

## RESEARCH ARTICLE



ISSN : 2349 - 9753

## UNLAWFUL AFFECTION ALWAYS AFFECTS ASSOCIATED PEOPLE AND ACHIEVES NOTHING BUT DISGRACE

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[DOI:10.33329/joell.7.3.20.52](https://doi.org/10.33329/joell.7.3.20.52)

### ABSTRACT



The concept 'unlawful affection' has been clarified. The word 'disgrace' has been defined. Hypothesis, objectives and sources of data collection have been mentioned. The theme of 'unlawful affection always affects associated people and achieves nothing but disgrace' has been justified with special reference to the select plays of *Phaedra* and *Hayavadana*, written by Jean Racine and Girish Karnad respectively. It has been concluded with the view that one's unlawful affection always affects associated people and achieves nothing but disgrace.

**Keywords:** Affection, Death, Disgrace, People and Unlawful.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The word ‘unlawful’ means “not allowed by the law” (Dhongde 1522). And the word ‘affection’ means “a feeling of loving somebody” (25). Unlawful affection is a type of love which is not allowed by law or societal rules. It affects all associated people. The word ‘disgrace’ can be defined as “the state of not being respected by other people, usually because you have behaved badly” (396).

The theme of ‘unlawful affection’ always affects associated people and achieves nothing but disgrace’ has been justified with special reference to the select plays of *Phaedra* (1677) and *Hayavadana* (1971), written by Jean Baptiste Racine (French Dramatist, 1639-1699) and Girish Karnad (Indian Dramatist, 1938-2019) respectively.

## 2. HYPOTHESIS

Unlawful affection always affects associated people and achieves nothing but disgrace.

## 3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To clarify the concept ‘unlawful affection’.
- 3.2 To define the word ‘disgrace’.
- 3.3 To mention the hypothesis.
- 3.4 To provide the sources of data collection.
- 3.5 To validate the select theme with special reference to the select plays.
- 3.6 To conclude the present research based on the findings.

## 4. SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION

To examine the hypothesis and attain the objectives of the present research, the sources of data collection are books, dictionaries, internet, libraries, research journals, etc.

## 5. JEAN RACINE'S PHAEDRA: FINDINGS

In the play *Phaedra*, the character Phaedra’s unlawful affection towards her stepson Hippolytus affects not only herself and stepson but also her husband Theseus, her nurse Oenone and Hippolytus’s beloved Aricia. This unlawful affection achieves nothing but disgrace. The detailed study of the same is presented as follows:

### 5.1 PHAEDRA'S UNLAWFUL AFFECTION AFFECTS HERSELF

Phaedra is the daughter of Minos and Pasiphae. The King Theseus brings her to Athens. When she sees her stepson Hippolytus, she falls in love with him. She describes the incident:

I look'd, alternately turn'd pale and blush'd  
To see him, and my soul grew all distraught;  
A mist obscured my vision, and my voice  
Falter'd, my blood ran cold, then burn'd like  
fire. (Racine)

A mother loves her stepson passionately which is an unlawful affection. She knows her loyalty towards husband but her immense love for stepson torments her soul constantly. She is torn between passion and duty. She tries to forget him but of no use. She suffers from psychological disturbance which brings her closer to death. She tries to hate him and to move him away from her eyesight, she convinces Theseus to banish him.

She also suffers a lot on his tragic death. She repents for plotting against him and for being a cause of his death. She takes a deadly poison and confesses the same to her husband:

I must repair the wrong that he has suffer'd -  
Your son was innocent.  
Twas I who cast an eye of lawless passion  
On chaste and dutiful Hippolytus.  
Heav'n in my bosom kindled baleful fire,  
And vile Oenone's cunning did the rest.  
(Racine)

After this, she meets a very shameful death. Her unlawful affection affects herself in a tragic way and brings her disgrace.

