. For instance, a needle or razor blade can float on water. Insect can walk on the water. Not only can it stick to itself but it can stick to other substances such as cloth, glass and soil. By sticking to these substances, water wets them.

Water plays great role for the civilization. Throughout the course of history, civilizations have grown up around water sources. When water supply failed, the civilization decreased or even vanished. A great civilization once existed in the valleys of Tigris and Euphrates rivers in present day Iraq. It largely disappeared, apparently because the climate changed and much of the land turned into desert.

Several small civilizations existed on the northern shore of Africa during Roman times. They have now largely disappeared apparently because rainfall decreased. On the other hand, a great population has lived in the valley of Nile long before written history began. The people of this valley did not depend on rainfall but on rivers and irrigation.

Water in different culture and different areas has represented different symbols. Water has been looked from different perspectives. It has got significant role in Christianity. It is believed that the water after blessing in church stops the man from committing evil. According to *An Encyclopedia of Religion*: "Ordinary water which has been sanctified by the blessing of the church. Salt is added to ordinary water to signify that this water is now preserved from corruption. It is used extensively in ceremonies of blessing" (344).

In some places water determines one's journey that is good or bad. In India seeing filled water pots before setting off on a journey symbolizes good (journey) omen while seeing empty pots symbolizes bad omen. Philippa waring writes in *A Dictionary of Omens and Superstitions*: "In India, it is said that to spill some water before setting off on a journey is a good omen for the trip, while to dream of water-rough water in particular-is an omen of misfortune" (251-52).

There is an interesting culture where the water symbolically signifies for finding or not finding good or bad husband by a girl. Certain activities of a girl at the time of washing determine whether she finds drunkard husband or not. Philippa waring again writes in *A Dictionary of Omens and Superstitions*: "There is also an omen to be read by a young girl who seems unable to avoid splashing herself or her clothes when washing for this is a sign she is going to get a drunkard husband" (251-52).

In Hinduism, especially in Brahmin culture, offering of water to the dead body plays a vital role in ceremony called Udakakarma. The activities performed by relatives of dead symbolize the good thing happening to dead man's soul and good thing happening to them as well. Raj Bali in *Hindu Samskaras* describes:

A ceremony of Hinduism is Udakakarma or the offering of water to the dead. It is performed in the variety of ways. According to one authority, all the relatives of dead down to the seventh or tenth generation bath in the nearest stream and purify themselves by it and offer a prayer to Prajapati. While bathing, they put on only a single garment and sacred thread hands over the right shoulder. (251-56)

In Hindu mythology, water is used as holy thing or as supreme thing. Different sources of water such as rivers and pools are named by different deities. Yamuna, Ganga, Sagara, Saraswati, Krishna, Kali and so on are the name of rivers and pools, and at the same time they are the name of immortal deities as well. They are meant to give advantages, inspiration and confer wisdom on the worshippers. In Hinduism water has been taken as a great thing like a God that maintains the life. Without it the life can not be circulated. W.J. Willkins writes in *Hindu Mythology*:

In our two stories of Narada the significant trait was the transformation worked by the waters. This was to be read as an operation of Maya; for the waters are understood as a primary materialization of Vishnu's – energy. They are the life maintaining element that circulates through nature in the forms of rain, sap, milk and blood. (34)

Water plays key role in Hindu mythology. Vishnu is a great god where source of energy is no more than that of water. The different forms of water have equal value which maintains the life through the nature.

## **Water and Literature**

Water has deep relation with literature. We have already described that symbolically it may present anything else. It has its own history in literary field. It is being used in literature with its different representation for different purposes. In presenting symbol, there may be the quality of water such as uncertainty, changing time and again, drowning, sinking, and the different forms of water such as blood, tear, sweet etc. It is not to say that water always represents one thing; it may have different meanings with the change of context, reader and culture.

Fairy tale is also a part of literature. *Hansel and Gretel* is a fairy tale. With a close reading of this tale one can find the water symbol. In the tale, there is a pool which these brother and sister have to cross. They cross the pool with the help of a white duck. This 'water' symbolizes a transition between two situations of those children. One situation is reaching home and another is before reaching home. There is new beginning on higher level of existence as in baptism in Christianity. Another fairy story named *The Water Babies* by Charles Kingsley, in which Tom, an apprentice chimney sweep, blunders into a wrong room at Harthover place. The whole household chases him as if he is a thief. He finally escapes across the moors, plunges into a river, and is changed by fairies into a river baby. The rest of the story is devoted to his aquatic adventures, first in the river, and then in the ocean. The water symbolizes here as a kind of purgatory in which imperfect spirits are gradually purified by punishment and rewards. Tom's own purification is completed when he makes a toilsome pilgrimage.

Some of 20th century writers have used the water as symbol. A famous poet Robert Frost, in his a piece of art named *West-Running Brook*, used water as symbol. In this art 'Brook' is the symbol of conflict between white and black on the one hand.

On the other hand, the same 'Brook' is running west which represents contrariness because all the brooks run east. Life is believed to go forward but this brook runs opposite to other brooks.

Another 20th century literary writer, Earnest Hemingway, uses water symbol in his novel. In his famous book, *The Old Man and the Sea*, the sea also represents water. 'Sea' is the symbol of death because he may be killed there due to the fish. On the other hand, the sea is the symbol of his existence because he kills the fish and survives.

The 'sea' which plays a major role in the play, *Anna Christie* by Eugene O'Neil, has been analyzed as a symbol. It is not just a sea but a destructive force of nature against which the human beings are pitted. The nature is much more powerful than human beings but the human beings are much more courageous than anything else.

Another prominent figure in the field of literature is T.S. Eliot. *The Waste Land* is his most famous and analyzed work of art. In this poem, there are symbols of water. Water is traditional symbol of regeneration and purification but in the modern waste land it symbolizes the destruction, decay, sterility, disintegration and barrenness. For there is the lack of faith in God in the modern people. They have forgotten the God. So, they drown in lust, sensuousness, lack of humanity, materialism and so on. For instance, Phoenician sailor, Iphigeneia was a young, tall, and handsome but he was drowned because his life was a sordid round of business activity and pleasure without any spiritual motivation. Like other writers, Saul Bellow's writing can also be read from symbolic perspective.

## **Saul Bellow and Symbolism**

Saul Bellow was a great Jewish American novelist. He was born in Canada in 1915 and grew in Chicago. He has contributed a lot to American letters. He sets most of his stories in Chicago's black ghetto with great empathy. One of the great theme of Bellow as a novelist was to make the process of becoming American. The disintegrating self of early modern literature had actually survived two World Wars, the holocaust, the technological revolution, and their effects on the mass society. The typically modern phenomenon of the alienated hero, the wasteland and absurd world continue to appear in the twentieth century literature right up to the present decade. Water has got significant role in most of Saul Bellow's novels. All of the heroes get drowned in the water of feelings. They are lost in search of their feelings which make them flow from one point to another. Nirmal Mukharji comments on the novel: "The use of water and animal imagery in this particular novel is very significant. Water images in general suggest feelings surging power (all heroes get drowned in the sea of feelings). Wilhelm finds himself flowing into another channel" (53).

*The Adventure of Augie March* is Bellow's third novel in which 'eagle' symbolizes the power of America or the cruelty it possesses which is its weakness. Augie, the protagonist comically names his eagle Caligula, which is parallel to madness. Caligula is an evil Roman Emperor.

Water used as symbol can be found in Bellow's another novel, *Henderson the Rainking*. Eugene Henderson, the protagonist, middle aged man is wealthy and has got high social status but he is not satisfied. He becomes restless and unstable. He feels deeply unfulfilled. As a result, he looks for a source to fulfill his spiritual void, which has taken the form of an inner voice crying out I want, I want, I want. His restlessness is such a weighty load that makes him sink under the surface of water.



The desire to discover what he exactly wants helps him sink more. To discover what he wants, he leaves America and sets off for Africa. He splits his original group, hires a native guide, moves from village to village, desires to do better for native, unwittingly passes a wariri test and becomes the Rain King. Up to this point he is on the bottom of water. He is merely unconscious and near to die. He learnt shortly about Dafu's death that the Rain king is the next person who is on the line of succession for the throne and will face the tragic fate like that of Dafu. This Knowledge makes him flee and save his life. This means symbolically he comes out of the water.

The present novel, *Seize the Day*, is full of water symbols. Tears, sweat, unstable feelings, changing activities are the things to symbolize the water and the same water symbolizes the burden of the protagonist and the quite opposedly his relief.

