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Abstract

This paper, as the title implies, deals with the fantastic elements in one of the greatest Fantasy works of George MacDonald. Fantasy and the fantastic contradicts reality in the sense that it is opposite to the norms of our world. Thus, the paper investigates what Mendlesohn and James refer to as “the presence of the impossible and the unexplainable” (3). that are present in MacDonald’s Phantastes due to its great impact on fantasy in the modern sense of the genre. The Researcher uses analytical approach based on close observation and investigation of the fantastic elements in the novel to reach to broad identity of the fantastic. The paper is divided into three parts. The first part provides an idea about Fantasy and Fantastic elements. The second discusses and summarizes the novel, the third part is the most important one because it presents all the fantastic that appeared in the novel. The last part is the conclusion. The paper concludes that MacDonald made a brilliant use of a complicated fantasy. created fantastic world with layers of smaller worlds within, diverse unexpected forms of fantastic creatures like evil spirits in natural forms, magical animals, goblins, giants, and fairies. He presented multitudes of characters and finally heavy use of objects or aspects but dressed them magical outfits. For instance, singing has the power to bring people alive, to free people and find them, sea changes its quality to be theatre-like. they are time transparent, and food is magical that not only satisfies hunger but magically broadens senses and sharpens intellect. In short, it highlights George MacDonald creativity, sorts out Phantastes richness in Fantastic and highlights its importance in Fantasy genres.



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1. Fantasy and Fantastic Elements

Fantasy is only born in writer’s mere creative imagination so as a result of this unique nature of Fantasy, it revolves around special elements which are fantastical in nature or as they are

called 'Fantastic'. In this section, I combine most recurrent and important elements that may occur in any fantasy work regardless of the limitation of the subgenres' elements even though the adjectives unexplainable, unusual, unreal, and magical summarize them all.

The setting of Fantasy is usually a fantastic, imaginary world which has its own system, government structure, rules, landscape, and nature as well as characters and creatures. In this case it is a unique world that is separated from our real world and it is called a Secondary World. Creating a secondary world may require creating a means of transmission which could be a dream or a secret portal like a door, a magical ship, and the like.

Fantastic Characters and creatures are various and overly complicated. usually fantasies has a protagonist who is heroic in a way or another, he might have a supernatural power, guided by a magical or fantastic creature like an angel or a wizard or he might be equipped with a magical object like a sword, a spell and the like. An anti-heroic figure or evil character exist as well. There is diversity in ranks and social status such as kings and queens, princes and princesses, knights and servants or locals. Characters that transform or has transformed to different bodies or creatures such as a man who transforms into an animal form. We can find characters like wizards, witches, sorcerers and characters like Hermits, damsels, gatekeepers. Multitudes of creatures appear in the protagonist way like evil spirits and demons or creatures and species like Goblins, Orcs, Pixies, elves, vampires, dwarves, monsters, giants, dragons and many other.

Fantasy Style and tone makes the impossible appear possible and makes fantastic elements accepted. It could be anything that makes readers believe on what is happening in the world of the story without providing any scientific rule or justification or at least create a feeling of uncertainty. Jim Casey refers to this stating that, "Yet hyperreality still occurs in either of these types of stories when fantasy world becomes more real than the real" (119)

In general, we have to accept the fact that it is highly complicated to contain all fantastic elements due to its free nature where everything is acceptable thus we investigate this free nature, imagination and creativity in George MacDonald's Phantastes.

George MacDonald's Phantastes

George MacDonald was the one who paved the way to other writers thus most of fantasy writers admitted his influence on them. To mention only some, Seper states that MacDonald
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is “the man whom C.S. Lewis referred to as his master, and whom G.K Chesterton called one of the three or four greatest men of the 19th century” (viii).

Phantastes is written in both prose and verse. It consists of twenty-five chapters and all chapters begin with poetic quote that to some extent, gives an idea about the chapter. George MacDonald present the protagonist as the narrator.

It is a fantasy novel that revolves around Anodos whose name is of Greek origin that means ‘pathless’ or ‘walking upward’. At his twenty-one birthday, he takes hand of his father’s inheritance including keys for his cabinet. A fairy appears and promises to take him to Fairy Land as he wishes. Next morning, he finds that his room is transferred to Fairy land. It is not confirmed whether this transfer happens or through a dream. He walks through Fairy Land to face many adventures, and meet and encounter vastly different characters and creatures, both evil and good. He walks through a forest-like landscape to face Ash tree and Maid of Alder tree. He meets a beautiful lady whom he follows seeking her love and runs through knight named Sir Percival and completely admires his nobleness. He counterparts many creatures like fairies, giants, goblins, spirits, damsels and most importantly his *Shadow* that gives him terrible time. He also come across many women in cottages, mostly, that act as guide, and soothers to him. Within his travel through Fairy Land and with every encounter, doubt or struggle he faces, he discovers himself and manages his weaknesses and fear to return to earthy world as a new young man ready to take care of all his responsibilities as an adult. At his last he loses consciousness in his final encounter in Fairy Land to wake up in his own estate.

