

Ethics, Love, And The Feminine Self : A Feminist Study Of Iris Murdoch's Narrative Vision

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Abstract: *The research paper interrelationship of ethics, love, and feminine selfhood in the narrative vision of Iris Murdoch through a feminist critical lens, with the purpose of exploring how her philosophical ideas particularly her moral psychology of attention, unselfing, and the reality of the Other intersect with her literary portrayals of women's inner lives, ethical struggles, and relational identities. Using methods that combine close textual analysis of selected novels with feminist ethical theory inspired by thinkers such as Simone de Beauvoir, Carol Gilligan, and contemporary feminist philosophy, the study also employs conceptual analysis to connect Murdoch's philosophical writings with her narrative techniques and thematic patterns. Murdoch presents the feminine self as ethically responsive, emotionally intelligent, and capable of moral transcendence through attentive love, while simultaneously exposing the psychological and social structures that restrict women's autonomy and critiquing patriarchal moral frameworks. Murdoch's work significantly contributes to feminist ethics by offering a literary model of the self that is relational yet autonomous, imaginative yet morally disciplined, demonstrating that love understood as just and attentive regard is both an ethical practice and a transformative force in shaping feminine moral identity.*

Keywords: Feminist Ethics, Feminine Selfhood, Moral Psychology, Love and Morality, Patriarchal Critique, Ethical Imagination, Relational Identity etc