



The Initiation Process of Wallace and Aditya as Warrior Archetypes

M.Vinoth Kumar, Ph.D Research Scholar, Alagappa Govt, Arts College, Karaikudi.

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1963-0657>

Dr.T.K.Vedharaja, Research Supervisor, Assistant Professor of English, Alagappa Govt. Arts College, Karaikudi.

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3270-733x>

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Abstract

The present article is a brief study on the personality of two great national heroes of Scotland and Tamil Nadu. They have been portrayed in a realistic manner by Nigel Tranter and Kalki in their novels, “The Wallace” and “Ponniyin Selvan” respectively. Every individual has initiation step as his age of profession enters. The subject of the novels is about the heroic journey of the national heroes in getting liberty and power to their nations. To justify the theme, assessment of the heroes quality becomes vital. The initiation process the beginning of the individuation process of an individual in his task. Wallace and Aditya start their career as a warrior by avenging the death of their dear ones and to quit the domination of the opponent. To note, the works “The Wallace” as “TW” and “Ponniyin Selvan” as “PS” have been abbreviated for denoting parenthetical documentation. Hence, the article brings forth the first attempt of both heroes in warfield and their tenacity of keeping themselves true to their goals.

Keywords: Initiation Process, Wallace, Aditya, Warrior Archetype.

In a hero's life, the initiation process of his journey becomes vital. It may be a battle, ambush, skirmish, plot to kill him or a battle or war he voluntarily participates to show his might in an innate manner. The beginning of the heroes' fight against tyranny or conspiracy becomes the initiation process of the hero. Tranter's William Wallace and Kalki's Aaditya Karikalan are suitable models of warrior archetypes and their initiation process of their heroic journey prove them as selfless warriors.

William Wallace is the national hero of Scotland. In the beginning of Nigel Tranter's "The Wallace", Wallace happens to see the terrible atrocities of the English over the innocent Scottish folks. His agony frightens his friends because it is the big man weeping sobbing in front of them. He has done everything against the English for the Scottish liberty with his whole heart and mind. He has been a man of fire brand against the English. On seeing the cruelties unleashed by the English "his emotions were strongly aroused, subsequent action could be swift, shattering, shocking, indeed not in sheer impulsiveness nor mindless violence, but in intense, calculate vehemence." (TW 9). The situation shows Wallace has been fully melted for the worst fate of the Scottish people and deeply yearns to avenge their deaths.



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William Wallace prays to the god to give him the strength ‘God in Heaven – help me!’ He raised two great hands up and forward and open, towards that scene of horror, but higher. ‘I need . . . Your help’ (TW 9). He also vows that “the men who did this evil thing will go to answer for it. To a higher court than Edward Plantagenet’s! he said deep-voiced, ‘And thereafter, we will seek to cleanse this good land of, of . . . (TW 14).

He condemns those who fear on tyranny and accepts savagery, insult, shame inflicted by Edward. He counts the atrocities done by Edward in dozen. The sack of Berwick- nearly 17,000 died at Edward’s sack of Berwick, innocent men, women and bairns. “For what? To cow us, ...But we have bowed and cowered, since. It must not go on’. He takes an oath to do something that evades his nation “‘I could do something, God aiding me. And I will’”, ...I have much a powerful body, a strong right arm, wits enough for some few to follow me. I can wield a sword...’.

On hearing her husband’s words Mirren becomes desperate because she may lose him if he gets captured by the English she mournfully exclaims, “Will! I see you going away from me again. Going into grievous danger, fighting. Being hunted by the English. Being caught, it may be. And then, and then...’ She gulped and could not go on. (TW 18)

In fact, Wallace gets ready to attack the convoy. He acquires the news that Fenwick is coming in the party through the pass of Loudoun Hill. He remembers of his father’s death by Fenwick and wants to avenge him there itself. “‘Loudoun...! Wallace breathed. It was at the pass of Loudoun Hill that his father had died.” (TW 22). While William has been hatching a thought to avenge him, Marion falters. ‘Oh, Will – think! Think Well! Two hundred trained soldiers. A great company. Not for such as you...’ (TW 22)

He reassures her that he will be back after victory. After consoling her, he plans of the attack by calculating the journey of the English convoy. He estimates that it will be fourteen or fifteen miles to Strathaven. They must come across Clyde and Nethan Water, over Stonehouse Muir and down the Kype Water. It would be a rough marching. They must need rest. So, Fenwick’s squadron from Cumberland might even take rest for a day at Strathaven for the travel onto a long stretch of empty hills.

Marion Braidfoot’s has been sad; she pleads William “‘Sleep?’ she said. ‘You must sleep. For what is left of this night.” (TW 23). Her words seem to predict that there is no sleep for him till to his death. She adds with a hard heart, “‘God take care of you, Will’, she whispered back, into his broad chest. ‘For you will not...!’ (TW 24)

As they calculated with the laden horses of treasure Fenwick and his convoy comes very closer where they hide themselves. At the time, he comes out shouting “‘A Wallace! A Wallace!’”. From all sides of the track, his men emerge from the bushes and boulders raising “‘A Wallace! A Wallace!’” irrespective of their own names and allegiances.

Fenwick has been a trained cavalryman and Wallace addresses himself to his personal enemy on the spot. Both are evenly matched but the Scottish knight has sheathed his long steel, Fenwick’s sword is much the shorter than the big man’s steel. Wallace maintains,



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through it all, and his blade smashes, cutting through the hair and bone and brains, cleaving the head in two, right to the neck bone of Fenwick. Sir John Fenwick collapses slowly and Wallace turns away from what he has done slowly, emotionally rather than physically exhausted. The act of Wallace has no state of mind for a commander of men. He draws great breaths; he looks to the larger struggle and bellowed “A Wallace! A Wallace!” (TW 37) and thunders directly at the enemy rear. Somewhat, Wallace bemused by this abrupt and complete victory so, he does not pursue the enemy and he sends Robert Blair after the fleeing enemy to find how Ranald Crawford and his company of men going towards the east mouth of the defile.