2. The Fantastic in *Phantastes*

There is a back and forth transition between two worlds, the real world of the protagonist Anodos and the world of Fairy Land.

The means of transition between the two worlds is not clearly stated so readers perceive it differently. It can be a real and complete transition or a dream transition. Both perceptions do no harm to the flow of the plot. First transition, through the fairy’s eyes, was as a preparation for the protagonist before the main and complete transition. There are other ways of transitions within Fairy Land like the magical boats, doors and staircases.

3.1 The World

Fairy Land is the other world that Anodos had transferred to and where all the story events happened. It is a fantastic world full of fantastic places, houses, creatures, nature, objects, weather, and even rules. Nature is dominant in Fairy Land. Landscapes, geographical and climate features vary dramatically in Fairy Land from one place to another and sometimes in the same place. Forest and woods are the dominant landscape especially at the borders of Fairy Land, but there are hills, plains, gardens like paradise, mountains and caves, sea sides, rivers and springs, deserts, and rocky lands but all of this is different from our earthy perspective as he describes, "But though I speak of sun and fog, and sea and shore, the world there is in some respects very different from the earth whereon men live." (80) It is a world that has other layers of different worlds or spheres. The forest is not like earthy forests. Its inhabitants, creatures and rules are fantastic and magical. Fairy Land has its own fantastic rules that go beyond any earthy laws. The night is like the day in earthy world where all creatures wake, move and live their lives while everything sleeps during the day. Creatures in their sleep state standstill deprived of their ability to wake and move before night but they retain their senses so they can hear, see and feel. Unlike the real world, Money is of no use in Fairy Land. No earthy reasoning or rational explanation work because Fairy Land works by its own rhythm, base, and rules. Beauty is not always beautiful as there might be ugliness behind beauty as depths behind heights, so things are not the same as they appear. Defeating evil can be achieved through facing it directly or through destroying its dwelling.

It has heavy and dark tress, mosses, bushes, grasses, wild and garden flowers, and many other plants. Each of these is a form for either good or evil creature. Trees can be good or evil according to the spirit or form that dwells in. For example, there are good trees like the Great Beech tree, and Oak trees but there are evil ones like the Alder tree and the evil Ash tree. Flowers could be scent-full and nice because of the nice fairies that live in or could be harsher and wild because of the wild fairies living in them and thus all kind of plants even the creeping plants are dwellings for creatures like goblins. Each plant produces its own dim light that lightens its sides only. The forest is full of other animals and some sort of living forms like magical or supernatural animals, birds and unidentified creatures that will be discussed in a while in the creatures' section. Some parts can be in constant change like the trees were growing to made roof above Anodos head as he wanders in the forest. Desert is, somehow, connected to the forest. The fantastic desert consists of glittering rocks and it is huge that Anodos wandered for days in it but fantastically enough a spring arises in the middle of this

rocky desert and flows alone nicely in the desert to lead to a paradise- like place full of flowers of all colors and emit a nice scent in air and there was a magical gulf with calm waves waiting for Anodos with a boat. The gulf reaches to the Fairy Palace which is part of Fairy Land and makes a whole world by its rules, inhabitants, rooms, and nature. It is without any gates, made of natural components like white marble, natural stones, diamonds, and silver. It consists of all kinds of natural landscapes integrated within. There are springs, rivers and a forest among many. Its inhabitants are of fantastical nature. Beside their duties they are living their lives partying and dancing. It has a basin that covers a whole world beneath full of caves, rocks and has its own creature that some resemble humans. The library with its curtains and engraved natural flowers, and leaves is another fantastic place that led Anodos to different worlds while reincarnating the books' main characters. The Fairy palace is connected to a different underground world that is located behind one of its doors through a natural hole with a natural staircase that leads to the underground where everything is of rocks and stones even the sky. No trees or flowers exist. It is tight and narrow. This narrow rocky tunnel leads to a turbulent wintery sea. No way to escape this place except through the sea that magically enough was compassionate, embraced Anodos and never allowed him to drown but provided him with a boat. It is the sea of his past that reflects people and places from Anodos past and then safely handed him to an island without any shore only a narrow way like of the riverbanks. In its turn, the island lead to four different locations or worlds with difference in time through four doors in a square cottage. Actually, these four worlds are more like inner worlds in Anodos mind heart. The first world is connected to his past world in his father's estate where he meets his bothers and solve his sorrow over his brother's death. The second world is the world of his future where he solves his love attachment to the white lady after realizing her love to Sir Percival. The third world is the reality of his blood, the world of his ancestors Sir Percival and the white lady. The fourth world is timeless world in which Anodos lost consciousness and caused the sea to rage and produce high and angry waves. It is the same sea that embraced him earlier. A new kingdom in Fairy Land appears after escaping the angry sea. The kingdom is overtaken by three giants that no one could defeat. In this kingdom and with the company of the two brothers, the sons of the king, Anodos regains his confidence and discovers the strong points of his personality especially after defeating his giant enemy. Then there is a different world in a different location through the forest of Fairy Land which is the world between the yew trees. It is a mysterious world