### 5.2 PHAEDRA'S UNLAWFUL AFFECTION AFFECTS HER STEPSON HIPPOLYTUS

Hippolytus is the son of Theseus and Antiope, the Queen of the Amazons. He is innocent. When Theseus returns safe from expedition, he meets him and asks permission to go back to hunting. He does not disclose his love for Aricia or Phaedra’s illicit love. He does not say a single word about the truth to his father. This shows his innocence. But Phaedra has constant fear that Hippolytus may betray her to Theseus by disclosing her revelation of



unlawful affection. Therefore, she meets Theseus and as she has Hippolytus's sword with her, she becomes successful to convince him about outrage which makes Theseus angry and calls Hippolytus traitor. He says, "I tell you once again, - fly, haste, return not, rid all my realms of your atrocious presence" (Racine).

This banishment leads to the terrible death of innocent Hippolytus which is a result Phaedra's unlawful affection. Does this not lead to disgrace?

### **5.3 PHAEDRA'S UNLAWFUL AFFECTION AFFECTS HER HUSBAND THESEUS**

Theseus is the King of Athens. He believes what his wife Phaedra says. He does not try to know his son's innocence. He pushes his son into horrible death. He gets affected after knowing his wife's unlawful affection and says:

Ah, disabused too late! Come, let us go,  
And with the blood of mine unhappy son  
Mingle our tears, clasping his dear remains,  
In deep repentance for a pray'r detested.  
Let him be honour'd as he well deserves.  
(Racine)

He fails to know his wife's unlawful affection. He fails to know his son's innocence. He goes on believing his wife and disbelieving his son. This results in the terrible death of his innocent son. He becomes the victim of disgrace and this is an effect of his wife's unlawful affection.

### **5.4 PHAEDRA'S UNLAWFUL AFFECTION AFFECTS HER NURSE OENONE**

Oenone is the nurse of Phaedra and by this relation, she is associated with her. From a very childhood, she is her caretaker and always accompanies her. She is confident and has close affinity towards her. She always thinks for the welfare of Phaedra. She becomes restless to know her mistress's suffering. She tries her best to save Phaedra. As she comes to know the news about Theseus's death, she tells Phaedra to express her love for stepson and as she comes to know the news about Theseus's arrival, she tells her to plot against stepson. Because of her, Phaedra walks on the path of damnation. She does it only because she is associated with her. But Phaedra's unlawful affection

affects her in such a way that she commits suicide in the sea. Does this not achieve disgrace?

### **5.5 PHAEDRA'S UNLAWFUL AFFECTION AFFECTS HIPPOLYTUS'S BELOVED ARICIA**

Aricia, the princess of the royal blood of Athens, is in love with Hippolytus. She worries continuously about the future of their love. When Theseus punishes Hippolytus, Phaedra feels guilty and to protect Hippolytus, she decides to disclose the fact to Theseus. With the same plan, she meets Theseus but as she realizes there her stepson and Aricia's love for each other, she comes back without disclosing the fact as she feels jealous of their love. As a result of Phaedra's unlawful affection, Hippolytus dies and Aricia loses her love. Aricia becomes a part of the story of disgrace.

### **6. GIRISH KARNAD'S HAYAVADANA: FINDINGS**

In the play *Hayavadana*, the character Padmini's unlawful affection towards Kapila affects not only herself and Kapila but also her husband Devadatta and her son. Hayavadana's mother's unlawful affection towards horse affects not only herself but also her father and son. This unlawful affection achieves nothing but disgrace. The detailed study of the same is presented as follows:

#### **6.1 PADMINI'S UNLAWFUL AFFECTION AFFECTS HERSELF**

Padmini is the protagonist of the play. She marries Devadatta because she likes his mind. Though she is married woman, she likes Kapila's muscular body. This is unlawful affection.

Three of them plan a trip. Kapila goes to bring a cart and becomes late. Padmini eagerly waits for Kapila which irritates Devadatta and they start quarreling. Padmini gets disappointed. This unlawful affection towards Kapila starts affecting their husband-wife relation.

Devadatta goes in the Kali's temple and cuts off his head. After finding Devadatta's dead body, Kapila cuts off his head too and dies for friendship. Both Devadatta, her husband and Kapila, her lover do not think even for a moment about Padmini and her future. They die for each other's friendship, leaving

Padmini alone in sorrow. She cries and decides to die. Is she not affected here by her own unlawful affection?

