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On the Factors of Tragicomedy in 'On the Western Circuit'

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Abstract

Thomas Hardy writes many works on the basis of his philosophy that however hard human begins struggle to break out of a miserable situation by their will and efforts, they can't escape from their determined fate, because they are controlled by 'Immanent Will'. And he describes the life and death struggle between human beings and 'Immanent Will' in *The Mayor of Casterbridge* or *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

In 'On the Western Circuit', however, Hardy suggests that people can control their fate by their will and efforts but that the problem is whether or not they can make a right choice by their will and value judgement, in making a choice in a situation of ambivalence.

My aim in this essay is to focus on some of the factors involved in the choices that are doomed to catastrophe by analyzing the psychology and behavior of three characters, and to examine some of the elements in the construction of a successful tragicomedy.
