

Exile, Identity and Moral Responsibility in the Novels of Shirley Hazzard

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Abstract: *The interwoven themes of exile, identity, and moral responsibility in the novels of Shirley Hazzard, arguing that her fiction situates personal displacement within broader ethical and political frameworks. Hazzard's protagonistsoften travelers, migrants, or dislocated observersexperience exile not merely as geographical dislocation but as a moral and psychological condition that shapes their self-understanding and relationships. Through close readings of key works, the study explores how Hazzard constructs identity as an evolving negotiation between memory, cultural inheritance, and the moral imperatives that arise from witnessing historical and personal crises. The paper further contends that Hazzard uses exile as a vantage point from which to critique bureaucratic indifference, war, and the failures of global institutions, thereby linking intimate emotional lives to collective moral responsibility. Ultimately, this research demonstrates that Hazzard's novels articulate a humanistic vision in which ethical clarity and personal integrity serve as counterforces to alienation, suggesting that exilewhile often painfulcan also foster moral insight and a deeper sense of global citizenship. The purpose of investigate how Shirley Hazzard's novels articulate the interconnected themes of exile, identity, and moral responsibility, and to demonstrate the ways in which these themes shape both the psychological development of her characters and the ethical framework of her narrative worlds. Using a qualitative literary-analytical method, the research conducts close textual readings of major worksincluding The Transit of Venus, The Great Fire, and People in Glass Housesupported by thematic analysis and insights from postcolonial theory, moral philosophy, and identity studies.*

Keywords: Exile, Identity, Moral responsibility, Memory and cultural inheritance, Psychological and ethical development, Personal displacement, Bureaucratic critique etc

