

**SELF-ACTUALIZATION IN SHEKAR KAPUR'S *THE  
GOLDEN AGE:*  
A HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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**by:**

**INA KRISTIANI  
A 320 050 071**

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

*The Golden Age* is a movie written by William Nicholson and Michael Hirst. It is directed by Shekar Kapur, and produced by Tim Bevan, Jonathan Cavendish, Liza Chasin, Eric Fellner, Debra Hayward, and Michael Hirst. The distributor of this movie is a Universal Pictures, and the production Co is by Mary Richards. It was released on October 12, 2007 in the United States. Run time of this movie is about 114 min. The genres of this movie are biography, drama, history and romance. These movies are performed by Cate Blanchett as Elizabeth I, Abbie Cornish as Elizabeth Throckmorton (Bess), Geoffrey Rush as Sir Francis Walsingham, Clive Owen as Sir Walter Raleigh, Samantha Morton as Mary Stuart, and many more actresses.

This movie tells about Elizabeth as a Queen of England. She had an advisor (Sir Francis Walsingham). Elizabeth wanted her people to be a Protestant like her. For all people who have another religion, they will be killed. Elizabeth is called a Virgin Queen, because she was not married, she had no master, and she had no child, but she was a mother to her people.

Elizabeth is always accompanied by her lady in waiting. Her lovely lady in waiting was Elizabeth Trockmorton (usually called Bess), the second Elizabeth. Elizabeth always envied to her lady in waiting (Bess) because she

could do anything that she wants; she could love freely while Elizabeth had to keep her people and her empire.

Once upon a time, some men came to the kingdom to propose Elizabeth. One of the men is Sir Walter Raleigh, he is a piracy. Elizabeth liked him because he was an attractive person. After that, she asked Bess to talk to him.

Elizabeth had a fortune teller (Dr. Dee). He always said to her about anything that would happen to her and England. Then somehow, she became fear and concerned after Dr. Dee said that there would be difficult days and there were shadows of ghost in her face. Then she asked Raleigh to keep stay at England to help England.

One day, Bess became sad because her cousin face the gallows as his punishment because he would have another religion and Walsingham knew it. When Bess is being sad, Raleigh entertained her. And then, they made love and Elizabeth knows about it until Bess pregnant. Then, Bess and Raleigh get married without blessing of the kingdom, and Elizabeth called Bess as a defector because of her fault. Then, she drove them out.

Elizabeth has a cousin (Mary Stuart), a Queen of Scot. She was a fervent Catholic Queen. She was at the prison of Scot. She wrote letters condoning the plot. When Queen Elizabeth walked along with her armies entering the Church, she was watched by Anthony Babington (one of the servants of Mary Stuart). Anthony Babington storms into a cathedral when Elizabeth was praying and pointed a gun at her. Elizabeth opens her arms, seemingly

fearless. He pulls the trigger, and the gun fires. But, queen Elizabeth unharmed and the traitor arrested.

One of nobles of the kingdoms gave news to Mary that Elizabeth didn't get injury. He said that every letters which are written by her are always knew by Walsingham. So, she will get the punishment of dead.

In that time, Walsingham as an advisor asked Elizabeth so that Mary gets the punishment of dead to cut off Mary's head, but Elizabeth refused it because it is not proper to a Queen. Walsingham shoved Elizabeth because they think of the safety of the people in England. In the next day at 08.00 am, Mary Stuart's head would be cut off, and Elizabeth was concerned and she wanted to cancel the command but she cannot. After Mary was dead, Philip as Mary's family was felt so revenge to Elizabeth. He asked his fleet to attack England. When the news of war came to England, Elizabeth asked her people to join the war and she forgave Raleigh and released him from the prison to help the war. Then, the war happened between England against Spain on the ocean of England. And finally, the fleets of England win.

At the end, Elizabeth visits Walsingham on his deathbed, telling her old friend to rest. She, then, visited Raleigh and Bess and blessed their child. Elizabeth seemingly triumphed personally through her ordeal, again resigned to her role as the Virgin Queen and mother to the English people.

