

家族からの逃走：『ジャングル』を読んで

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Escape from Family : A Study of *The Jungle*

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The purpose of this study is to locate the “manhood” of Jurgis the protagonist and the author, Upton Sinclair, in the texture of the novel. Sinclair was double-bound by his ambivalence towards manhood, and intended to liberate his hidden desire by using socialism, but it resulted in concealing his self. This work has been often criticized as a failure because of the last several chapters. Analyzing these chapters shows examples of conflict of concealment and liberation in the author’s mind.

To depict a socialist hero who resolved various problems by Socialism was the original intention of the author. He, however, could not describe such a hero.

In analyzing the reason why he could not write, we concentrate on two points, the key words, “free” and “a new man” and the protagonist’s second meeting with his wife’s cousin, which finally drives the protagonist to socialism ; we know that not awakening into Socialism, but escape from his family which threatens his manhood, is the driving force for the author.

Sinclair could not recognize that he wrote the novel because of his desire to escape from family, which he concealed in the last chapters. It is the reason why the last chapters have been thought to be bad and it enables me to analyze the working of concealment and liberation in the novel.