

**CLEOPATRA'S MOTIVATION TO FIGHT AGAINST HER
BROTHER IN. H RIDER HAGGARD'S NOVEL *CLEOPATRA***

A THESIS

BY

JELITA RAIHANNA

Reg. No. 71200411039



**DEPARTMEN OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
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**JELITA RAIHANNA
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**SUBMITTED TO
THE FACULTY OF LITERATURE
ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF NORTH SUMATRA MEDAN
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF *SARJANA SASTRA*
IN ENGLISH LITERATURE**

Supervisor

Dr. Purwanto Siwi, S.S., M.A

Dean of Faculty,

Head of Department,

Dr. Purwanto Siwi, S.S., M.A

Dr. Ely Ezir, M.S

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LITERATURE
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2024**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Assalamualaikum Wr, Wb.

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to the presence of Allah SWT for all the blessings of His guidance, so that I can complete this thesis as well as possible. Apart from that, I also want to convey a lot of love and thanks to.

1. **Dr. Purwanto Siwi, SS, MA.**, Dean of the Faculty of English, Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara, and **Dr. Ely Ezir, M.S.**, Head of the English
2. My supervisor **Dr. Purwanto Siwi, SS, MA.**, for his guidance, support, and patience during the preparation of this thesis. Thank you for the time spent providing advice and direction that helped me complete this research.
3. To all lecturers and staff at the department of English Literature.
4. My two great parents, my father **Sukerianto** and my mother **Rohani**, who play a very, very important role in my life, wish me all the best, support me in any situation.
5. My older brother **Wahyuda Hafis** and my younger brother **Ibnu Raihan Rasyidi** who always ask when sis will graduate
6. And my “**SAHABAT SURGA**” who are in good and bad situations, who always share kindness and make me realize that there are still many good people in this world, namely them.
7. For someone who always helps with love and affection, who is in the worst condition.
8. finally, I would like to thank **myself**, who struggled to finish this thesis when problems came and went, but my feet remained firm, even though sometimes I felt unable to deal with all of this, I hope happiness will always come to my life.

Hopefully this thesis can be useful for all readers. I realize that this thesis is still far from perfect, therefore criticism and suggestions for improvement are greatly appreciated.

wassalamualaikum Wr, Wb.

Medan, 10 Juli 2024

Jelita Raihanna

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Appendix

A. The Author Biography



H. Rider Haggard

H. Rider Haggard (1856–1925) was a British writer known for his adventure novels set in exotic locations, blending elements of fantasy, romance, and historical fiction. Born Henry Rider Haggard in Norfolk, England, he was the eighth of ten children in a wealthy family. Haggard spent part of his early adulthood in South Africa, where he worked in the British colonial administration. His experiences in Africa deeply influenced his later writings, especially his depictions of landscapes, cultures, and political conflicts.

Haggard's breakthrough came with his novel *King Solomon's Mines* (1885), which introduced the world to the famous adventurer Allan Quatermain. The novel's success was followed by *She* (1887), another landmark in his career, featuring an immortal queen in a lost African kingdom. Both novels were immensely popular and are considered classics of the "Lost World" genre. Throughout his life, Haggard wrote more than 50 novels, including *Cleopatra* (1889), *Ayesha* (1905), and *The People of the Mist* (1894). His works often featured themes of adventure, mysticism, and the clash of civilizations, with a strong focus on exotic settings like Africa, ancient Egypt, and Atlantis.

In addition to his literary career, Haggard was an advocate for agricultural reform in Britain and was knighted in 1912 for his contributions to literature and public service. He died in 1925, leaving behind a legacy as one of the pioneers of adventure and fantasy fiction.

B. Novel Summary

Cleopatra (1889) by H. Rider Haggard is a historical adventure novel set in ancient Egypt, following the life of Harmachis, a young Egyptian prince who is destined to overthrow Queen Cleopatra and restore native Egyptian rule. The novel blends historical events with romance, magic, and political intrigue.

Harmachis is the son of the high priest of Isis and a direct descendant of the ancient pharaohs. He is trained from birth to lead a rebellion against the Greek Ptolemaic rule in Egypt, represented by the seductive and powerful Queen Cleopatra. Imbued with a deep sense of duty and guided by religious prophecy, Harmachis prepares to reclaim the throne and restore Egypt to its former glory.

Disguised as a Greek scholar, Harmachis infiltrates Cleopatra's court. He gains her trust by using his knowledge of astrology and magic, but soon finds himself captivated by her charm and beauty. Cleopatra, aware of his mission but not revealing her knowledge, manipulates him into betraying his cause. Harmachis, torn between his love for Cleopatra and his loyalty to Egypt, falters in his mission.

The novel delves into the inner conflict of Harmachis as he struggles with his ideals and his growing infatuation with the queen. His betrayal leads to the failure of the Egyptian rebellion and the eventual consolidation of Cleopatra's power, reinforced by her alliance with the Roman general, Julius Caesar.

Ultimately, Harmachis is punished for his failure. The story portrays Cleopatra not only as a ruler but as a cunning and dangerous woman who uses her beauty and intellect to maintain control over Egypt. Harmachis' downfall serves as a tragic reminder of how personal desires can conflict with duty and lead to one's ruin.

Themes:

1. **Power and Seduction:** Cleopatra symbolizes the allure of power and the dangerous pull of seduction. Harmachis' love for her mirrors the struggle between reason and emotion.
2. **Patriotism and Duty:** Harmachis' mission represents loyalty to one's nation and heritage, while his downfall underscores the risks of straying from one's purpose.
3. **Betrayal:** Harmachis' betrayal of his cause, his family, and Egypt forms the emotional core of the novel, exploring the consequences of personal weakness.
4. **Historical Romance and Adventure:** The novel combines history with a sense of romantic adventure, with Egypt as the mystical and exotic backdrop for the unfolding drama.

Cleopatra stands out in Haggard's oeuvre for its blending of historical fiction with romance, magic, and themes of destiny, presenting a tragic narrative about love, power, and the rise and fall of kingdoms.