

**SOCIAL STATUS BETWEEN ELF AND HUMAN IN *HELL BOY II GOLDEN*  
ARMY MOVIE (2008) DIRECTED BY GUILLERMO DEL TORO:  
A MARXIST APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background

Social status is the honor or prestige attached to one's position in society. It can be determined by two ways. First can be seen bourgeois and proletariat social status by their own achievement. And the second can be known by their inherited position. As human being, people have many problems in their live. The problems are round up about education, welfare, gender, social relation and social level. According Karl Marx, society can be divided into two levels or two parts, there are high level (rich man or bourgeois) and low level (poor man). In Marx view, the rich is called bourgeois who is owner of the production like factory, land and machine. Meanwhile the poor is replaced by the term proletarian who works for the rich by selling their power to get salary.

One of the movies that tell about the social status is *Hellboy II: The Golden Army*. *Hellboy II: The Golden Army* is a 2008 superhero film based on the fictional Dark Horse Comics character Hellboy. The film is directed by Guillermo Del Toro and is sequel to the 2004 film *Hellboy*, in which Del Toro also directed it. Ron Perlman reprises his role. The film was commercially released on July 11, 2008 in the United States and Canada. *Hellboy II* opened on July 11, 2008 in 3,204 theaters in the United States and Canada. The film ranked first at the box office, grossing an estimated \$35.9 million over the

weekend, outperforming the opening of its predecessor *Hellboy*, which had opened with \$23.2 million. The opening was the biggest of Guillermo del Toro directing career.

According to CinemaScore, audience gave the film a B grade. The demographic for *Hellboy II* was mostly male and the age distribution for moviegoers and above 25 years old was evenly split. Outside of the United States and Canada, *Hellboy II* had a limited release on 533 screens in Mexico, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and grossing \$4.6 million. In its second weekend in the United States and Canada, *Hellboy II*'s box office performance dropped 71% to gross \$10.1 million, a larger drop than its predecessor, which dropped 53% in comparison. The sequel's larger drop was attributed to significant opening of the Batman film *The Dark Knight*. As of September 9, 2008 *Hellboy II* has grossed \$75,986,503 in the United States and Canada. The film came top in the UK and Ireland box office charts upon its release on August 22 and earned an additional International gross of \$84,342,286 bringing its worldwide total to \$160,328,789, meaning it has currently outgrossed the first film nearly \$53 million, and has yet to open in at least one country. IGN named *Hellboy II: The Golden Army* Best Fantasy Movie of 2008, also receiving the same honor at the 2008 Scream Awards. At the end of 2008, Rotten Tomatoes listed the film as Best Sci – Fi/Fantasy in their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golden Tomato Awards. It was also nominated for an Oscar for Best Makeup but lost to *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*.

*Hellboy II* received very positive reviews from film critics. As of February 15, 2009, Rotten Tomatoes reported that 88% of critics gave the film positive reviews, with an average score of 7.2/10, based upon a sample of 196 reviews at *Metacritic*, which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews, gaining a better critical reaction than the first film. Michael Reachthshaffen writing in *The Hollywood Reporter* said *HellboyII* was an uncompromised vision of Guillermo del Toro imagination. He said that with director given free rein, the film came across as an amalgam of the best moment from his previous to the visual effects. John Anderson of *Variety* wrote of a rococo precision to the visuals that exceeded of the first film. He cited del Toro's "clockmaker's preoccupation with details" and ability to blend state – of – the – art technology with more classical visuals as the reason for the film's success.

In May 2004, following the release of Guillermo del Toro's *Hellboy* the previous month, a sequel was announced by Revolution Studios with del Toro returning to direct and Ron Perlman reprising his lead role as the titular character. The director thought to create a film trilogy with the first sequel anticipated for release in 2006. Revolution Studios planned to produce the film and distribute it through a deal with Columbia Picture, but by 2006, Revolution had gone out business. In August 2006, Universal Studios acquired the project with the intent to finance and distribute the sequel, which was newly scheduled to be released in summer of 2008. Production was scheduled to begin in April 2007 in Eyek, Hungary (near Budapest) and London,

England. Director Guillermo del Toro explored several concept for the sequel, initially planning to recreate the classic versions of Frankenstein, Dracula and The Wolf Man. He had comic book creator Mike Mignola also spent a few a days adapting the *Almost Colossus* story, featuring Roger the Homunculus. They then found it easier to create an original story based on folklore, because del Toro was planning *Pan's Labyrinth*, and Mignola's comics were becoming increasingly based on mythology. Later, del Toro pitched a premise to Revolution Studios that involved four Titans from the four corners of Earth – Wind, Water, Fire and Earth – before he replaced the Titans with Golden Army. Mignola described the theme of the sequel, "The focus is more on the folklore and fairy tale aspect of *Hellboy*. It's not Nazis, machines and mad scientists but the old gods and characters who have been kind of shoved out of our world.