where its people offer worship ceremonies for a wooden figure and offer children as oblations to a hidden wolf under a throne. The last world is the world of Death. It is only connected to Fairy Land in Anodos' unconscious state that transferred him to this world. This world looks beautiful because he was buried in a garden and relived as a Primrose. This world is important because it is world that ended his journey in Fairy Land. Being unconscious or in a death state brings him alive in the earthy world. In conclusion, it is complicated Fairy World that have different worlds and adventures integrated in it.

3.2 The Creatures

In the same way, *Phantastes* has a complicated and variable body of fantastic creatures that clearly displays George MacDonald creative imagination and imagery description. In Fairy Land all any fantastic creatures can exist. It is the world where paranormal and supernatural and magical species of creatures and living forms live together. MacDonald created multitudes of fantastic creatures both good and evil and brought them alive through the means of words. There is a presence of Fairies and the first main fairy appeared in Anodos father's room. This fairy is special and different from any other fairy that appears later throughout the novel and she was the case for his transmission to Fairy Land. She is in a form of a beautiful tiny lady but she has supernatural power to appear and disappear and to enlarge her own size as well as to transfer Anodos to the other world of Fairies. She belongs to immortal species of fairies that she is now two hundred thirty-seven years old but looks like a young lady with a nice figure, beautiful face features, blue eyes, and long hair. She represents a grandmother figure that guides to the path of happiness and discovery. That is why he unhesitatingly agrees to be transferred to Fairy Land. There are other types of fairies which dwell in flowers, grass, and other plants. In flowers dwell fairies that are mischievous, amusing, and fill the air with laughter. Those dwell in garden flowers are sophisticated and more behaved than those who dwells in wildflowers or in the wood. Their forms resemble their flower shape. Gnomes fairies live in creeping plants.

There are other forms of living creatures that can be fairies or spirits that live in trees. Each tree has its own nature. Some are good and others are evil. Thus, there are good trees such as the Elm, Oak and Beech trees and there are evil trees due to their evil spirits such as the Alder tree and the Ash tree. They can take different forms while awake and can deceive people by their new forms. For example, the evil spirit of Alder tree took the look and figure of the white lady to deceive Anodos and receive his attraction as her usual habit to take

beautiful ladies figures to attract her preys and then suffocates them while asleep. She feeds on men's love, not because she loves them but because she is selfish. The good spirit of the Beech tree could transfer herself too into a beautiful woman form in Anodos presence as she longs for his love. She feels like a real woman wishes to be released to real lady one day like the prophecy of the forest says. There are naïve trees as well like the Birch tree that is too young to be cheated by other evil spirits thus her naivety can cause harm sometimes. The spirit of Ash tree is the worst of all. It is a goblin spirit that leaves its tree at night to do evil deeds. It has a hole in his heart that he wants to fill so it hunted Anodos to fill this gap by burying his body under its stem. Ash tree looks bluish and with horrible hand-like branches with knotty joints and bulbous fingers. Its face is like a corpse and has a curved mouth with terrifying and greedy eyes.

In addition to fairies and tree spirits there are creatures that are derived from nature in a form of animals with fantastic form or supernatural powers such as the unhappy dog, the white rabbit whose eyes and ears get redder when it senses unease or discomfort but jumps and dances when happy. The cat with the sparking tail. There are glowworms and beetles. Other species of animals that resemble the earthy ones exist in Fairy Land but there is no trace of wild animals. They look peaceful and never startled with Anodos presence. Butterflies, moths, rabbits, mice, squirrels, bats, owls, hawks, insects, and dragonflies.

