

Eco-feminist Ideology in The Birthmark and Rappaccini's Daughter

SHI Yong-hong,ZHANG Li-juan(College of Foreign Languages,Zhejiang University of Technology,Hangzhou 310023,China)

Sharing striking similarities in plots,characterization and themes,The Birthmark and Rappaccini's Daughter may be regarded as two sisters among Hawthorne's short stories.Besides,they may also be honored as two rare flowers in eco-feminist literature due to their display of a kind meditation on the relationships between human beings and nature,and between male and female,especially due to their double concerns over both nature and female.This paper will explore the profound eco-feminist ideology in the two works, centering on their criticism of the overdeveloped western sci-tech civilization and patriarchal culture.

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Get an answer for 'How are Hawthorne's stories "Rappaccini's Daughter" and "The Birthmark" thematically similar?' and find homework help for other Rappaccini's Daughter questions at eNotes. One of the themes which connects "Rappaccini's Daughter" and "The Birthmark" is that of the intellectual pride of the scientist. In Hawthorne's time, science was not what chemistry and physics are today; rather, it was closer to alchemy, which has spiritual ties. Scientists of this time sought to not only solve the mysteries of nature, but also to master and perfect them. Both Rappaccini and Alymer seek to master nature by perfecting their beloved women, One of the themes which connects "Rappaccini's Daughter" and "The Birthmark" is that o Our story today is called "Rappaccini's Daughter." It was written by Nathaniel Hawthorne. We will tell the story in two parts. Here is Kay Gallant with the first part of our story. Many years ago, a young man named Giovanni Guasconti left his home in Naples to study in northern Italy. He rented a small room on the top floor of a dark and ancient palace. Long ago, the building had belonged to a noble family. People say he uses those plants to make strange kinds of medicine. He lives in that small brown house in the garden with his daughter, Beatrice." Giovanni often sat by his window to look at the garden. He had never seen so many different kinds of plants. They all had enormous green leaves and magnificent flowers in every color of the rainbow. In both "Rappaccini's Daughter" and "The Birthmark" by Nathaniel Hawthorne, female characters are systematically built up as paragons of perfection, beauty, and virginal grace only to be, by the end of each tale, completely destroyed. Interestingly, while this may at first glance seem to be a pervading issue of misogyny, this is not necessarily the case since the demise of both central women characters, Beatrice and Georgiana, are brought about because of the scientific interference of men. It is not long, however, before their tragic flaws are revealed; a poisonous presence and a small birthmark and from that point, the demise of these women and the "plucking apart" of their beauty happens through the actions of male characters who are seeking