## 2. Water and Symbolism

### Origin and Concept

A symbol is a sign that stands for an idea or an object. The term 'symbol' is derived from Greek verb 'symballein' which means to 'throw together' and its noun 'symbolon' means 'contract', 'token', 'insignia' and of identification'. The Latin 'symbolons' or 'symbolum' means a sign by which one knows or infers a thing.

To trace the origin, development and differentiation of a symbol is a difficult job. There are different opinions about the first appearance of symbol. It seems clear that at some point in the evolution and the human species distinguished itself by making conceptions of the cosmos that made the environment in some degree comprehensible. Such conceptions served to order the extended world in terms of symbols. Father Herds says that the early Indians were the discoverers of the movement.

Almost every symbol and sign in religion is at first either directly or indirectly connected with the senses, impression and objects of nature. Many symbols are derived from the objects of nature and others are artificially constructed in a process intuitive perception or emotional experience. In most cases, the constructions are related to objects in the world of sense perception. The same idea is symbolically expressed in various manners; for example, by means of persons, objects, animals and signs. All appear side by side. Literary symbols may be defined distinctly. According to *The New Encyclopedia Britannica*: "Symbol is a communication element intended to simply represent or stand for a complex of person, object or idea "(458).

Any thing can be symbol that stands for something. Every word that we utter can be a symbol because it stands for another idea. In relation to literature, the word or phrase stands for another objects or idea away from the word itself. The same word

may stand for different ideas with the change of context. M. H. Abrams in his famous book *Glossary of Literary Terms* states as:

In the broadest sense, a symbol is anything which signifies something; in this sense all words are symbols. In discussing literature however, the term symbol is applied only to a word or phrase 'that ' signifies an object or event which in its turn signifies some thing, or has a range of reference, beyond it self. (206)

In the field of religion, the role of symbol is great not because all religions of world have been using since time immemorial but because it conveys the religious concepts as a key. Moreover, it represents to the activities of sensory organs such as hearing, seeing and so on. According to *New Encyclopedia Britannica*: "Symbolism, the basic and often complex artistic forms and gestures used as a kind of key to convey religious concepts, and iconography, visual, auditory, and kinetic representation of religious ideas and events, have been utilized by all religions of the world since time immemorial" (900).

The symbol can be found in dreams, religions, sex and art. This is for an object that can not be seen but is realized by the association only. It can have connotation meanings. Peter Underwood defines in *Dictionary of the Occult and Supernatural*:

Symbolism is a term for an object representation to the mind something that is not shown but which is realized by association. [...] symbolism has become associated with many articles, but man, both primitive and modern, has tended to accept symbolic connotations in experiences he does not altogether understand; thus dreams, religions, sex and art are full of symbolism. (52)

Different mythologies represent different forms of symbolism. Greek and Germanic mythologies have got animal symbolism. Certain animals are the symbol of certain gods. Gustav Jung says: "A Greek mythology is full of animal symbolism. Zeus, the father of the gods, often approaches a girl whom he desires in the shape of a swan, a bull or an eagle. In Germanic mythology, the cat is sacred to the goddess Freya, while the boar, the raven, and the horse are sacred to Wotan"(265).

A symbol, then, might be defined as an extension of metaphor, in which the thing, image or action is used to suggest many other things. So, to compare with metaphor, symbol covers a broad area. It needs the reader to be creative and imaginative as well to find the appropriate meaning.

In the same way, it differs from allegory due to its real existence. In allegory, the abstract things are personified, for example, the personification of different vices and virtues in the medieval age of morality plays. Allegorical signs are arbitrary. A scale symbolizes justice, a dove, peace, the cross, Christianity and lion symbolizes strength. Different forms and levels of experience and relationship to reality are linked together with the concept of symbol, sign and picture. The function of symbol is to represent the reality or truth and to reveal them either instantly or gradually. The relationship of symbol to reality is conceived at some what direct and intimate and also somewhat indirect and distant. Though symbol has a tendency to be normative, stable, and fixed, yet the meaning of symbol changes frequently.

In fact, the art of symbolism is the art of expressing feelings, not through direct description, but by reaction and feelings in the mind of readers. It is the power of symbol that the representation and what is represented excites and constrains the mind to linger and penetrate more deeply. About symbolism, Edmund Wilson, in his book *Axel's Castle*, defines it in this way: "Symbolism may be defined as an attempt

by carefully studied means- a complicated association of idea represented by a medley of metaphors to communicate unique personal feelings" (21-22).

Generally, symbols can be categorized into two ways; the conventional or public symbols and private or personal symbols. Conventional or public symbols are those symbols which are accepted in a particular culture as a convention. Readers can easily grasp the meaning of these symbols and there is no need of any interpretation for the readers to understand the meaning of these symbols. The cross, the red and the white stand for the Christianity, violence and purity respectively, are the examples of this kind of symbol. Likewise other symbols may have special meaning in special use as the writer personally chooses a certain symbol with a particular meaning. This kind of symbol with a particular meaning intended by writer is called private symbol. For instance, a peacock stands for pride, the rising sun stands for birth, the setting sun for death or end, and lamb for innocence.

There are some symbols that have got more than one meanings; 'moon' for example, may represent peace, serenity, chastity, romantic love or inaccessibility. 'Water' may have the symbolic references of life, regeneration, God, or purity and 'diverse path' may have the symbol of dilemma or choice of critical decision. So, it is impossible to read imaginative literature with full understanding until and unless we keep alert for these underlying symbols. They do not have publicly accepted meaning and can have got meaning in which context they have been used. The use of symbols like these enables to give more emotional tone to any piece of literary writing. Some times they reinforce an impression, which is produced by other means.

There is also a sexual symbol which is found in psychoanalytic text. All long and pointed objects usually vertical are seen as phallic while all those objects which

are opening and hollow usually horizontal are seen as womblike symbols. This is also known as vulgar Freudian symbols.

Symbols have been of particular interest to formalists, who study how meanings emerge from the complex patterned relationship between images in a work. For psychologists, the symbol exists almost wholly in the mind, and then projected outward upon the nature in mathematics. Symbols are a kind of short hand for concepts which otherwise have to be explained each time. In the field of science, symbolic systems have been developed that are for more clear than language. Words used in day to day speech have wider association than scientific symbols.

Although having various interpretations and definitions of symbol by critics or poets, it has become a literary term, which has no fixed meanings. Instead of saying A is B, the writer presents the reader with half of the analogy only, and reader is suggested to cover the missing part.

### **Symbolism in Art and Literature**

The use of symbols is one of the greatest devices to represent emotions and feelings of the artists in art and literature. Every feeling or an emotion of the writer is impossible to be expressed through the conventional and universal language of literature. So, to make his ideas precise and piled with his inner feelings or sensations, writer has to use special language or medium. In this situation, symbolism plays a significant role in art and literature.

The field of symbolism shows a strong relation between religion and other areas of culture. The social domain under the influence of religion develops its own symbolism for expressing its own values and objectives. Similarly, religion depicts its symbol from social, political and economic domains. So, we should not forget that literature reflects all these domains as Catherine Belsey in the essay, *Literature*,

*History, politics*, says that literature history and politics go side by side reflecting one another.

Symbolism is a way of using symbols in literature, signifying the different ideas or concepts from that of its appearance. For example, ashes symbolize death, the cross Christianity and flower stands for beauty.

The area of symbolism is so wide that almost everything whether concrete or abstract can be taken into its boundary. The natural objects like stones, animals, plants, men, seas, rivers, the sun, the moon and so on or the abstract forms like number, triangle, the circle, and so on can be interpreted from the symbolic perspective. So, the field of symbolism shows a strong relation between religion and other areas of culture. According to *The Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature*:

Symbolism as a general term, and particularly with reference to prose writings, should not be confused with symbolist poetry, which refers to a particular literary movement characterized by desire to express a state of mind by purely sensuous images, and to suggest rather than describe. Symbolism in general, may refer to do any one thing being made to stand for another literary technique that is fairly wider spread.

(1108)

The following paragraphs discuss briefly about the representative writers who employ public symbolism and others who mostly use private symbols. Public symbols include symbols drawn from established religions or religious texts, for example, the lamb for God, the tree for knowledge, are taken from Christian mythologies. But the private symbol is the symbol developed by the writer in his/her work. Readers are supposed to be acquainted with the writings of author to find the meaning completely

of these images. But occasionally, a poet recruits public symbols and puts them to his own private use. Romantic poet William Blake took the lamb to mean innocence and meekness, the eagle to mean soaring inspiration, the tiger to mean fierce revolt which are drawn from mythology. However, he used thunder as a private symbol, which stands for the oppressive wrath of Urizen, the tyrant God of convenient religion who thunders at the social outcast through contemporary sermons. In *The Waste Land*, T.S. Eliot combines symbols from Buddhist texts and the Old Testament and W.B. Yeats pulls symbols from Irish mythology.