There are many responses toward *The Golden Age* movie. From Michael Miranda Sun, on Oct 21, 07 at 11:39 PM comments this film was great. Everyone in the movie was fabulous and it was great to see a film that makes

the audience think. If the audience is going to rehash something, at least have it deal with the English Monarchy. The audience can't fail. It was beautiful to watch and it kept my interest to the very end. Something that is very hard with anything new anymore. Maybe they should just stop making movies. Use the money to heal the world's ills.

From USA Today, Robert on Dec 10, 07 at 6:37:05 PM commented that the reviews are all over the board, and quite frankly if it's a movie he was interested in seeing, he'll take his chances. What he find interesting was that some of the critics complain about the historical inaccuracies and the (over) emphasis on the costumes and the "high school" tone of life in the court (Elizabeth's flirtations and jealousies). Historical epics generally mess with a few known facts and embroider or even fabricate some things to sex up the story a bit (like Raleigh actually being in the battle at sea) but Elizabeth did have a fascination with fashion and court behavior at that time could probably be likened to "high school" drama. It's also documented that Elizabeth have her moments of jealousy at court, and she was also known to have a ferocious temper if someone pushed her too far. Any tweaking or exaggerating of known facts was to be expected, and as long as it didn't stray too far from the story and it's entertaining, it didn't bother me one bit! On the other hand, an annoying score can almost ruin a movie for me, but it won't stop him from enjoying Cate, Geoffrey and Clive on the big screen.

Beside the positive comments, there was a negative comment from TIMES, George on Nov 04, 07 comments what can he say, the 1st Elizabeth

was simply great, the kind of movie leaving you riveted to the edge of your seat! Unfortunately this one is very much the complete opposite. So yes the costumes are great and the few CGI special effects (basically the couple of minutes of action featuring the ships of the Spanish Great Armada) are well made. But apart from that it's a 2 hours torture that could have easily been reduced to a half-hour. There's no rhythm, it's very slow, with many supposedly 'key' scenes just dragging on & on & on (e.g. the execution, the baby, the kiss, etc etc...). The trailer pretty much shows what's worth watching out of the 2 hours movie, how sad is that? Kate Blanchett's acting is possibly the only positive note overall & Clive Owen is pathetic as usual (though his worst performance is still Children of Men). As for Geoffrey Rush I really like him but he doesn't have much to do in this movie. In the end, you feel the director made an attempt to depict some kind of intimate portrayal of Elizabeth: her fears, her doubts, her loneliness... Fine, but then stick to making some BBC TV documentary. Because for a full-length cinema feature it's definitely not good enough! Kapur should have stuck to the winning formula that worked so well for the 1st movie: the intrigues, the twisted plots, the action, just didn't do it for him.

The author: PWNYCNY from United States (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0414055/#comment>) comments that this movie approaches the brink of becoming another corny, hokey Hollywood travesty but recovers to become an incredibly powerful and unique portrayal of Elizabeth I and her closest advisers and the political situation in Western Europe in the late 16th century.

Cate Blanchett offers a masterful, powerful and provocative portrayal of the Virgin Queen which unlike most Hollywood portrayals of historical personages did not devolve into a laughable caricature. Elizabeth had feelings too and cared about all of her people, not just those who are of her religious persuasion. Also, the movie offers a credible portrayal of Elizabeth's relationship with her cousin Mary as well as a credible and comprehensible explanation of King Philip's decision to go to war against England. Whether Spain in 1585 was the most powerful country in the world as the movie purports is a matter for debate but the fact that there was a time in history when Spain actually wanted to invade England is amazing and is a story in itself. This movie is worth watching.

*The Golden Age* is a 2007 film sequel to the 1998 film Elizabeth, directed by Shekhar Kapur and produced by Universal Pictures and Working Title Films. It stars Cate Blanchett in the title role and is loosely based on events during the latter part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I of England. The screenplay was written by William Nicholson and Michael Hirst. The music score was composed by Craig Armstrong and A. R. Rahman.

