

Electra



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Electra

Chapter 1



*Duality in Language.
And in Culture.*



When I was about twenty a friend of mine gave me a play to read. The play was called Electra.

He was taking a degree in French at the time, and in Greek and Roman Civilisation. I expressed an interest and so he gave me some Greek plays to read.

In Greek mythology Electra is the story of the daughter of the murdered king Agamemnon who seeks revenge for the murder of her father. It is a story of betrayal. Of passion. And of honour.

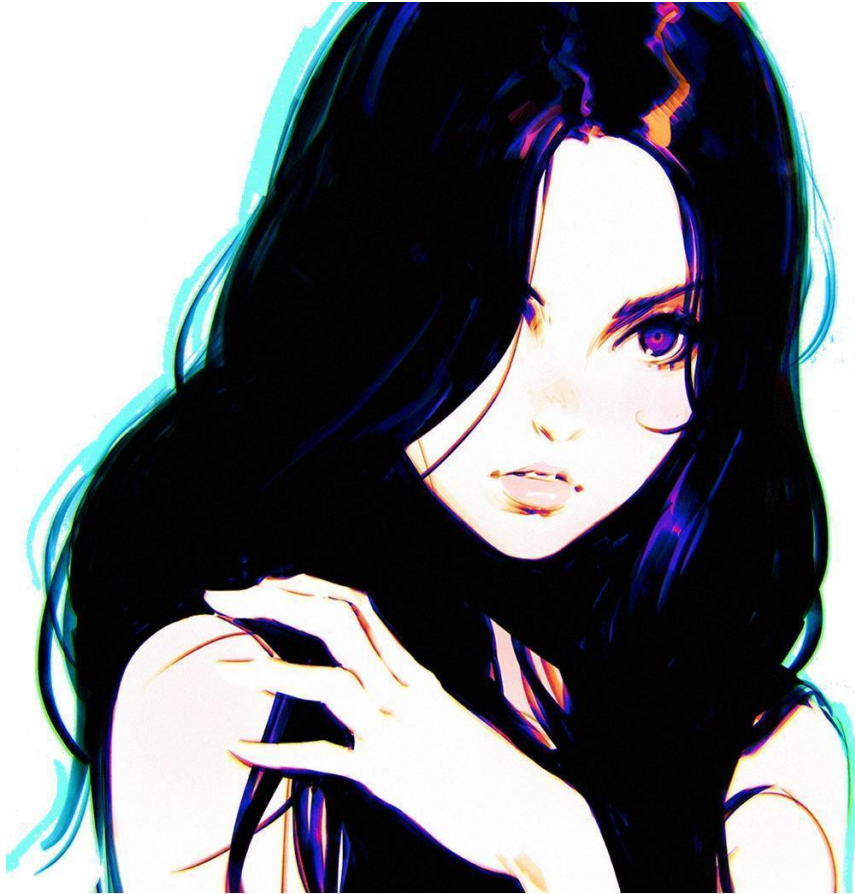


What struck me most about this story?

The story was written more than two thousand years ago. In a time of columns and pillars. Chariots and horses. No computers. No airplanes. No cars. The technologies radically different. But the emotions, the passions, the hopes, the aspirations, the fears – these were the same. No different.

If that story was written right now, it would be as relevant now as it was more than two thousand years ago. Perhaps not in terms of technologies. But in terms of the frustrations, the betrayals, the passions and the shattered dreams, it is the same.

Avril Lavigne - I'm With You



*You see emotions, passions, dreams – these things are
Universal*

Independent of language, culture, and even of time. There is a *universality* in certain things.

Love, hope, fear, passion, betrayal – these are *Universal*.

Honour, Knighthood, right and wrong – these are *Universal*.

Other things, such as language, culture, customs, protocols, belief structure – these are *Culturally Specific*. Segments of the population can be specific to a people, place and time too. Such as artisans, engineers and musicians.

You see there is Duality here. Some things are Universal. Other things are culturally specific. Some aspects of the psyche and emotions are Universal. Others, culturally specific. Some values are Universal. Others culturally specific.

The Universality aspect of this was the realisation I had when reading Electra. That some things, many things, are independent of culture, language or even time.

[Romeo and Juliet 1996 trailer](#)



I had a similar realisation when I was in France

I was fifteen years old and I was spending three and a half weeks with a French family in Grenoble, in the South of France, as part of a cultural exchange.

What struck me then too was how, when one sees past the language and the culture, how much emotions and ways of thinking are the same.

[Joey learning English](#)



Some things are just Universal



Understanding of this allows First Contact

Anytime one meets a different people or culture, it is like a First Contact scenario in Star Trek.

What is it that enables one person to walk among other peoples, but not others? What is it that enables one person to be able to communicate, but not others?

There are a number of factors. One most certainly is **Respect**. Respect can allow one to walk among other peoples and cultures. It can open doors. And another key factor is **Universality**. Recognising that behind the differences in language, culture and customs, some things are just the same.

[Quigley Down Under \(5/11\) Movie CLIP – A Day With Natives](#)



*You see I get how emotions and people are Universal
across time, culture and language*

That bit I'm pretty good at now. Which brings me to women.

I know women have emotions too. Like love, anger, hope and desire. Except that those emotions are completely different.

I know that women have values as well. Right and wrong, knighthood, those things. The same, except different.

I know that women have dreams and aspirations too. The same, except completely different.

I get that. And I think I am figuring it out. It's just that it's a work in progress. Sometimes I think I'm moving really quickly. Then I hit an obstacle.

But I think I am getting there.

George of The Jungle The biggest swinging ever



Duality. Universality of emotions, passions, dreams and aspirations. And those things which are more specific.

When coming into any other group, Duality will apply. Some things will be Universal. Other things will not. Those things will be specific to language, culture, time period, personality, belief structure, custom, profession and gender.

But if one recognises those things which are Universal, it can help open doors. It can help bridge that gap. East and West. Science and Mysticism. Intellect and Intuition. Female and Male.



Any time we meet a new culture it is like a First Contact scenario

But if we understand this Duality, and also understand that behind the language and culture that many things are indeed Universal - emotions, values, dreams and passions – then we have a first basis for communication.

Which is the realisation I had when reading of Electra and Ancient Greece.

Dust, Wind, Dude

Electra



End