LOYALTY IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE’S

TIMON OF ATHENS AND PERICLES

FLORENCE TOH HAW CHING

FBMK 2011 39
LOYALTY IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE’S
TIMON OF ATHENS AND PERICLES

By
FLORENCE TOH HAW CHING

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts

June 2011
“our personal friends who inspire us to the service of our own causes, the host of the loyal whom we know so little, the griefs that teach us the glory of what our human vision has lost from its field, the imagination that throws over all the range of human its idealizing light, the labors that leave us breathless, the crushing defeats that test our devotion”

~ Josiah Royce
Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts

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Chair: Arbaayah Bt Ali Termizi, PhD

Faculty: Modern Languages and Communication

The thesis undertakes the reading of master-servant relationship in two Shakespearean plays, Timon of Athens (1605) and Pericles (1607). While the growing body of secondary comments has focused on the plays’ protagonists, Timon and Pericles, the research devotes particular attention to two commonly neglected servant characters, the Steward and Helicanus. The introductory chapter of the thesis sets out to provide a background to the research. Chapter two offers a social background to the idea of servitude in Shakespeare’s Elizabethan England involving the ruling class and the servants as well as a literature review of the selected servant characters. The third chapter delves into the theoretical framework and methodology employed in carrying out the research. The argument of the thesis is augmented by utilizing Josiah Royce’s conceptions of loyalty, derived from his work The Philosophy of Loyalty (1908). By applying Royce’s concepts of loyalty to the selected servant characters, the thesis suggests that both the subservient characters displayed significant portrayals of loyalty in
the plays which have been eminent in restoring and elevating their masters’ honour and dignity. In chapter four, the discussions involve the Steward’s loyalty in truth speaking, minimizing conflict and idealizing the lost cause which enhances his self-will and forgoes his self-gratification. Similarly for Helicanus, his loyalty assisted him in being truthful, sacrificial and non-judgmental which further allowed him to encourage social confidence, forgo self-gratification, promote unity and elevate his master. The thesis concludes with an emphasis on the pivotal role played by both the Steward and Helicanus in serving their respective masters. Through the instances and extent of loyalty examined in the thesis, it is hoped that the endeavour will instigate new textual interpretations, particularly in the area of Shakespearean studies.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sastera

KESETIAAN DALAM TIMON OF ATHENS DAN PERICLES HASIL KARYA WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Oleh

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Jun 2011

Pengerusi: Arbaayah Bt Ali Termizi, PhD

Fakulti: Bahasa Moden dan Komunikasi

mendorong watak tersebut untuk bercakap benar, mengurangkan perselisihan dan menganggap punca yang telah lenyap sebagai ideal yang juga telah meningkatkan keperibadian dirinya dan membantunya melawan nafsu diri. Bagi ‘Helicanus’ pula, sifat kesetiaannya membantu watak tersebut untuk bersifat jujur, sanggup berkorban untuk orang lain dan juga berbudi bahasa yang turut membolahkannya untuk mengalakkan keyakinan awam, mewujudkan perpaduan, melawan nafsu dan meningkatkan maruah tuannya. Tesis ini diakhiri dengan penekanan terhadap kepentingan peranan yang dimainkan oleh ‘Steward’ dan ‘Helicanus’ dalam perkhidmatan mereka. Dari contoh-contoh dan takat kesetiaan yang dikaji dalam tesis ini, adalah diharapkan agar usaha ini dapat mempelopori interpretasi teks yang baru terutamanya dalam bidang kajian berkaitan dengan Shakespeare.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To Abba Father, the Author and Finisher of my journey; with whom I struggled against during this whole period of “confinement”, but in whom I remain a child undergoing strict preparation for greater things to come. Through reassuring voices during the many dark, depressing and lonely days, You have always reminded me of that flickering light of hope. Because of that light, I survived.

I would like to thank Universiti Putra Malaysia through the Graduate School Office for the one-year Graduate Research Fellowship grant which provided me with the financial stability and research exposure during my tenure.

My heartfelt gratitude is also extended to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mardziah Hayati binti Abdullah and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shameem Begum binti Mohd Rafik Khan who had endeavoured to solve the problem with my supervisory committee in the initial stages of my candidature. To the rest of the faculty colleagues who have endured my long presence with continuous support, both emotionally and morally, I am touched.

I am indebted to Dr. Arbaayah Ali Termizi, chair of my supervisory committee, for taking me under her wings and exposing me to the pleasure of publishing, among others. Her great patience and tolerance in guiding and counseling me during the many heart-wrenching semesters of conducting the research and writing the thesis have been a persistent force that pushed me to complete the task. She has been a mentor and a friend. I am also thankful to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wan Roselezam binti Wan Yahya, whose motivating advices have been a great comfort during those times when everything else seems bleak and I was so near the point of giving up. She is like a mother figure during my candidature.

I will not be able to reach where I am today without my fellow comrades, Michelle Chee, Amelia Wang and “Makcik Azah”, who in their own efforts to finish their researches, found time and energy to support me in various ways which I am unable to completely list here. I am amazed at Manfred Lim, whose unconditional optimism taught me endurance long after I thought I have none left. I also owe Jonathan Moh many treats for his invaluable assistance in checking my chapters and correcting my language deficiencies. Indeed, they are the epitome of loyalty that surpasses my comprehension and moved me beyond words. They have kept me sane.

Not forgetting my family whose unfailing encouragement supplied me with additional strength to simply go on.

Last but not least, I would like to convey my utmost appreciation to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Che Ibrahim Haji Salleh and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Faiz Sathivellu bin Abdullah, whose benevolence many years ago allowed me to be a part of the faculty that mould me into who I am today.

For everyone else who are not mentioned here, may your kindness be returned to you in many folds of blessing.
I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 15 June 2011 to conduct the final examination of Florence Toh Haw Ching on her thesis entitled "Loyalty in William Shakespeare’s Timon of Athens and Pericles" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Art.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

FLORENCE TOH HAW CHING
Date: 15 June 2011
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