When goddess Kali offers her a chance to make the dead bodies alive, she seems selfish and attaches Kapila's head to Devadatta's body and Devadatta's head to Kapila's body. On this mis-transposition of heads goddess murmurs, "My dear daughter, there should be a limit even to honesty" (Karnad 1998: 33).

Padmini deceives goddess Kali to attach wrong heads to wrong bodies which is a result of her unlawful affection. Both, having mis-transposition head and body, claim Padmini as wife. To solve the problem, they meet Rishi who says:

As the heavenly Kalpa Vriksha is supreme among trees, so is the head among human limbs. Therefore, the man with Devadatta's head is indeed Devadatta and he is the rightful husband of Padmini. (40)

She becomes happy to get an intellectual head of Devadatta and strong body of Kapila. But at the same time, she does not forget to assure the disappointed Kapila about their meeting in future. This clearly states that she will never remain faithful to Devadatta. When Devadatta and Kapila acquire their earlier mental and physical forms and when Devadatta goes at Ujjain to bring dolls, Padmini meets Kapila in forest. She gets delighted to see him in his earlier form and speaks about son, "Your body gave him to me" (54). "He has the same mole on his shoulder" (55). She holds his hand and speaks about body, "When this went to you, it was so soft, like a prince's" (55). He tells her to go back to Devadatta and speaks, "I am Kapila now" (56). But she replies:

Be quiet, stupid. Your body bathed in a river, swam and danced in it. Shouldn't your head know what river it was, what swim? Your head too must submerge in that river - the flow must rumple your hair, run its tongue in your ears and press your head to its bosom. Until that's done, you'll continue to be incomplete. (58)

She leans on him. Kapila also takes her in his arms. She stays with Kapila for four to five days. Is it not unlawful affection? Devadatta becomes angry. He goes in forest and asks Kapila, "Do you really love

Padmini?" (60). Kapila speaks, "Yes" (60). And he further suggests, "Devadatta, couldn't we all three live together - the Pandavas and Draupadi" (60).

Devadatta rejects the proposal and this leads to fighting and terrible death of both. They fight for a woman Padmini and meet a tragic death but they do not think for her future. They leave her alone. As a result of all, Padmini goes sati.

Padmini arouses her constant flame of love for Kapila, though married with Devadatta, is her unlawful affection which harms her and achieves nothing but disgrace.

## 6.2 PADMINI'S UNLAWFUL AFFECTION AFFECTS KAPILA

Padmini's husband Devadatta and Kapila are close friends. When Devadatta cuts off his head in the temple of Kali, Kapila too cuts off his head and dies. He dies here as a result of Padmini's unlawful affection. Further, after the mis-transposition of heads, Padmini's unlawful affection does not stop her to see Kapila again in the forest and continue her relation. This results in the terrible death of Kapila. This is an effect of Padmini's unlawful affection which achieves only disgrace.

## 6.3 PADMINI'S UNLAWFUL AFFECTION AFFECTS HER HUSBAND DEVADATTA

Devadatta is the son of revered Brahmin in Dharmapura. He is a very intelligent man. He loves Padmini who is a beautiful girl in Dharmapura. He admires her beauty. He is eager to marry her. He says Kapila:

In one appearance, she became my guru in the poetry of love. If only she would consent to be my Muse, I could outshine Kalidasa. I'd always wanted to do that – but I thought it was impossible.... But now I see it isn't at all impossible. (14)

Devadatta and Kapila are close friends like one mind and one heart. Kapila assists Devadatta for his marriage with Padmini. He usually goes to their house and Padmini likes his company. One day, they plan a trip. Kapila goes to bring a cart and becomes late. Padmini seems impatient for Kapila's arrival which affects Devadatta. He quarrels with her for the same reason and cancels the trip. But this

cancellation of trip saddens Kapila. To please Kapila, Padmini, against the wish of her husband, meets Kapila and says:

What's wrong with me? I'm perfect. I had a headache this morning. But a layer of ginger - paste took care of that. Why should we cancel our trip for a little thing like that? I don't have a headache now! (24)

She becomes ready for trip and packs all necessary things. Her sudden change in mind affects Devadatta. All the way in trip, she praises Kapila which annoys Devadatta. Kapila brings flower for her. She likes his body when he climbs up the tree. She says, "He is like a Celestial Being reborn as a hunter. No woman could resist him" (26).