Thus it is obvious that poets and artists prefer to speak on particular issues through symbols creating their images from various domains and sometimes borrowing them from religion. So, due to the wide range of usage, almost every word is symbol used not for associations, but it evokes of a reality beyond the senses.

### **The Symbolist Movement**

Symbolism was brought to the literary school by a group of poets including Mallarmé, Valéry, and Rimbaud. The underlying philosophy of symbolists was a conviction that the transient objective world is not a true reality, but a reflection of invisible absolute. They believed that the internal reality could only be suggested; to name is to destroy and to suggest is to create. The symbolist avoids scrupulously political, sociological and ethical themes. They are neither moral nor immoral, but amoral and upholders of the doctrine of art for art's sake. Some of the poets in their zeal for avoiding middle class morality resorted to drugs, sadism and alcohol, and live in a life of perversion and despair. Some chose to call themselves Decadents.

Symbolist movement was firstly identified by the poet Jean Moreas in the Paris journal *Le Figaro* on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1886. Publishing the symbolist manifests in the journal, he declared war on the descriptive realism and impersonal, deductive



method of Parnassian poetry. The Parnassians were the group of French poets of the mid century of the Victorian period, who used the traditional forms and wrote on historical, scientific, natural and traditional, morals, and they worshiped 'Arts' as Gospel truth. This monotonous didacticism inspired a group of French poets to start the symbolist movement, as an utter reaction. The poets, who started the movement, were Charles Baudelaire, Stephen Mallarme, Paul Valery, and Arthur Rimbaud. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, they rebelled against what they regarded as the excessively rigid, rhetorical principles of traditional French poetry. The movement stemmed from a general admiration of Charles Baudelaire's *Les Fleurs du Mal* and was also influenced by the critical theories and poetic practices of American poet Edgar Allan Poe.

Poe was the important person for symbolism. By the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century, Poe, Hawthorne, Melville, Whitman and Emerson were developing the literature in relation to symbolism. Later on, the discovery of Poe by Baudelaire became the century's remarkable event in the history of symbolist movement. When Baudelaire read Poe at the first time in 1847, he expressed a strange commotion. As he looked up Poe's writings, he said that he himself had already thought vaguely and confusedly about the matter. Therefore, Poe's critical writing provided the first scriptures of the symbolist movement.

After finding a new literary trend, symbolists wished to liberate poetry from its expository function and its formalized oratory to describe instead of fleeting, immediate sensations of man's inner life and experience. They attempted to evoke the ineffable intuitions and sense impressions of man's inner life and to communicate the underlying mystery of experience through a free and highly personal use of metaphors and images. Those metaphors and images, though lack clear meaning, would convey

the state of poets mind and hint at the 'dark and confused unity' of an inexpressible reality.

To symbolist, the theme within a poem could be developed and 'Orchestrated' by the sensitive manipulation of harmonious, tones and colors inherent in carefully chosen words. Their attempt to emphasize the essential and innate qualities of poetic medium was based on their conviction of the supremacy of art over all the other means of expression of knowledge. The underlying philosophy of the symbolists was a conviction that the transient objective world is not true reality, but a reflection of the invisible absolute. Therefore, they rebelled against the techniques. They believed that the inner external reality could only be suggested. Any theme for them is acceptable, as long as it captures the poet's subtle intuitions and contributes to a total design. So, a word, for them is not a mere word rather it evokes and suggests feelings.

In the observation of French symbolist movement, a group of four poets appear as the chief practitioners of the movement whose rise and fall depends on the rise and fall of symbolism. Though it has already been described in this research, symbolism was identified by Jean Moreas in 1886, but developed by Baudelaire about three decades earlier. And it was originated in America because of Baudelaire's symbolic mode was based on Poe. Baudelaire published a volume of translation of Poe's tales. In his sonnet, *Correspondences*, Baudelaire saw nature as symbolic of another reality. For him, the visible and sensible world was full of symbols which fill man's heart with joy and sorrow and convey him through scent, color and sound to rapture the spirit.

### **French Symbolist Movement**

French symbolist movement was largely confined among a group of poets such as Baudelaire, Mallarme, Valery and Rimbaud in a manifest article, *La Figaro*,

of 18<sup>th</sup> September 1886, Jean Moreas used the term 'symbolism' to describe aesthetic theories and poetic practices of the group of writers around Mallarme. These writers were the chief practitioners of the symbolist movement in France. Cecil Maurice Bowra writes in his book, *The Heritage of Symbolism*: "Baudelaire was the first to exalt the value of symbolism, Verlaine used them intricately and Mallarme erected metaphysics to explain and justify them" (1).

It has been already discussed that the writings of American writer Edgar Allan Poe was the source of this movement in French. Baudelaire published a volume of translations of poet's writings. Those translated writing changed the direction of French literature. So, the poems of Baudelaire are based on the symbolic mode of Poe's writings.

Mallarme was symbolist leader in French. His theory and practice were the crown and conclusion of symbolist movement. He chose the new symbols from various fields of his impression. His work may be understood with deep study because he remains his symbols cannot convey all that they meant to him. So, his writing is difficult to understand.

Paul Valery was another famous symbolist and wrote poems under the influence of Mallarme. Highly was his individual expression of characteristic of his poem. He conveyed his inner feelings through symbols.

Another symbolist was Arthur Rimbaud whose poem contains direct sensation, morbid dreams and hallucination. He achieves it by juxtaposing image and symbols.

Mallarme and his followers are called symbolists because they attempted to convey a supernatural experience in the language of visible things. Therefore, every word is symbol and is used not for common purpose but for association which it

evokes of a reality beyond the senses. In deed, any attempt to epitomize the symbolist view must end in distorting. For they preferred to speak on particular issues not by describing them directly or even defining them through explicit metaphors and similes, but suggesting the exact nature of these ideas and emotions and by reproducing them through the use of symbol. So, symbolism became a subtle transformation of reality.

French symbolist movement reached the highest point of its audience in 1890s. Then the reaction began against what were seen as its gratuitous obscurities, its verbal idiosyncrasies and its sources. Gradually, some abandoned the philosophical idealism of symbolism in favour of a return to modern and some others changed to Catholicism. Lean Btoy and Paul Berget were the notable examples of such writers. C.M. Bowra writes: "When Mallarme died in 1898, the movement of which he was the high project and the foremost practitioner seemed to die with him in the next few years. French poetry found distinguished exponents in Jean Moreas, Francis James, Henri de Reginer and Paul Claude but not- one of them was really symbolist" (17).

There is no doubt the symbolist movement had a strong influence in English literature. Though the use of symbol has been used from beginning of human civilization, French poets began symbolist movement and use of symbol developed as a movement in English literature basically from romantic period. Regarding the symbolist movement, M.H. Abrams writes:

Various poets of romantic period including Novalis and Holder in Germany and Shelley in England, often used private symbols in their poetry; Shelley for example, repeatedly made symbolic use of objects such as morning and evening star a boat morning upstream, winding caves. William Blake, however, exceeded all his romantic

contemporaries in his recourse to a persistent and sustained symbolism that is a system of symbolic elements – both in his lyric poems and long prophetic or epic poems. (209)

Romanticism was an extraordinary development of imaginative sensibility. It was reality of the individual. It was a reaction against the classicism. Not only this, it was an attack in the domains of politics and moral in the society and in art an ideal of objectivity. The peculiar quality of romantic poetry seems to restore us to a reality at a higher level detaching us from the real world. As Ellimann writes in the book, *The Modern Tradition*:

Though not all romantics are symbolists, symbolist is a kind of romantic one who singles out and develops the romantic doctrine of creative imagination. Whatever else he may affirm, the symbolist holds that human imagination actively constructs the world we perceive or at least meets it more than half way, and does not merely reflect the given form of external objects. (7)

William Blake was one of the significant users of symbol in art and poetry. He was the first romantic poet to give emphasis on the need of symbols in art and poetry. There is hardly any poem in Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience which does not have symbolic meaning. He did not believe in Christianity rather he believed in Deism. So, his philosophy was antichristianity. He used both symbols private and public to attack on the Christianity. The symbols that he uses frequently are lamb, rose and lily and tree, and so on in his poems.

W. B. Yeats has been regarded as one of the chief representatives of the English symbolist movement. He is an Irish nationalist. He was the follower of French symbolist movement. His symbolism was based on poetry of Spenser, Blake

and Shelley. Moreover his symbols were emotional and he was interested in the occultalism and mythical symbolism. As C.M. Bowra writes: "Yeats, for instance, has created an almost new kind of poetry about his friends by making them at once entirely real yet symbolical of various destinies" (24). 'Helen' and 'rose' are frequently used symbol in his poetry to symbolize destructive beauty.