In Christmas of 1954, a young Hellboy is told a bedtime story by his adoptive father, Trevor Bruttenholm (John Hurt), involving an ancient war between man and magical creatures, all started by men's greed. The master of the goblin blacksmiths offered to build a golden mechanical army for King Balor (Roy Dotrice), the one – armed king Faerie. The King, influenced by Prince NuadaSilverlance, son of King Balor, (Luke Goss) ordered the building of Golden Army. Soon the humans attacked again but The Golden Army devastated the humans so mercilessly that Balor forged a truce with them to stop the bloodshed: man would keep his cities and the creatures would keep their forest. Prince Nuada did not agree with the truce, and left in exile. The

magical crown controlling the army was broken into three pieces, one piece going to the humans and the other two kept by the elves, so the Golden Army could never be used again.

In the present, Nuada declares war on the humans. He collects the first piece crown from an auction, massacring all at the site by unleashing Tooth-Fairies onto them, and kills his father for the second. His twin sister, Nuala, (Anna Walton) escapes with the final piece. Meanwhile, Hellboy (Ron Perlman) is having relationship issues with his girlfriend Elizabeth Anne Sherman (Selma Blair). He is also having trouble accepting that their organization, the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense, must remain a secret. During a mission to investigate the massacre at the auction in which his team must eradicate thousands of ravenous Tooth-Fairies, which Nuada set loose as he took the first piece of the crown, Hellboy allows himself to be revealed to the world. In the commotion, Abraham Sapien (Doug Jones) discovers that Liz is pregnant. Furious about the public unveiling, Washington sends a new B.P.R.D agent, the ectoplasmic medium Johann Krauss (Seth Macfarlane, John Alexander, James Dood), to take command. With the Krauss in charge, the team tracks the Tooth-Fairies to the Troll Market, an enormous merchant city hidden under the Brooklyn Bridge, to search for clues. Abe stumbles onto Princess Nuala, who has obtained a map leading to the Golden Army, during their search, and quickly falls in love with her. She is brought under B.P.R.D protection following an attack by Nuada's companion Mr. Wink (Brian Steele) and Elemental Forest God. During the Elemental fight,

Hellboy questions whether it is right to fight for the humans when he too is perceived by humans as a monster.

Nuada tracks his sister to the B.P.R.D headquarters using their magical bond, which causes them to share wounds and allows them to read each other's thought to an extent. Nuala, sensing her brother's arrival, throws the map, along with the canister in which it came, in to a fire and hides the final piece of the crown within one Abe's books. However, the real map is on the canister which does not burn. Nuada kidnaps his sister and mortally wounds Hellboy with his spear. Unable to remove the spear shard, Liz, Abe, and Krauss take Hellboy to the location of the Golden Army, hidden in the Giant's Causeway in Antrim, Northern Ireland. They encounter a goblin (Alexander), and he brings them before the angel of death (Jones), who has been waiting for their arrival. Though told that Hellboy would doom humanity if he lives, and that she'll suffer the most it, Liz pleads for Hellboy's life. Amused by her choice, the Angel removes the shard from Hellboy's chest and tells Liz to give him reason to live. She reveals to Hellboy that he's going to be a father, and recovers. The goblin leads the team to the resting place of the Golden Army, where Nuada awaits them. In exchange for Nuala, Abe gives him the last piece of the crown. With the crown reformed, Nuada awakens the Golden Army and orders them to kill the agents. Fighting proves pointless, as the soldiers magically repair themselves when destroyed. Hellboy challenges Nuada for the right to the crown, and Nuada is forced to accept, since Hellboy, as Anung un Rama, son of the Fallen One, is royalty in Hell. Hellboy defeats

Nuada and spears his life, but Nuada tries to stab him when Hellboy turns around. Nuala commits suicide to stop her brother. Abe rushes to Nuala and psychically tells her his feelings for her before she and her brother turn to stone and die. Liz then melts the crown, shutting down the Golden Army forever. As the B.P.R.D. agents leave the underground compound, Thomas Manning (Jeffrey Tambor) reprimands them for their actions. To his surprise, Hellboy, Liz, Abe, and Kraus all hand over their belts and announce their resignation from the B.P.R.D. As they walk away, Hellboy contemplates his future life with Liz and their baby. Liz stops and corrects him, saying “babies”, surprising him with the fact that she is pregnant with twins.

