



Negotiating Re-alignments: Man and Milieu in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*

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Abstract

The theatrical world that Arthur Miller conceives is entirely social and his dramatis personae belonging to different social set-ups with their own individuality are without a single exception, common people with average figure and stature. He attempts to address a crucial question i.e. how to establish a harmonious relationship between man and his milieu, and further emphasizing on the relationship between man and society, he says that an individual is related to his society as fish is to water, and for a working out a solution where individual's survival can remain dignified, both man and the outer world will have to understand each other's complex nature. The world of Miller always remains same – insensitive and hostile to the every individual's existence, for every individual harbours in himself some flaws. But those

*who are unable to adopt the middle path are crushed and while those doing so, are spared. Miller strongly advocated that one should learn to compromise in life, should know "how to settle for half", as suggested by Alfieri the wisest of Miller's characters - and if they do so, the world will accept their existence. The play *The Crucible* discusses the reasons behind incompatibility and acrimony between man and his milieu and suggests alternates to develop a cohesive homogeneity between these two that can make life meaningful, as Miller says the greatest hope for human race lies in the individual's capacity to strive for a better tomorrow.*

Key words: Integrity, Identity, Self, Imperfections, Home