In his poetry, Yeats expresses his personal feelings and emotions using mythical symbolism. For instance, *Sailing to Byzantium*, *Leda and Swan*, *The Second Comings* and so on are some of his poems where symbols have been used. In his collection of poems, *The Rose* in which rose is used as the key symbol which symbolizes intellectual beauty, beauty of women especially that of Maud Gonne and also Ireland. His symbols are more emotional than intellectual.

T.S Eliot is another important symbolist in modern English literature. He uses symbolic techniques to express not only personal sensation, but a complex and decadent civilization with meaningless routine of modern people. So, his symbols are traditional rather than personal. The source of his symbols are of mythologies of past. Moreover, same symbols are frequently repeated in his works which help to make precise their symbolic value. In his poem, *The Waste Land* Eliot has used symbols to clarify the horror of modern civilization because of the degradation in culture. Dry bones, rats, dry grass, rocks, fire, water etc are recurring symbols that Eliot has used in the poem. The 'dry bones' in the poem symbolizes spiritual decay of modern people. In the same way, dry grass, rocks, all are symbols of spiritual sterility.

Next prominent figure in English symbolism is Dylan Thomas. He uses symbols in his poems to convey his complex, psychological states to his readers, his purpose to bring the inner darkness, the hidden psychological complexes, sense of guilt and its consequences into the light through the extensive use of symbols. Bible,

Freud, surrealism and so on are the source of his symbols. His symbols are complex and multisided. *This Bread I Break* and *The Hunch Back in the Park* are some of his symbolic poems where tree, fruit, wine, garden, dog etc are used as symbols.

### **American Symbolist Movement**

The fact that the seed of symbolist movement in literature was brought from America, and then planted it and later on developed it as a young tree in France and other European countries. Baudelaire imported the seed of symbolism from American writer Poe's poetic theory and practices. Later on, exported its fruits to different parts of Europe and America. It is not to say that Poe was only symbolist in America, his contemporary literary figures such as Hawthorne, Whitman and Melville were also developing their writings toward symbolism. It has already been discussed that the discovering of the writings of Poe by Baudelaire became the important event in the history of symbolist movement.

The translation of Poe's works was published which played significant role in French literary movement. The period of Poe is called American Renaissance. Emerson and Melville were the polar figures of American symbolist movement. Emerson says that perception of symbols enables man to see poetic constructions of things and that primary relation of mind to matter and perception normally create the whole apparatus of poetic expression. He identified poetry with symbolism, symbolism with the mode of perception and symbolic perception with vision of symbolic structure in the real world and symbolic relationship between nature and mind.

Nathaniel Hawthorne was another figure in American literature who mostly used symbols in his romances to convey complex, moral, spiritual and psychological truth in his famous novel, *The Scarlet Letter*, 'A' is rich and evocative symbol which

can be interpreted from different perspectives. Pearl remains more as a symbol than a real child. Similarly, his next novel, *The Marble Faun*, has got symbols. The Faun of Praxitiles is not merely a statue that the novelist describes in the novel. More than it, statue stands for an ancient art.

Herman Melville was another prominent novelist of American Renaissance. It was symbolism that lured him. His novel, *Moby-Dick* is a complex work of art which can be interpreted differently. Superficially, it can be read as an adventure story in which real man fights with a real whale. Symbolically, Captain Ahab represents Good and whale represents Evil.

Walt Whitman was another famous poet of American romanticism. His poetry was highly symbolic for he believed that the true art was highly suggestive and evocative. *The Leaves of Grass*, is regarded as the epic of modern America. Certain images appear again and again. The very title is symbolic that stands for democracy.

Similarly, Mark Twain and Emily Dickinson were dominating figures of the era. Mark Twain, in his work, *Huckleberry Finn*, has used many symbols. Both the characters and incidents in the novel are symbolic.

The modern period especially between two world wars is not away from symbolist movement as well. This period is regarded as symbolic era in the history of American literature. The dominant figures of this period mainly exploit symbols from religious and exotic traditions and in parts from their own invention. Some of the works of this age are symbolic in their settings, their actions as well as in the objects they refer to. Ernest Hemingway was one of the most distinguished symbolist among modern American novelists. His famous novel, *The Old Man and the Sea*, can be regarded as a highly suggestive work. In the novel, Santiago, the old man can be taken to be a symbolic representation of the novelist himself and the old man's



struggles to catch the great fish stand for the novelist's own struggle to create a great work of art.

Another modern American symbolist writer is Robert Frost. His writings can be read from different levels. In his poem, *The Death of the Hired Man*, he has used symbol. Simply the Hired man's death is symbolized by the falling moon in the sky. The cloud stands for the grief at one level and disturbances of Silas at another level. Other Symbols are there in his poems. Mary stands for a woman and source of love and universal mother as well.

Another significant symbolist is Randall Jarell. His poems can be read at different levels. He in his famous poem, *The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner*, has used the symbols such as bomber plane and falling down of child. Bomber plane, not only is a plane but also womb, and the soldier's falling down from plane stands for the birth of a child.

Next important symbolist in America is Robert Lowell. In his poem, *The Union Dead*, there are many symbols. Bubbles signify American dream because it is not permanent. The fish stands for compliant modern man who is a servant to machines and its luxury. Moreover, the stream shovels, mosler safe and the garage symbolize a materialistic society that condemns frail spirituals values.

Richard Wilbur is another 20<sup>th</sup> century symbolist. His works can be viewed from symbolical perspectives. For instance, in his poem, *Snow in Alsace*, snow is the symbol of war and hostility that covers the countries and homes. 'Winter' stands for chilled human relationship.

James Dickey is also a famous 20<sup>th</sup> century symbolist. In his work, *Lifeguard*, the man, represents of all human beings, 'Lake' stands for deep thought and emotions and death. The child is the symbol of Christ. Among the other worth mentioning of

letters who contributed to symbolism in the modern American literature are Hart crane, Wallace Steven, E.E. comings, Tennessee William, Arther Millar and so on.

The main character, Tommy Wilhelm, of Saul Bellow's famous short novel, *Seize the Day*, is the representative of all the alienated individuals of post war period in America. He is frustrated and disappointed towards other people and himself as well. He does not get help from his father, lost his mother, does not love his wife, lost his job, dropped his school and lost his money etc and so on.

This research is going to analyze Tommy's journey from predicament to redemption. His journey starts from predicament because he feels alone in the world. He feels drowning deep down because of the loss of many things such as relation with father, job in different places, school, relation with wife, the mother, invested money in the market with Tamkin. But he feels redeemed at last when he sheds the hot tear seeing the dead body of a stranger. The predicament of Tommy seems to be water. So, the journey starts from water and ends with water because tear is also a form of water.

### 3. Bane and Boon of Water

The novel, *Seize the Day*, can be studied with symbolic dimension in relation to water. Almost every thing in the novel is associated with water which stands for negative as well as positive part in the novel. In the beginning of the novel, the protagonist, Tommy Wilhelm is full of burden and his feelings are represented through water images. The protagonist finds himself flowing into another channel. His feelings are unstable and dangerous one which is taken as a water symbol. He feels as if he is drowned into the water. He does not know who he is.

At the end of the novel, the same protagonist Wilhelm gets lightness and happiness because he feels as if he is no more into the water. He is out of the water. He sheds the hot tears when he sees the dead body of a stranger. After shedding tears, he feels as if he has saved his life from water and has got rebirth. Moreover, he understands himself. The tear is also a form of water. Here, tears present positive aspect in Tommy's life.

The water plays a significant role to form the plot of the novel. As the novel opens, Tommy is descending in the hotel elevator about to meet his father for breakfast as he does every morning. However, he feels quite different. He feels a certain degree of fear and opens a strong image of difficulty coming hours ahead of him. Readers begin to discover through Tommy's thought and through a series of flashbacks that Tommy has just recently been fired from his job as a sales man, he is a college drop out, a father of two children, recently separated from his wife and he is a man on the brink of financial disaster. Tommy has just given over the last of his savings to a fraudulent Dr. Tamkin who says he is expert of commodity market. Amid all of this, he has fallen in love with a woman named Olive, who cannot marry

because his wife will not grant him a divorce. Tommy is unhappy and is in need of assistance both emotionally and financially.