*The Golden Age* is a drama movie that is very attractive and entertaining. It was firstly filmed at Shepperton Studios and various locations around the United Kingdom with an estimated production budget of 50 to 60 million USD. Guy Hendrix Dyas was the production designer and the costumes were created by Alexandra Byrne.

The film premiered on 9 September 2007 at the Toronto International Film Festival. It opened in wide release in the United States and Canada on October 12, 2007. It premiered in London on 23 October 2007 and is on general release from 2 November 2007 throughout the rest of the UK and Republic of Ireland. It opened in Australia and New Zealand on 15 November 2007.

The film won an Academy Award for Best Costume Design and Blanchett received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. Blanchett was an Oscar nominee for Best Actress for Elizabeth as well. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Golden\\_Age\\_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Golden_Age_(film))).

Although originally released in 2007, from the director of the seven-time Oscar nominated *Elizabeth*, another 4 wins and 12 nominations. This film wins in Venice Film Festival, Jenny Shircore, and Max Factor Award in 1998. And the artists of *Elizabeth (the Golden Age)*, Cate Blanchett as Elizabeth Queen gets Academy Award winner and 2008 Golden Globe Award winner. And Geoffrey Rush as Sir Francis Walsingham gets Academy Award winner too and also starring Clive Owen as Sir Walter Raleigh.

The researcher is interested in analyzing *The Golden Age*, because it is an interesting movie that gives any experiences, education, and entertainment. Furthermore, the writer is going to analyze whether Queen Elizabeth can pass the hierarchy of needs and has the fifteen characteristics of self-actualization. This study is conducted under the title “Self-Actualization in Shekar Kapur’s *The Golden Age: A Humanistic Psychological Approach*”.



## **B. Literature Review**

There are some students conducted this study, one of them is Munfarida, a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Her research is entitled “Self-Actualization in William Somerset Maugham’s *of Human Bondage*: Humanistic Psychological Approach”. It was emphasized on the aspect of Self Actualization on major character. In her study, she focuses on self actualization in William Somerset Maugham’s *of Human Bondage* by using Humanistic perspective.

Here, the writer will analyze *The Golden Age* focusing on self-actualization in Shekar Kapur’s *The Golden Age* by using humanistic psychological approach.

## **C. Problem of the Study**

The problem of the study is how the major character actualizes herself in Shekar Kapur’s *The Golden Age*.

## **D. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural element.
2. To analyze the movie based on Humanistic Psychology perspective.

## **E. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the study are as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

This study can give contribution to the development of literary study.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

This study help the researcher to get more knowledge or information especially based on Humanistic Psychology approach about against the ruling power in Shekar Kapur's *The Golden Age*.

## **F. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

In analyzing the data found in the film, the researcher uses the qualitative method as the type of the research.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is self actualization of the major character, how the major character actualizes herself in *The Golden Age* movie.

### **3. Type of Data and Data Source**

#### **a. Primary data**

Primary data source is the text of *The Golden Age* by Shekar Kapur, particularly the dialogs, statement and action reflecting against the ruling power of the story and the characters that supports the research.

### **b. Secondary data**

The secondary data source is other sources related to the primary data such as information about the director's biography, websites about the film, and the social historical background of England society in the late twentieth century and other source supporting the analysis.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The Techniques of collecting data are as follows:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly.
- b. Finding out and taking notes the important data.
- c. Arranging the data into several classification of parts based on its category of elements of literary study.
- d. Looking for the supporting data in the library and internet.

### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The method employed in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the content analysis relating to psychological condition of major character reflected in the story and the characters in Shekar Kapur's *The Golden Age*.

### **G. Research Paper Organization**

Research paper organization is conducted to give a clear guidance in reading and understanding the content of the study. Chapter I is introduction which consists of background of the study, literature review, problem of the study, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, and

research method. Chapter II is underlying theory. It covers notion of humanistic psychology and basic concepts of Maslow's humanistic psychology. Chapter III is structural analysis which consists of structural elements and its discussion. Chapter IV is humanistic psychology analysis and its discussion. In this chapter the writer presents the data and data analysis. And chapter V is conclusion and suggestion