Wallace has faced for the first time with the problems of a victorious commander. He takes his pace and tramples over the bloody track thinking them out. At the arrival of his cousin Ranald Crawford with his half-dozen men, he calls for a council-of-war among his principal lieutenants, to explain his views and to seek theirs.

Wallace’s revenge seems that he has avenged him for his years long repressed memories. His aversion on the English, of their atrocities perpetrated on the innocent people kindles him to punish them so severely. This is a trait of a warrior. He starts his journey of the hero by the initiation of Fenwick’s assassination as an individuation process in him in the pursuit of Scottish Freedom. This is the beginning of hammering the English.

In Kalki’s *Ponniyin Selvan*, Sundara Chola has two sons and a daughter, the elder son is Aditya Karikalan, then Kundavai and the youngest is Arulmozhi Varman. In Book -1 *New Floods*, Karikalan is depicted as a handsome prince having all princely quality and a fierce soldier. At this time, his father has been bed-ridden and there are many conspiracies going on against his family by the Pazhuvetaraiyars, the then major chieftains of Tanjore. Aditya understood this and he shows his feats to prove him as an able administrator and warrior. For instance, while the prince Aditya with his friend Parthibendran has been taking with Aditya’s Grandfather Malayaman Miladudayar about the familial conditions and the remedies to be taken to wipe away the enemies indoor, Malayaman says to Aditya:

You cannot be won in war; yes it is true. But if plot and conspiracy counters you what will you do? When you get closer to Tanjore with the army they will spin a story that the father and son are going to fight! They will say that the Emperor has died of this dishonor. Could be there people to believe this isn’t? At that situation, what will you do my child? Your Will Power will go down! Could you bare such bad reputation on hearing you as the one who had come to war with the father? (PS 125)

On hearing, Aditya could not bear it in his heart as a dream. He closes his eyes and shouted “Siva Siva! Non sense!” (PS 125). Then his grandfather warned him to be careful. Aditya asks for the solution to safeguard his family and family members. His grandfather advises him to send a confidant to Eelam to bring back Arulmozhi and to save the family. So,



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Aditya has taken a keen decision and sends Vanthiyathevan to complete his task. This quality of enquiry and understanding tragic consequences make Aditya in accomplishing his tasks.

In pursuit of his career as the crown prince and he sees the uprising of the Pandian king Veerapandiya has been a great threat to the emerging Chola dynasty. Often, there are feuds, skirmishes and battles happened between the Cholas and Pandiyas. The Pandiyas get help from the Sinhala Kings and from other northern Chola territory dynasties to subdue and win over them. But the prince is very astute and brave to tackle any type of hardships in the war. So, Aditya becomes more powerful and chivalric in saving the people of his country.

At that time a decisive battle happened at a place named as Sevur. Chola Army is attacked by the Pandiyan and Sinhala Army but the Chola Army wins the war and makes Veerapandiya to exile his country. He runs to save his life. Wherever the Pandiyas try to win they got failed. So, they often ask the help of Sinhala Army. The Sinhala King Mahinda also has sent army to back up the Pandiya Army but this time Sundara Chola wanted to completely wipe down the power of the Sinhala Army.

When the chieftain Siriya Velan martyred him in the war field, the news reached the ears of Veerapandiya who was in exile in a mountainous-parched terrain on the east of Madurai. He gathered a big army. Kalki writes “When the news reached to the Veerapandiya who was hiding in the parched mountain cave he came out with a heart” (PS 41). He gathered a big army and fought. But this time the Pandian Army was shattered and Veerapandiya lost his life. In the battle, Sundara Chola’s elder son Aditya Karikalan stood in the front and showed his prowess; He got the title “Veerapandiya Talaikonda kopparakesari”. Kalki decodes the prowess of Karikalan as:

After this, Karikalan becomes an important general in the Chola army. He started his feats over the dominating Rastrakudas in Thirumunaipadi and Thondai Regions. He wins over them and has taken control of the classic Kanchi and made it into his living place. Moreover, he has a big plan to invade the northern India. (PS 42)

Aditya appears far sighted and mercurial in action; he could able to understand while in temper. He wins the enemies with swirling power and proves his might to them. In doing war, Aditya is a warrior and a man of chivalry as Wallace in “The Wallace”.

Wallace and Aditya are the models of warrior archetypes in their actions. They are swift in attack and confident on their will to accomplish the task destined for them. Wallace attacks Fenwick for Fenwick’s act of killing his father. Aditya kills Veerapandiya for his country and also for his love. But the vigor they pounce upon their enemies seem that of a tiger pounces on another tiger that tries to invade its territory. Both of them are heroic and full of manly quality and have the blend of hero and warrior archetype in fulfilling their goals.

Thus interpreting the unexplored characters with archetypal approach could kindle the archetypal spirit and the national spirit in every man. The phases of this non fictional character’s life and their actions are by the repressions of their unconscious mind. Positive



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and negative aspects are seen in both of them. The noble cause of patriotism and chivalric quality makes them archetypal models in their countries. Explaining such psychological traits through these characters can open our mind and heart to understand the backdrop of our actions and we can see whatever the distance, culture and other variations, the mind of a hero works dynamically same. This sort of finding can create leadership and astuteness among the people. So, wide researches on the characters of these novels become vital for further study.

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