In the following three chapters, readers follow Tommy as he talks with his father Dr. Alder who finds his son a failure in every sense of word. Tommy is refused any kind of assistance from his father. The flashbacks begin and highlight the meeting with duplicators Maurice Venice, who shows initial interest in a young Tommy but later he is rejected. Nevertheless, he attempts a career in Hollywood as an actor. He stops his college education ignoring his parents' advice.

Next chapter focuses on Tommy's encounter and conversations with Dr. Tamkin, a questionable character and psychologist, who provides Tommy endless advice and assistance. He is an ambiguous person. He seems to be charming and appeals to Tommy. He also claims to be a poet and healer and so on. Despite his lies, he gives Tommy kernels of truth that play vital role in the novel. Moreover, Tommy entrusts too much and loses his last savings in the commodity market.

The rest of the novel consists of Tommy and Dr. Tamkin travelling here and there and meeting several characters along the way. Finally, the novel shows Tommy's terrible loss in commodity market in which Tamkin has invested Tommy's money. Amid all of this, Tommy still has demanded money from his father. Furthermore, Tamkin disappears, and Tommy attempts to meet him and comes to the hotel. He has a loud and raving fight with his father and demands help but he is denied again. Then, he has a loud and raving fight with his wife on the telephone in which he claims to be suffering and unable to breathe. Later on, he exists full of rage onto the Broadway, where he believes to see Tamkin in a funeral, nearby. He does not find him. He suddenly is swept in by a rush of people and finds himself carried into a crowd within the chapel where the funeral is taking place. The climax comes here

because he finds himself before the dead body of a stranger, unable to break away, and he begins to cry and weep. He releases pools of emotion and cries with all his heart. And the novel ends with his happy oblivion of tears.

As the novel begins, Tommy Wilhelm, the protagonist is in turmoil. Readers know he is burdened by the loss of his job, the separation of his wife, financial instability, his relation with his father and so on. Tommy is descending in an elevator to meet his father for breakfast as usual but he is apprehensive of this meeting. Water imagery in the novel is described imagistically as a sinking, a coming to the surface of the sea: "The elevator sank and sank. Then the smooth door opened and the great dark-red uneven carpet that covered the lobby billowed toward Wilhelm's feet [...] Franck drapes like sails kept out the sun" (3-4).

The fact that sinking of somebody is not happy condition rather it is dangerous. Going deeper into the water is away from the surface of existence. Going away from the surface of existence means going to be alienated, which is near to the end of life. Going deeper can be said that the load of burden is adding. The more load, the deeper and deeper sinking of something. The protagonist, Tommy has got load due to different failures in different places. And at this time, he is going to meet his father for the financial assistance but in the past he has ignored his father's advice and got difficulty. So, he feels burdened. The load of Tommy has been heavier.

In talking about presence of water imageries, in the novel, Chris, Bullock comments: "Essence of loss is one of the main tasks of an initiation of water" (159). It is clear that because of loss of many things, Wilhelm's thoughts and feelings can be found full of water symbol. He has thought that there are losses of many things in his life. Because of loss, there is grief in man. There is relation between loss and grief. Chris, Bullock again comments, "Grief is the door to male feeling"(159).

One thing we have to understand is that if someone says, he should not have done something else. It can be said that he is only thinking and thinking of past mistakes he did. This is the symbol of loss and grief. Wilhelm regrets for his past deeds which is not good for his life. It makes him to sink deeper than to come out of water of thought. The narrator says: "He had decided that it would be a bad mistake to go to Hollywood, and then he went. He had made up his mind not to marry his wife, but ran off and got married. He had resolved not to invest money with Tamkin, and then had given him a cheque" (23).

What Wilhelm decided not to do something else, he had been bound to do that. He did not like to go to Hollywood but went, he did not like to marry Margaret but married, and because of her, he has not been able to marry Olive. He did not like Tamkin but gave cheque to him. What he does not like to happen happens in his life and makes his life more troublesome.

In Tommy's meditation, we can find that Maurice Venice was the first who aroused his interest to drop out the college and get into a gloomy way of life ignoring the good advice of his father and mother. As Tilak Mukharji comments: "Venice represents to canals and streams" (52). 'Venice' itself represents water symbol as it stands for canals and stream. Venice also symbolizes the drowned situation because Venice city is drowning day by day. The narrator says: "It was wasted on Venice, who was just as concerned about the impression he was making" (18).

The protagonist Tommy has changed his name which represents water. There is not certainty of his name. His changed name is not accepted by his father. His real name is Wilky Wilhelm but he calls himself Tommy Wilhelm: "By the time Wilhelm too had taken his new name. In California he became Tommy Wilhelm. Dr. Alder would not accept the change" (24). He again sinks in the thought and fears his father

more because he is going to meet him to ask him for the monetary assistance. He himself does not seem to feel Tommy Wilhelm and by soul he remains what his father names him as Wilky. Such kind of feelings can be found in the narration: "He had never, however, succeeded in feeling like Tommy, and in his soul had always remained Wilky [...] You fool, you clunk, you Wilky" (25). There is not stable in the name of Tommy. Due to unstable name he finds himself lost some where. He feels that he has lost his identity.

In the thought of Wilhelm we find that he presents himself as an animal living under the water which is purely a water symbol. He sees him as a hippopotamus which symbolizes an animal which lives under the water. It may indicate that he can not come out of water and lives under the water. The presentation of an under water animal for him can be found in the sentence: "He was beginning to lose his shape, his gut was fat, and he looked like a hippopotamus" (29). This kind of feeling may symbolize that he is no more a man and does not have wisdom. He feels himself physically unfit. This kind of feeling is frustrated one in the mind.

Water symbol can be found in the conversation between Tommy and his father Dr. Adler. This makes Tommy more problematic. Father in talking with his son Tommy, gives advice of 'water and exercise' because he thinks this water exercise cures his son's problem. But Tommy has got mental problem and the advice given by his father can not do anything. It seems that father is no more a father here because he can not understand his son's real problem though Dr. Alder is said to be a famous doctor. Tommy has not mentally peace. He said: "Oh, father, it's nice of you to give me this medical advice, but steam isn't going to cure what ails me" (45). Depressed Tommy demands help from his father but educated father is not ready to understand his son's real problem. In spite of getting help from his father and having hopes to

come out from the pathetic situation, he quite reversely sinks in the same pool of problem.

There is a meeting between Tommy and his father. In the meeting Tommy begs help and shows his problem caused by his wife Margaret. Margaret is also a cause of his difficult situation in making him drowned in the pool of problem. She adds to have weightier load on his back. He feels being drowned and about going to be facing difficulty to breathe. He feels being under the water. He says: "Well, Dad she hates me. I feel that she's strangling me. I can't catch my breathe. She just has fixed herself on me to kill me. She can do it at long distance. One of these days I'll be struck down by suffocation or apoplexy because of her. I just can not catch my breath" (48).

There is not freedom to Tommy. He loves his two children but he does not love his wife. Because of the wife, he is deprived to express his love and emotions to his dear children. At the same time, Tommy has got a girl friend named Olive and he wants to marry her but his wife Margaret does not divorce him. Because of Margaret, Tommy is suffocating in the pool of problem. He wants to come out of that situation but Margaret catches his throat and does not allow him to come out.

Tommy feels to have lost his self control in the period of expressing his inner agonizing situation for finding his father's help. At that time he becomes too emotional because he does not see any symptom for finding help from his father's side. He feels he is not on the ground. Rather, he feels he is into the water. He feels he is no more a man but an object like a ball. He feels he has not got freedom. His hopes of getting help seem to destroy and he feels the sunny morning as the dark night. The narration can be found as: "He felt as though he were unable to recover something. Like a ball in the surf washed beyond reach, his self-control was going out. 'I expect



help?' The words escaped him in a loud, wild, frantic cry and startled the old man [...]" (54).

Tommy becomes so emotional with his father and readers may sympathize with him. He says that his father does not love him. He drowns in the emotion and expresses his inner feelings: "When I suffer-you aren't even sorry. That is because you have no affection for me, and you do not want any part of me" (54). Tommy Wilhelm seems to be frustrated with his father. He feels as if he is into the water and he has thought that he can not come out of that demon situation. In expressing his emotion towards his father, he said:

It gets my hopes up and I begin to be grateful. But before we've I am a hundred times more depressed than before [...] Wilhelm had a great knot of wrong tied tight within his chest, and tears approached his eyes but he didn't let them out. He looked shabby enough as it was. His voice was thick and hazy, and he was stammering and could not bring his awful feelings forth. (53)

The situation of Tommy shows he is in very critical situation. He has got in difficult situation and he does not find a way out without the support of his father. After meeting his father, Tommy himself calls him by different names, which revisits animal characteristic. It seems that he thinks like those animals in relation to the character. Animals are now wise like human beings. He compares with those animals which are mostly foolish. There is constant change in his name. It is not stable. Tommy said to himself: "Ass! Idiot! Wild bear! Dumb mule! Salve! Lousy, wallowing hippopotamus!" (55). The uncertainty of the name symbolizes the water. In expressing such words, one can say that he is belittling himself. He does this because he finds neither financial assistance nor emotional help from his father but has come

with the hope for finding those assistances. He feels hopeless due to his father's behavior.

