

ILLUSION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM IN THE INTERPRETATION OF FRANCIS SCOTT FITZGERALD (THE GREAT GATSBY).**Karamatova Durдона Zohirovna**

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Abstract: In the illustrious tapestry of „The Great Gatsby”, F. Scott Fitzgerald masterfully unveils the precarious facade that encapsulates the elusive concept of the American Dream—a notion steeped in the conviction that through relentless toil and unwavering ambition, one may grasp the ephemeral fruits of happiness and success. Set against the backdrop of the resplendent yet morally decrepit 1920s, the narrative poignantly illustrates how the glittering allure of wealth and social stature has supplanted authentic virtues, such as fidelity, affection, and integrity, rendering them mere relics of a bygone era.

Through the poignant and ultimately tragic saga of Jay Gatsby, Fitzgerald deftly unveils the stark reality that the relentless chase for material prosperity frequently culminates in a profound sense of emptiness and gnawing disillusionment, rather than the longed-for sense of fulfillment. Gatsby's fervent aspiration to reclaim Daisy's elusive affection serves as a poignant microcosm of the broader American Dream—a vision resplendent in its outward beauty, yet resoundingly vacuous at its very essence.

Fitzgerald's exquisite depiction extends beyond mere narrative; it resonates as a timeless meditation on the intricate tapestry of human desire, the insidious corruption of noble ideals, and the illusory pledge of happiness attainable through the pursuit of material gain. In the final analysis, *The Great Gatsby* emerges as a sobering admonition, underscoring the poignant truth that when our dreams are constructed upon the delicate scaffolding of illusion, they are inevitably fated to fracture and fall apart.

Keywords: The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald, American Dream, Illusion and reality, Materialism, Moral decay, Jay Gatsby, 1920s society, Social inequality, Lost generation, Tragic idealism, Corruption of values, Wealth and class, Disillusionment, Symbolism of the green light.

Introduction. The notion of the American Dream has long been a beacon of hope, embodying the ideals of freedom and the tantalizing promise that success can be attained through relentless hard work and unyielding perseverance. However, within the pages of *The Great Gatsby*, the illustrious Francis Scott Fitzgerald deftly unveils the shadowy underbelly of this cherished ideal, illuminating it as a mere illusion, insidiously tainted by the relentless currents of greed, materialism, and moral decay. Set against the vibrant yet hollow backdrop of the Roaring Twenties—a decade characterized by both flamboyance and superficiality—the narrative unfurls a cast of characters ensnared in a relentless pursuit of wealth and societal prestige, believing earnestly that these trappings will unlock the gates to authentic happiness and fulfillment. Yet, Fitzgerald masterfully demonstrates that beneath the lustrous veneer lies a profound emptiness, a pervasive disillusionment, and a staggering erosion of genuine human values. Through the poignant and tragic tale of Jay Gatsby, a man ensnared by his own inaccessible aspirations, Fitzgerald sharply critiques the deceptive allure of the American Dream, portraying it as a mirage—radiantly appealing from a distance yet perpetually elusive to those who dare to reach for it.

Main part. In the seminal work known as *The Great Gatsby*, the illustrious Francis Scott Fitzgerald adroitly unveils the illusory veneer that cloaks the American Dream—an enticing vision predicated on the conviction that success, fulfillment, and societal ascendance can be

grasped through sheer diligence and unyielding ambition. Yet, through the lens of the Jazz Age, Fitzgerald lays bare the insidious corruption of this noble ideal by the twin forces of materialism and moral dissolution. The narrative's principal figure, Jay Gatsby, epitomizes both the aspirational hope and tragic plight inherent in the American Dream. Emergent from the bleakness of poverty, he aspires to dizzying heights of wealth, yet his affluence is not anchored in honest toil; rather, it is acquired through dubious and disreputable means, starkly reflecting the moral vacuity pervading his society.

Gatsby's fervent quest for the elusive Daisy Buchanan, a paragon of his most cherished dreams, vividly illustrates the profound fallacy that love and joy can be procured or deserved through the accumulation of riches. Daisy's mellifluous voice, rich with the resonance of wealth, transforms into an emblem of the superficial values espoused by the upper echelons of society. Despite Gatsby's tireless efforts to resurrect a bygone era and validate his worthiness in her eyes, he remains irrevocably an outsider within the hallowed confines of "old money." Fitzgerald artfully crafts this inaccessibility of love to underscore the metamorphosis of the American Dream—once entwined with ideals of liberty and self-actualization—into a relentless pursuit of material wealth and social approbation.

In his vivid portrayal of the Roaring Twenties, Fitzgerald exposes the moral decay that lurks beneath the opulent surface of wealth and extravagance. Characters such as Tom Buchanan and Jordan Baker personify the heedless arrogance and emptiness of the elite, decadently exploiting others with nary a twinge of conscience. In stark contrast, Gatsby's tragic demise lays bare the futility of chasing dreams that are inherently rooted in deception. The green light shimmering at the end of Daisy's dock, which once stood as a beacon of hope and aspiration, ultimately morphs into a haunting specter, emblematic of the chasm that exists between the realm of dreams and the harshness of reality.

Fitzgerald's poignant interpretation of the American Dream is, therefore, not one imbued with inspiration, but rather one steeped in disillusionment. He poignantly illustrates that in a society enthralled by the allure of wealth and the façade of appearance, the genuine human values—those of love, honesty, and integrity—are tragically forsaken. The Great Gatsby serves as an ageless cautionary tale, a harbinger that when aspirations are perverted by avarice and illusion, they cease to embody the essence of a dream and metamorphose instead into a seductive, yet ultimately destructive, falsehood.

Conclusion. In the resplendent tapestry woven by Francis Scott Fitzgerald within the pages of „The Great Gatsby”, one encounters a profound and artful dissection of the illusion that is the American Dream. The author deftly lays bare the insidious nature of this much-lauded aspiration, revealing the deep-seated corruption and existential void that lurks beneath the ostentatious veneer of success. Fitzgerald intricately illustrates how the relentless quest for opulence and societal elevation, rather than ushering in a sense of fulfillment or joy, spirals instead into moral degradation and profound disillusionment.

The heart-wrenching saga of Jay Gatsby serves as a poignant allegory for the catastrophic unraveling of an entire generation's once fervent belief in a dream that promised boundless potential. Through his incisive social commentary and exquisite narrative artistry, Fitzgerald cautions us that when the flames of ambition are stoked not by principles of integrity and genuine affection, but by voracious greed and insatiable desire, the American Dream metamorphoses into little more than a dazzling mirage—exquisite to behold, yet tragically beyond reach.

Ultimately, *The Great Gatsby* endures as an ageless testament to the notion that authentic joy cannot be purchased or acquired through mere accumulation of riches. It compels us to confront the uncomfortable truth that the gravest failure resides not in the act of dreaming itself, but rather in the perilous folly of dreaming the wrong dream.

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