Devadatta realizes her love for Kapila and Padmini also realizes her husband's suspicion. Devadatta wishes to resume the journey but Padmini seems unwilling to listen him. Devadatta expresses his wish to go to the Kali's temple but Padmini supports Kapila's idea of visiting the Rudra's temple first. Devadatta does not accompany them and staying at the spot, guards the cart. Devadatta gets affected badly by witnessing his wife's unlawful affection which forces him to go to the temple of Kali and die there. He fails to correct Padmini's behaviour. When Kapila and Padmini find Devadatta's missing, Kapila shouts but Padmini seems quiet. Even after the mis-transposition of heads and begetting a child from Devadatta with Kapila's body, she unites with Kapila in forest. This unlawful affection results in the death of Devadatta. Will it not bring disgrace?

#### 6.4 PADMINI'S UNLAWFUL AFFECTION AFFECTS HER SON

Padmini's unlawful affection affects three of them including herself and both her husband and lover. Three of them die and leave a lonely unfortunate child behind without parents to face the challenges in life. The child's further life gets affected badly due to her unlawful affection. This way, Padmini's child becomes the part of the story of disgrace.

#### 6.5 HAYAVADANA'S MOTHER'S UNLAWFUL AFFECTION AFFECTS HERSELF

Hayavadana's mother decides to marry horse instead of prince in the swayamvara, arranged by her father. Her decision to marry horse leads to happy journey, but later, affects her badly. Her husband curses her and makes her mare. Against her wish, she goes in heaven leaving back her only unfortunate son Hayavadana with horse's head. Her unlawful affection towards horse affects herself and brings disgrace.

#### 6.6 HAYAVADANA'S MOTHER'S UNLAWFUL AFFECTION AFFECTS HER FATHER

The father of Hayavadana's mother believes his daughter. Therefore, he arranges a swayamvara so that his daughter will select a proper husband but she hurts him by selecting a horse as life partner and not any prince. This brings despair to him. Her unlawful affection affects him badly.

#### 6.7 HAYAVADANA'S MOTHER'S UNLAWFUL AFFECTION AFFECTS HER SON HAYAVADANA

Hayavadana has human body with horse's head. His mother is the beautiful princess of Karnataka. Her father allows her to select husband at her own level in swayamvara. In swayamvara, she does not like any prince but when she comes across the smart prince of Areby with his great stallion, she decides to marry horse and stays with horse for fifteen years. One morning, the horse becomes Gandharva. Kuvera had cursed him for misbehavior and now, he is relieved from the curse. After getting freed from the curse, he asks Hayavadana's mother to accompany him to his heavenly abode but she denies and says she will accompany him only if he becomes the horse again. Therefore, he curses and makes her mare. After this, she goes with him. Both of them go but leave back Hayavadana alone with horse's head. Hayavadana's mother's unlawful affection affects Hayavadana in such a way that he suffers a lot in his further life. To become a complete man, he goes to the Kali's temple but goddess listens half and makes him complete horse with human voice. Hayavadana frustrates and leaves the hope of



becoming a complete man. He, now, attempts to get rid of human voice and finally, he neighs. Is he not affected by his mother's unlawful affection?

## 7. CONCLUSION

It is found in both the plays that Phaedra, Padmini and Hayavadana's Mother's unlawful affection affects not only themselves but also all other associated people. Phaedra's unlawful affection affects herself, her stepson Hippolytus, her husband Theseus, her nurse Oenone and Hippolytus's beloved Aricia. Padmini's unlawful affection affects herself, her lover Kapila, her husband Devadatta and her son. Hayavadana's Mother's unlawful affection affects herself, her father and her son Hayavadana. Phaedra, Padmini and Hayavadana's Mother are motivated by self-interest. No other thing matters on the part of them. They forget lawful affection and societal rules to achieve their desires. Therefore, to conclude, it is stated that one's unlawful affection always affects associated people and achieves nothing but disgrace.

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