That movie is very interesting. By watching the movie, the writer knows the power and the usage of it. The writer is interested with this movie because, the first this movie establishes many source to be analyzed. In this papers, the movie tells about usage of power by Prince Nuada when he bring to life of golden army. It means that Prince Nuada wants to the absolute power his father and human to get recognized about existence of elf.

The second reason, this movie is unique. The writer finds that the movie is unique because the director of movie using different character from ordinary people that challenge to be explored. The writer can find the symbols good character (Hellboy and their friends) and bad character (Prince Nuada) in this film.

The third reason, from the Prince Nuada characteristic above, the writer is interested to analyze the social status between elf and human who

will elaborate in problem statement. The writer finds that the film easy to understand.

The fourth reason, this movie got the best fantasy movie of 2008 in their annual Golden Tomato Awards and receiving the same honor at the 2008 Scream Awards.

Based on previous background, the writer would like to do research stratification entitled SOCIAL STATUS BETWEEN ELF AND HUMAN IN *HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY* (2008) MOVIE DIRECTED BY GUILLERMO DEL TORO: MARXISTS APPROACH, beside that, there are many sources that will be used to make the research valid.

## **B. Literature Review**

From Rachel blog (Wednesday, 10 December 2008) analysis of *Hellboy II*. She focuses on *The Mythical and Human World in Hellboy II Golden Army*. It means that prince Nuada returns from exile in unstoppable range for mankind because an ancient promise joint by two worlds is broken. Nuada's father does not want to fight the human but prince Nuada will do anything *and* everything to claim what is right fully his. The conclusion is Prince Nuada killing his own father and doing it all on his own.

From Kayyale Allen analysis of "*Hellboy II Golden Army 2008*", she focuses on different characteristic Prince Nuada. A different view of Prince Nuada's uniform. Note the royal seal near his wrist. Body language

and clothing are strong indicators of character. Nuada holds his head up shoulder back, saw thrash forward, all symbols of power and authority.

Different from two previous studies, this researcher focuses on existence of elf from human in the world. The writer focuses on the Marxist Approach, and the title is SOCIAL STATUS BETWEEN ELF AND HUMAN IN *HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY* (2008) MOVIE DIRECTED BY GUILLERMO DEL TORO: MARXISTS APPROACH.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The main problem that is analyzed in this study is how the social status between elf and human is being reflected in *Hellboy II* directed by Guillermo del Toro?

### **D. Objective of the study**

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie in term of its structural elements
2. To analyze the movie based on the Marxist Approach.

### **E. Limitation of the Study**

The limitation of the study is the social status between elf and human reflected in *Hellboy II*, especially view of Marxists. The writer uses Marxists to analyze the movie.

## **F. Benefits of the Study**

### **1. Theoretical benefit**

The study is expected to increase knowledge particularly the literature studies in *Hellboy II* directed by Guillermo del Toro

### **2. Practical benefit**

The study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta who have interest with literary study on the movie.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of study**

This research applies qualitative research.

### **2. Data and Data source**

Data in this research is text consisting of words, phrases and sentences.

Data sources in this research are:

- a. Primary data source is movie of Guillermo Del Toro's "*Hellboy II Golden Army*".
- b. The secondary data are taken from some reference and material related to the study whether by picking up from book and internet.
- c. Data collection

Data collection is done through documentation of literary research.

The steps to join the data are as follows:

- 1) Watching the movie

- 2) Taking notes of information in both primary and secondary data
  - 3) Arranging the data in to several based on its classification
  - 4) Developing of data provide
3. Technique of Data Analysis

In this study, the technique that is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis through Marxist Approach.

## **H. Paper Organization**

In order to make research easier to follow this research paper is organized into six chapters. The first chapter is introduction that covers the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, research limitation, objectives of the study, benefit if the study and research method. The second chapter delivers approach containing Marxist Literary critics, especially the notion, the major principle of Marxist and theoretical application. The third chapter includes the social background of limited state society in 1955s in America. The fourth chapter covers the structural analyzes and Marxist analysis of the film by describing character, and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, style also theme. The fifth chapter is analysis the film by employing the concept of dialectical materialism, historical materialism, alienation, class struggle and revolution. The sixth chapter draws of conclusion and suggestion.