The protagonist does not remain static. The sight of Tamkin brought his quarrel with his father to a close. Failed Tommy stops talking with father and starts with Tamkin. There is a relation between Tommy and Tamkin. Tommy has signed in a cheque to give money to Tamkin. After meeting Tamkin, he feels like flowing into another field of water. His feelings of flow into the watery field can be shown: "The sight of the Dr. Tamkin brought his quarrel with his father to a close. He found himself flowing into another channel" (57). Only there is the difference of channel that Tommy has to take. Tamkin is questionable, and he also shows the truth. The water symbol here makes Tommy more burdened because he talks about unbelievable subjects. He seems to be questionable though Tommy has already invested his last amount of saving in the commodities market and it also seems that he is about to lose his money. He knows the facts about Tamkin only after he has handed over his money to Tamkin.

At first, just as a small child Tommy can not walk like a grown up man and later on he as a mature man practises to walk but has to face many hindrances on the way. He has to leave college, go to Hollywood, and loses the relation with his father, lose the relation with his wife and make a relation with a charlatan in relation to invest the money and so on. Wherever he goes with bright hope, hope of the bud seems to be damaged. He, however, does not stop his journey for next hope of becoming a perfect man.

The talk between Dr. Tamkin and Tommy shows that there is water presented symbolically. Tommy is symbolically drowning and he needs to come out of the water. Dr. Tamkin is questionable fellow on one side and on the other side he tells the

truth. Tommy is in his watery state which is right track to clarity. It helps Tommy to come out in order to succeed in some kind of rebirth. Dr. Tamkin said to Tommy: "[...] You can not march in a straight line to victory? You must fluctuate toward it. From Euclid to Newton there was a straight line. The modern age analyzes the wavers" (64). Water fluctuates. Tamkin will point him to the right direction in the sense that Tamkin is explaining to Tommy that he must embrace the water in which he is seemingly drowning in order to succeed in some kind of rebirth. Here fluctuation means not having certain way. Fluctuation is confusion. Truth comes from the confusion that is the belief of Bellow. This makes Tommy to know the truth which comes being a perfect man.

Abstract knowledge is no more helpful in the life. Rather, it may be burdened. Quite opposite, knowledge with practice is helpful in the reality of life. Tommy has got predicament because of his lack of practical knowledge in life. He does everything but his efforts are futile like Sisyphus. One needs risk to achieve anything. In the flashback Tamkin said: "You have to take a specimen risk so that you feel the process, the money-flow, the whole complex. To know how it feels to be seaweed you have to get in the water" (61).

Here seaweed is found in the bottom of the sea and it is tasty. Here it may stand for the situation in which Tommy needs to go on the bottom of any area of knowledge to take maximum benefit just like one needs to go on the bottom of sea to have found such tasty and delicious food seaweed. On the other hand it is dangerous and risky to find the delicious things such as seaweed which is on the bottom of the sea. Water symbol leads Tommy to danger. Because of influencing language he invests money in commodity market with Tamkin.

Tommy is slowly and slowly drowning in the water. He is drowning not because of others but because of his own faults. Tommy has got a motif of becoming a man and because of that motif, he places his pace in different places. He does what he thinks was not good to do. Due to his deed he has done, he regrets of his past deeds. In that position he feels drowning.

Tommy is advised not to make friendship with Tamkin and invest money but lastly he does. Tamkin influences Tommy to be a successful man. Sometimes, he tells lie and sometimes truth. Lastly, he becomes ready to hand over the cheque. Later on, he knows that the result of investment is not going in positive way. Lard is going downward. All the right of his money is with liar Tamkin. He thinks that he is on the bottom of the whole water of the earth. He feels he has got extreme load on his back. He has got maximum predicament in this point of time. The weight of whole water of the earth is so great that he feels that he can not think anything else for the future. The reflection of Tommy is heard: "My money will be gone, thus it won't be able to destruct me. He can't just take [...] he sweated blood when he signed that check. But what have I let myself in for? The waters of the earth are going to roll over me" (77).

The protagonist, Tommy thinks about past and imagines the consequences of the future. Tamkin repeats 'here and now' again and again which suggests Tommy to do good at the present not in the past and future. So, he becomes ready to gamble and invests the money.

Anything that exists only for short time can be said to have water quality. It is like a bubble. There is not any certainty. This line indicates that the relation of Tommy with Tamkin seems to be close at the moment though his father does not give him permission for proceeding the relation with Tamkin. Tamkin has influenced Tommy. The water symbol stands here for dangerous situation to Tommy. It is known that he

has given Tamkin his cheque for the investment. If their love ends quickly, Tommy certainly seems to lose his last amount of money. This leads him to more burdened situation. He seems to think that if the relation that has now with Tamkin breaks, his situation will be troublesome. Neither father nor mother nor wife and children nor money he will have. Tommy fears he could lose the relation with Tamkin.

Tommy always recalls many things but he does not like to recall anything about college. He regrets that he should not have left the college ignoring his parent's suggestion. What he decided to do was quite wrong. He had read literature and in that course there was a beautiful line. The line stands for water. The line he read was: "Sunk beneath the watery floor [...]" (13). The pressure in which he is living can be seen clearly. Those who are under the pressure are drowning. Tommy is under pressure. He respects the truth but he is bound to lie. He lies about his education. He says that he is an educated person of college of Penn state. But he is not college educated. He has not even completed his school. He bounds to lie because he is only one person not to have college education. His mother, sister and father are educated person. He hurried to be an actor dropping out the school. His father says to another person that his son is sales executive and has greatest income among the family members. But he has neither job of any sort nor he has any money nor does he have anywhere to go. He has been more drowned into the water. His recall makes him drown more and more. Tommy is more pushed towards the bottom of the sea.

Where there is pressure and duress in Tommy, there is more drowning. Drowning is possible in water only. So, everywhere in the pressure of Tommy, there is water symbol. There seems to have water symbol when Tommy recalls his past mistakes and he shows restless situation. His repressive situation can be heard: "He pressed his lips together, and his tongue went soft; it pained him for at the back, in the

corals and throat, and a knot of ill formed in his chest. Dad never was a pal to me when I was young, he reflected. He was at the office or the hospital, or lecturing" (14).

The situation that Tommy has got is really pathetic. Pressing the lips together suggest that he has been under the great pressure. He has something under the surface level of existence. Those things which are under him make him more troublesome. His feeling moves here and there. His feeling further goes towards his father's carelessness towards him and because of that he has failed in every sector. This also shows that he does not have emotional assistance from his father which a child needs to become a successful man in life.

Tommy feels very aggressive to the remembrance of the first time of his mistake he has done. His feelings waver towards the first mistake he has done. He thinks he does have done great mistake to leave the school and follow the Scout Maurice Venice. He feels regression. He suffers so much that he is about to strike himself a blow with a knife. Given that he is extremely burdened. His expression can be heard in his own words: "He was about to make his first great mistake. Like, he sometimes thought, I was going to pick up a weapon and strike myself a blow with it" (17).

The feelings that Tommy has possessed are very dangerous one. It leads him towards the depth of the sea of water and he seems to feel uncomfortable for the breath. He has not been suggested to leave the college by his parents as well as his own inner heart.

The mistakes that he has committed in the past are reminded by his father remembrance but he does not like that. Those mistakes could not be undone at present. He has changed his name and has added Tommy in place of Wilky. Wilky is the name given by his father. But his mistake of changing his name has been taken by his father

as a sin and is always reminded. These are humiliating memories. That should be forgiven which has suffered him too much. The suffering of Tommy can be learnt: "Oh, God, Wilhelm prayed. Let me out of my trouble. Let me out of my thought, let me do something better with myself. For all the time I have wasted I am very sorry. Let me out of this clutch and into a different life. For I am all balled up, have Mercy" (26).

The expression that he has exposed can be easily examined that he is in too much pressure. He accepts his own mistakes and those mistakes always haunt him. He wants to be out of the remembrance of those mistakes. We can say that he no more wants to live like that way. He wants freedom. To be under pressure is drowning. So, he wants to come out of that style of life living in the water. He wants freedom and relief being away from that troublesome, miserable and pathetic way of life.

