

Chapter 7

Aristotle Concept of the Ideal Tragic Hero

Introduction; idealized imitation of objects in tragedy

Poetry is an imitation in which characters seem better than real life. Aristotle distinguishes between comedy and tragedy, for tragedy involves the imitation of men better than they are in actual life. Hence, tragedy presents a character in an idealized form.

Main features of tragic character

In dramatic character, character should be good

They should be appropriate.

They should be close to reality.

They should be consistent. (Slow and gradual change)

Goodness

Entirely wicked person have no place in tragedy. To evoke pity and fear there should be a bad character, which lead some good one from happiness to misery. Thus, goodness is necessary to form a tragic play. The term good, have different meanings for different critics. As for Deicer & metastasio it means "well marked" for F.L Lucas it is "noble".

Appropriateness

Character should be true to their particular age, profession, class, sex or status (Girls should be like girls not men. There should not be manliness in women and vice versa). And their action should represent who they are actually. AS If we see a boy is knitting it will be absurd.

Likeness

Character should be true to life. There should be similarity in reader and character's life. If we do not see the characters as we see ourselves, the tragic emotion of pity & fear become irrelevant. Thus, tragic character should be like us too.

Consistency

There is to be uniformity in behavior unless there is a proper motivation for any deviation. Any development in character has to take place according to intelligible principle.e.g logically