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**THE STORY AND A SHORT ANALYSIS
OF RUDYARD KIPLING'S POEM 'MOTHER O' MINE'**

**ІСТОРИЯ ТА КОРОТКИЙ АНАЛІЗ ВІРША
РЕДЬЯРДА КІПЛІНГА «МАТИ МОЯ»**

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Kipling's first novel *The Light That Failed* was published in 1890, though could be read only in 1891. It had two variants of the ending: one edition, containing 12 chapters for the British readers, was with the tragic ending and the other with 14 chapters, printed for American audience – with “happy ending”. At the end of the same year Macmillan and Co publishing house finally published a new edition of the novel with 15 chapters and a tragic ending which R. Kipling made a dedication to. The text of the book was changed twice after that by the author, in 1897 and 1899.

Kipling's poems in the novel but for the epigraph to chapter VII had never been published before. Dedication appeared only in the British variant with 15 chapters in 1891. It might be because of the less-than-happy ending that the poet added it to the beginning of the book as a way of saying sorry to his mother for having displeased her with it, she had have preferred the happy ending. Later on it was published under the title *Mother o'Mine* in the English newspaper *To-Day* on June, 2 1894 and then in the book *Songs from Books* (1912) [1].

If I were hanged on the highest hill,
Mother o'mine, O mother o' mine!
I know whose love would follow me still,
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

If I were drowned in the deepest sea,
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

I know whose tears would come down to me.
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine!

If I were damned of body and soul,
I know whose prayers would make me whole
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine! [1, p.19]

Якщо повісять мене на пагорбі високому,
Мати моя, о, мати моя!
Я знаю, чия любов знайде в світі далекому
Мати моя, о, мати моя!

Якщо потоплять мене на самій глибині,
Мати моя, о, мати моя!
Я знаю, чиї сльози розшукають на дні,
Мати моя, о, мати моя!

Як проклянуть мою навіть душу і тіло,
Знаю, молитви чиї зберуть воедино,
Мати моя, о, мати моя! [4]

Speaking of Kipling's creative works, one can characterise them as a revealed imperialism and nationalism propaganda on the one hand and a vision of the future on the other. Still you can find love, devotion and admiration of the best human traits in them.

The roots of Kipling's attitude to his mother lead deep into his childhood. It was just his mother, Alice Caroline Kipling, a writer and a poet, who almost saved her little son from death. Much of his childhood was unhappy. Kipling was taken to England by his parents at the age of six and was left for five years at a foster home at Southsea, the horrors of which he described in the story "Baa Baa, Black Sheep" (1888) and in his biography "Something of myself" (1937). He remembers, "I had never heard of Hell, so I was introduced to it in all its terrors – I and whatever luckless little slavey might be in the house, whom severe rationing had led to steal food. Once I saw the Woman beat such a girl who picked up the kitchen poker and threatened retaliation. Myself I was regularly beaten." [2]

Taking a glance at the poem, we see it is dedicated to the writer's mother. Like many other poems by Kipling, this one looks like a song,

making you read and sing it, and even chant. His mother represents an angel rather than a human being. She can save and resurrect her son with the strength of her “love”, “tears” and “prayers” in any incompatible with life situation.

There are many exclamation marks in the poem. The speaker is excited. He has strong feelings on the subject which is described in it. The author uses lexical repetitions to emphasize a significant image: *o, mine, mother* are repeated, the same word *if* also appears at the beginnings of some neighboring stanzas, demonstrating such figure of speech as anaphora. Kipling introduces the same word *mine* at the end of some neighboring stanzas. The poetic device here is epiphora.

There is a saying, “God couldn’t be everywhere, and therefore he created mothers.” And it is truly so. Very often we don’t always pay appropriate tribute to our mothers. Though no matter what you are and what you do, your mother will always love you, its just how it is. A mother gives sincere and genuine love and devotion to her children, and Kipling’s ‘Mother o’ Mine’ pays tribute to this fact. She is an Almighty God on Earth for everyone in this world. She loves us so selflessly with all her heart and soul asking nothing in return as only Holy can do.

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