Given that the protagonist has been in the water and he is feeling very uncomfortable in it but Tamkin is such a person, in accordance with Mr. Perl, was told that Tamkin had underwater suit that could help walking under the water. Tommy has been near to Dr. Tamkin and has invested money with him. Tommy could walk under the water by the help of under water suit. We can also say that the journey of Tommy from water to the destination could be helpful with the friendship of Dr. Tamkin. Mr. Perl's comment on Tamkin was: "To me he described an underwater suit so a man could walk on the bed of Hudson in case of an atomic attack. He said he could walk to Albany in it" (41).

Given that Tommy has good relation with Dr Tamkin. So 'a man' is Tommy here. Tommy does not know how to swim in the water and it seems that Tamkin teaches him to do it. Tommy's journey from water ends with the help of Tamkin. We have already described Tommy has been burdened due to the different causes. He has

also been burdened due to his middle class standard in the society. His opinion can be learnt: "A rich man may be free on an income of a million net. A poor man may be free because nobody cares what he does. But a fellow in my position has to sweat it out until he drops dead" (49).

'Sweat' is a form of water that stands for the difficulties of middle class people like him. Neither he can act like rich people nor can he act like the poor. There are difficulties to maintain the life for middle class people. He has been like a slave due to his wife. To maintain the prestige in the society he can not neglect his wife openly. Middle class people have to keep their troubles to themselves. The water symbol helps to drown deeper.

The trouble that Tommy has pressed in his heart seems to be really extreme. He can not express them openly. So, his problems remain in his inner heart. The thick voice and stammering suggest the man is mentally burdened and is in the pressure. He wants to show but he can not. His problem can be learnt: "Wilhelm had a great knot of wrong tied tight within his chest, and tears approached his eye, but he didn't let them out. He looked shabby enough as it was. His voice was thick and hazy, and he was stammering and could not bring his awful feelings forth" (53).

'Tear' is a form of water. So, here it stands for his inexpressible feelings of pain. He realizes that he has committed many mistakes and those mistakes have been committed by ignoring his parents' suggestion and advice. Talking to his father he feels he is in a problematic condition which stands for water quality.

All the time, Tommy is under pressure. The pressure seems to be fluctuated time and again. His pressure seems to be grown when he signed the power of attorney allowing Tamkin to speculate with his money. We can say that the strain of anyone is a water symbol. In the pressure, there is uncertainty of feelings. Feelings flow here and



there. The water symbol is learnt. He said: "I'm no lawyer and I only gave the paper a glance. Does this give Doctor Tamkin power of attorney over any other assets of mine—money, or property?" (59).

The role of water symbolically depicts the fearfulness of Tommy's future situation. He fears that he may lose his other pieces of property. Though he is not conforming in losing other property, he doubts. He is frightened over the loss of his whole property by signing the power of attorney to Tamkin.

Tommy's doubts are rising towards Tamkin. He has invested all of his money. He has lost the hope to find back the money from Tamkin. His feelings move towards his fate in the future. He may be like a piece of skeleton in the water which may be eaten by fish at any time. Tommy said:

The money and everything. Take it away! When I have the money they eat me alive, like those piranha fish in the movie about the Brazilian jungle. It was hideous when they ate up that Brahma bull in the river. He turned pale, just like clay, and in five minutes nothing was left except the skeleton still in one piece, floating away. When I haven't got it any more, at least they will let me alone. (76)

Tommy's feelings wave towards the alienation and depression. He feels as if his fate may be like that of floated skeleton alone in the water. This symbolizes that he is going towards very dangerous situation.

'Sweat' is a form of water. After talking with his wife, he seems to be full of sweat. He is almost unconscious. The discussion with Margaret adds burden on him: "Wilhelm in the narrow booth broke into a heavy sweat. He dropped his head and shrugged while with his fingers [...] I have had some bad luck. As a matter of fact, it's

been so bad that I don't know where I am. I could not tell you what day of the week this is" (111).

He is not conscious about the date. He is so burdened that he can not say which day it is. His feelings are here and there. Neither has he had money nor job. He has lost many things. He loves his two children but does not get chance to live with them because of his own cause. Margaret is staying separately with two children. Neither will he have the chance to marry his girl friend Olive as his wife Margaret does not divorce him. Everything he is losing day by day. His fate is really barren. There is nowhere to appear the smile in his face.

It seems there is change in Tommy's mind. There comes the love. He wonders about Tamkin and his own personal life. He thinks himself on the subject of love. Tommy believes most of the things what Tamkin says. He has interior monologue about isolation, communication and language. Tommy's memory jumps to Times Square and how he felt close to humanity in the subway station. Then another memory comes into his mind that was of Margaret. He remembers being sick and being nursed to health by Margaret.

There is fluctuation of the price of the things. Lard is climbing down and rye is climbing up. Fluctuation is symbol of water. This fluctuation of lard stands for the loss of money of Tommy. It makes him more frustrated. Rye is the thing in which Tommy actually has not invested. The fluctuation of lard and rye can be read: "Lard fluctuated between two points, but rye slowly climbed" (81). The progress in rye can not be shared to Tommy. The progress in lard would be beneficial to Tommy but it is climbing down. One can easily imagine that Tommy has failed in every field in which he has attempted to take a standpoint. He has been deeper and deeper under water.

Most of the time, the protagonist seems to be drowned in his feelings and thought. All of his feelings are regressive. No any hope of brightness comes to him because of the lack of understanding of the world and himself. The remembrance of Times Square where he has felt close to humanity and his wife's caring and nursing him when he was admitted in the hospital make him a little bit understand himself. He seems in the process of coming out of drowned situation

Tommy seems to be again in the water. He does not have rival against his father. He does not hate his father but he is ignored by his father. After being ignored by his father, he seems to make Tamkin his guardian. But Tommy knows Tamkin is not a good man. Rather he is a liar. Tommy smells that he is going to be cheated/betrayed by Tamkin. He is in such a condition that neither he is fully alive nor he is dead. His restless situation that can be found in talk between Tommy and Tamkin:

'You love your old man?'

Wilhelm grasped at this. Of course, Of course I love him. My father my mother-As he said this there was a great pull at a very center of his soul. When a fish strikes the line you feel the live force in your hand. A mysterious being beneath the water, driven by hunger, has taken the hook and rushes away and fights, writing. Wilhelm never identified what struck within him. It did not reveal itself. It got away.

(93)

Water stands here for Tommy's critical situation in which he is restless. The situation gives strong push on his back forcefully to walk alone towards the dark place. There is no one to help him.

The feelings of Tommy are depressed and regressive because he recalls all of his past deeds which are not successful. They are not satisfactory. It is the fact that

past determines the future. So future may be same fate. His advisor Dr. Tamkin's suggestion makes him to recall that he is into the water: "Nature only knows one thing, and that's present. Present-present, eternal present, like a big, huge, giant wave, colossal, bright and beautiful, full of life and death, climbing into the sky, standing in the seas. You must go along with the actual the here and now the glory" (89).

The seas here symbolizes Tommy's gloomy, frustrated and unhappy situation. When he comes out of this torturous situation, he becomes free and knows what life is. He has not seen the good life in the water. This 'seas' is very near to the happy life of the protagonist because he tries to step towards humanity. He seems to remember his wife positively. A seed of humanity develops in him slowly.

Frustrated Wilhelm did not find assistance from his own father and he with great doubt proceeds his relation with Tamkin. His heart did not permit him to invest money in land but he invested at last. He has left his right to Tamkin for the money. He finds Tamkin disappeared. He felt drowned again. There is a more burdensome situation now. Narrator says: "No! No! And yet his unshed tears rose and rose and he looked like a man about to drown"(92). Tommy needs the help of other person to save from drowning. But he has a little idea of how to swim now. He does not die. He is near to know who he is. Tamkin also betrays him. Tamkin seems to pay him the two hundred dollars at last which is his share of deposit.

Tommy seems to be drowned deeper because the disappearance of Tamkin adds heavy load on him. In the same way, his wife Margaret and other problems help Tommy to go deeper into the water. They are the load on him. After the disappearance of Tamkin, there comes a slight glimpse of brightness from some where in the mind of Tommy. It is way towards the victory. Though Tommy has been depressed and worried, the glimpse of brightness can be seen. As Tommy examines

Tamkin's room: "Even the brackish tidal river smell and rose this high, like the smell of mop water. From every side he heard famous pianos, and the voices of men and women singing scales and opera, all mixed and the sounds of pigeons on the ledges" (106).