Away from familiar creatures, Goblins have their presence in Fairy Land. They live in forest but there are others live in the desert and in the underground country. The ones from the desert are mockery creatures and get intimidated by *Shadow*. The goblins of the underground country are worse than those of the desert. They are of all ugly varieties, range in size from one to four feet tall. They speak strange language. They gathered around Anodos and caught him and started making faces and laughing at him by imitating him singing the song that brought the white lady alive from her marble statue state and kept telling him that he will not have her because she is in love with a better man. They only let him go when showed unselfishness by telling that if he is better man, let him have her.

Ogres and ogresses are present too. The ogre killed his own daughters mostly by mistake, we cannot be sure. Now there is a descendant ogress that looks like a woman but with long and white teeth live in the house. The ogresses did good to Anodos by warning him not to open the door in her house, but he did not listen which freed *Shadow*.

Shadow is another creature that is heavily dealt with through out the novel. It is Anodos own shadow in a human figure that resembles Anodos himself but in a form of shadow. He lives in a sphere or a world behind the door in the ogress' house and jumped over Anodos after he opened the door and stuck behind him throughout his journey. It has the power to manipulate things around and to threaten Anodos. It is able to change any beauty into ugliness and any lively state to a deadly one. On the other hand. It has a benefit that it can show Anodos the reality of objects or creatures which he needs in Fairy Land where any evil can take any beautiful form. *Shadow* only disappears whenever Anodos have high self-esteem, inner-value and strong confidence but appears with his doubt state, negative feelings, and low self-esteem.

Giants too have a good part in the novel. There are three giants which are powerful to the extent that they could invade a whole kingdom and control over. They ruined the country, built a castle, imprison its knights and princes, and enslave people. Giants are huge twice the size of a man with enormous heads and monstrous eyes and they are fully armed from head to toe.

Dragons appear in the novel through Sir Percival who killed one a dragged him behind his horse to give it as a gift for the parents of the daughter he saved. It is unusual creature with multiple colors. Its head is like a serpent. Its tongue is black and red. Its long neck has blue hair but its sides of green and gold shades. Its back is purple and wrinkled and it has wings like the bats' and a tail. The dragon only appears once in a lifetime in the same place.

there are other bodies of creatures. There is a mention for some invisible inhabitants of Fairy Land. They never show themselves to anyone. Their first appearance was from the window of the daughter's room in the farmhouse. Later when Anodos arrives to Fairy palace their identity is described more. He met invisible servants and invisible statue dancers. The servants are men and women of invisible nature except their hands. They served Anodos and made his wishes to come true. He only needed to look at the thing he desired to immediately fulfill it for him. In Fairy Palace, there are dancing statues that are invisible too. These are white marble statues on black pedestals that go partying and dancing but allow no one to see them. Anodos had hard time to see them dancing but finally when he blended in the environment and got rid of the idea of surprising them, he was able to see them dancing.

There are pleasant people who look just as normal human beings but from a certain closer distance they get deformation to ugly, and unpleasant forms so they avoided coming close to Anodos.

There are different creatures that appeared in directly either in the books that Anodos read in the library or through Sir Percival's stories. There are maidens who find babies and raise them. The babies are found and not born. When they grow up, they become men with arms and women with mighty wings. Their faces and the women wings look according to the nature, time, season, and weather they were born in. So, women wings, take the shapes and color shades of the hour and all of circumstances where they were found. If men and women of this world love they cannot meet but find a remote place of the same nature they were found in and die alone out of desire. Species of wood creatures are created by MacDonald in Sir Percival adventures. These wooden creatures used to step on the body of a beggar girl who begged for wings from the moths and butterflies to grow her own wing.

On final stage, forms like priests in white robes, a wooden figure and a kind of a wolf appear. The priests-like figures worship and offer ceremonies to the wooden figure and hidden form.

3.3 Characters and Dwellings

I must point out the magical dwellings of Fairy Land along with the characters that Anodos ran into throughout his journey both inside the dwellings and outside. The first house Anodos ran into was in the borders of Fairy Land. It is a cottage that belong to a mother and her daughter. Fantastically, it is made and guarded by living Oak trees. The maiden and her mother have a Fairy blood and that is why they can survive in Fairy Land. They introduced him to the nature of Fairy Land. They prepared Anodos to his adventure in Fairy Land and its inhabitants as well as guided him and warned him of the dangers he may face.