Tommy again attempts to find help from father but his father is not ready for that. He remembers his past mistakes. He feels as if he is drowned into the water and is about to die. He says: "It's the same mistakes [...] I can't seem to-I'm stupid, Dad, I just can't breathe. My chest is all up-I feel choked. I just simply can not catch my breath" (109). Tommy shows the activities really pathetic which shows the quality of a drowned man in to the water. He is now actually alone. Neither has he had father nor Tamkin to find support.

The protagonist in a way is wounded due to the confrontation with father, disappearance of Tamkin and hot confrontation with wife in phone booth as well. He can not marry Olive due to Margaret. Margaret does not give divorce to Tommy. He has not got opportunity to show his love to his two children. He realizes his faults he did earlier and he seems in the process to be a man. He sees in every face the refinement of single particular motive or essence on Broadway:

On Broadway it was still bright [...] And the great, great crowd, the inexhaustible current of millions of every race and kind pouring out, pressing round of every age, of every genius, possessors of every human secret, and the future in every fact the refinement of one particular motive or essence, I labor, I spend, I strive, I design, I love, I cling, I uphold, I give way, I envy, I long, I scorn, I die, I hide, I want. (115)

The protagonist has got a kind of new concept grown in his mind. The water symbol 'current of million of every race' and 'pouring out' stand for Tommy's drunkard quality. He feels like all human do in relation to human essence. He, like of all race and age, has human qualities. This water symbol leads to Tommy towards the victory or towards the basic need of his heart.

The humanity originated in Tommy by the remembrance of Times Square and his wife's nursing him in the hospital can be found in a developed form. In search of Tamkin, he saw the funeral procession of a stranger. He sobbed and cried seeing the dead body. He shed tear from his eyes. Tear is a form of water which symbolizes that there is development of humanity. The dead body is of a stranger but he weeps. He thinks that was like his brother or like himself. He is about a man because there is a developed form of humanity in him. The 'tear' a form of water that has got a significant role and has got a positive role here. The third person narrator says: "He sobbed loudly and his face grew distorted and hot, and the tears stung her skin. A man-another human creature, who what first went through his thoughts, but other and different things were torn from him" (117).

Tommy always failed in every field because he could not see clearly what was going before him. He was wearing a mask that stopped him from seeing around him. At the end of novel, his mask has been out and he starts to see around himself. He feels the heart of others as his own.

The climax of the novel comes at the final scene of the novel. There are lots of water symbols which represent a kind of rebirth. In other words, drowned protagonist feels as if he is no more drowned and he is out of the water. He is not blind now. Rather there is light in his eyes. There is music that he hears in his ears. He feels as if there is no more weight on his back and feels light. There is no thing on his back. He

feels as if he stands on his own feet. He understands who he is actually. His happy situation comes with water:

The flowers and lights focuses ecstatically in Wilhelm's blind, wet eyes; the heavy sea like music come up to his ears. It poured into him where he had hidden himself in the center of a crowd by the great and happy oblivion of tears. He heard it and sank deeper than sorrow, through torn sobs and cries toward the consummation of his heart's ultimate need. (118)

The final scene shows lots of symbol of water and this water symbol is very positive, fully positive. The tears and sea like music and so on show that he finds what his inquisitive heart demands. He feels relief and redeemed.

The water in its various forms represents the hero's painful mood throughout the novel except at last. Tommy is alienated in the worldly happening in the mid twentieth century. His alienated, frustrated and depressed state is picturized clearly by the use of water as a symbol to show his regressed feelings towards the losses of the past deeds caused by the materialization and industrialization and at the same time to show his happy situation due to the grown up humanity remembering Times Square and his wife's nursing him in the hospital.

Tommy is depressed at the first stage of the novel and wants to continue his journey to be a man. Tommy is the representative of all the frustrated, alienated and depressed individuals of mid twentieth century America. The age in which he is living is the age of despair, frustration and melancholy of the individuals caused by the devastating two world wars and economic depression. So, Tommy being the representative of the mid twentieth century suffers from burden and feels like being

drowned in the water and at the same time surprisingly he feels relief at the end of novel. He feels to have come out of the water and after shedding the tears.



#### 4. Conclusion

The present novel, *Seize the Day*, by Saul Bellow beautifully depicts the journey of a man from predicament to redemption in relation to water symbol. The protagonist of the novel, at first, is burdened but ultimately redeemed by water. Thus water stands for both his burdened and peaceful worlds.

The mid-twentieth century America was marked with chaos, frustration and alienation. The two world wars caused great loss of lives and properties. Not only these, there was the damage of old institutions. So there was confusion in the mind of individuals. America was emerging as an industrialized country. In such modern period, individuals search the meaning in life for the existence. Trying for existing is the nature of all living beings. It had been the trend of twentieth century urban people who always search the better life and want to be independent in their world. Tommy is one such character that searches the meaning in life but because of confusion, he happens to choose the wrong one. He heads towards the doom of his own. But surprisingly he gets relief at last. Till this time, he understands himself.

The novel gives the account of the events which take place in a day in Tommy's life. The protagonist Tommy needs to seize the day in his life but he fails. This character wears the mask on his face and he looks blind symbolically. Because of his blindness, he sets out his journey towards wrong direction. So he has to face difficulties. He finds nothing more than failure. He without knowing his reality sees the dream of Hollywood but fails. He wants to be a famous actor there. His dreams do not stop. Because of his blindness, he chooses another wrong path. He gets into business but fails again. His inner heart's desire, however, does not stop. He again commits another mistake. He gets married and has two boys but again faces failure in his marriage. At last, he tries to become a commodities trader and fails again. He

becomes sad and poor. He changes his job in various fields such as hospital orderly, a ditch digger, a sales man and a public relation man. He can not be stable. There is fluctuation all along. What he needs to do is to cease his past and future, Not to be stable in a single decision is water symbol because water has got the same quality of being uncertain. In seizing the day has been Tommy's problem and his sufferings. In his attempt to seize the present he has been eternal immature who just sees the day. As a result, he is drowning in the seas of water imagery.

Tommy has to suffer because of his gullible character. He believes whims and advices of Tamkin and Maurice Venice to be true. He believes the wild stories of Tamkin, who is not a doctor judging from his character. Symbolically, he is immature. So, he believes whatever other people say. He has not friendly relationship with his father because he does not find financial and emotional supports. His father gives him suitable advice for his life but his father's advices can not be digestible to him.

Saul Bellow being the great master of flash back technique, his protagonist Tommy always sees past mistakes and future dangers happening which makes him to drown in the seas. His drowning starts when he is on the way in an elevator to meet his father down in the hotel and his drowning ends when he sheds the hot tears after seeing the dead body of a stranger. The journey of the middle part regulates in his flashback and meeting with some fellows. Maurice Venice itself is a drowning name because Venice is a city drowning day by day. Tommy recalls his bygone days when he was at school way and dropped out his schooling in touch with this guy to go to Hollywood to be an actor. He wanted to be spoken by the mouth of world. He feels more burdened. He would have been a good doctor if he had not decided to go with this Venice. Then he recalls the suggestions of his father not to befriend Dr. Tamkin.

But he befriends Tamkin and is going to lose his money. He also recalls the school day poetry, a line, 'sunk though he is beneath the water floor'. Then his watery journey develops along with his baptism, a naming ceremony. He calls himself a hippopotamus, ass, idiot, wild boar, dumb mule, slave, lousy etc. He has changed his name as Tommy from Wilky. 'Tommy' suggests a name of small boy. His father says him 'Wilky' and his grand father 'wolf'. He has been humiliated in his life. Then he recalls the meeting with Tamkin and his wild story which also makes him burdened. His signing period when he hands over his cheque to Dr. Tamkin also drowns him.

He remembers his marriage with Margaret but she is away from him with his two lovely children. Because of his wife, Margaret, he can not marry Olive. He talks with his wife in the telephone booth and comes out with heavy sweat. He has invested in lard and rye and their rate seems to be fluctuating. Lard is dropping that makes him sad. Next, Tamkin, who disappears, causes him more trouble. Then, he meets his father but he is treated so badly that he feels as if he is a thief he think that his father knows his son is not in good track of life and demand of money to his father is not suitable. Then at last he, in search of Tamkin in the Broadway, sees a funeral procession. The climax comes at the end of the novel. He sheds the hot tears in front of that dead body of a stranger. He weeps and makes noise. Surprisingly, he feels happy. He hears the sea like music. He feels quite relieved. It seems that he comes out of the water which suggests that he understands his real situation.

In this way, all of his sufferings are symbolically presented by water as much as his joys are. The first stage begins with his predicament but the novel ends surprisingly in a happy mood. Therefore, the journey is from water to water.

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