Anodos saw a farmhouse somewhere in the forest. This house is magical because of its people and its location. Unlike any other house, it magically over looks two separated location. One side looks to the forest and the other side overlooks to the fairy country with its invisible inhabitants and where the fairy palace is located. It belongs to a family of four, but each has different nature and blood. The mother and daughter seemingly have a stronger fairy blood so they can observe the magical events and fantastic creatures around them while the father and apparently the son cannot.

The building where the ogress live is magical because it has a door that looks like a cupboard door, but it connects the building to another sphere where Shadows live. Anodos' Shadow is freed and starts his journey haunting Anodos.

Fairy Palace that makes a whole world by itself. Anodos chamber in Fairy palace exactly resembles his real earthy chamber or maybe it is the same chamber transferred for his comfort. The twelve halls with the dancing statues and the library that transmitted Anodos to different worlds via its magical books are all some parts of the palace.

The square cottage in the island. It belongs to an old lady who keeps her cottage safe by burning a magical fire in the middle. It consists of four magical doors that leads to different locations in different time periods. The old lady helped him to discover himself , his past and future and assisted him to undergo his first confrontation battle with the two brothers by guiding him indirectly to them as well as giving them the prophecy of a third coming to help.

The tower where the two brothers were making their armors and waiting for Anodos to come and after their death, their father's palace. The two brothers helped sharpening his personality and rising his confidence in his real identity as an ordinary man not as a hero by allowing him to fight over a value and win his own gratification and the king's satisfaction.

The square tower of trees that his own knight figure imprisoned him in with only an opening in the ceiling that showed him the day and night. During the nights he embraced nice dreams of his freedom, his house, and sisters.

The last dwelling is the building of the Yew trees where priests figure worshiped their figure. This dwelling is important because it led to his last confrontation that indirectly caused of his transmission back to the real world.

There are unimportant characters such as sorcerers and witches because they have no great importance in Anodos' journey. They appeared in Cosmo's story. The witch casted a spell on a princess and imprisoned her in a magical enchanted mirror which implies the use of sorcerers and magician characters.

Two main characters are the white lady and Sir Percival. Sir Percival is an honorable knight by got enchanted by the beauty of the maid of Alder which deprived him from his honor and made his armor rusty. To regain his honor, he needs to do good and honorable deeds until his armor shines again. He saved Anodos from Ash and was able to kill him to save the whole forest from its evilness. The white lady is the marble lady whom Anodos

freed from the wicked bewitching spell that locked her as a marble lady statue. She loved Anodos but she loved Sir Percival more. Anodos loved them both to find out later that they are his ancestors.

3.4 Other Fantastic Elements.

Phantastes is full of other fantastic elements. Several other aspects and objects exist throughout.

- Beauty.

Beauty is an important aspect that a lot of events revolve around. It is a kind of magical beauty, of fairies and damsels, that affects Anodos' decisions or thinking. First beauty is the unusual beauty of the Fairy, then the beauty in the Beech tree, and then the beauty of the white lady or the marble tree. The first beauty, Fairy's beauty, transferred him to Fairy Land with his full content. The second beauty, Beech tree beauty, protected him but also gave him a sense of worthiness that he made such a woman happy but also deepened his need for love and compassion. The beauty of the white marble lady is the deriving beauty. It is a magical beauty that Anodos got enchanted by and followed to the end neglecting all risks and dangers. It started as dangerous beauty but ended as compassionate and soft beauty. He got rid of his selfish love in his search of love and a new selfless love became in its place. He released her from her marble tomb because he wanted her beauty to be for himself only, but later he released her of his love because he wanted her to be happy with the man she loves. Beauty is magically manipulating Anodos.

- Natural food and Drinking Water.

Natural food and drinking water have a magical fantastic feature. His food is any form of plants, fruits, nuts and the like that can be found in the forest. While he drank water from well, rivers and springs. Food and water not only filled his stomach and satisfied his hunger but gave him a strange unusual power. It made him blend and cope better to his fantastic environment so his senses became more powerful that he could hear and understand creatures talks and a sharper vision that he could see the invisible around him and a better sense of directions.

- The power of songs and singing.

The power of songs is strongly displayed here. Singing in right time with best lyrics and most affectionate voice magically catch his sense. Anodos fantastic ability to sing comes only with his sincere feeling and cannot be performed anytime and anywhere. His first song

released marble lady from her alabaster grave and brought her alive. Then his songs magically attracted her presence, so he sang several times to find her. Songs has magical power when offered by others too. The girl of the globe sang to set him free from his prison in the square power. She got this powerful singing gift from the Fairy queen as a compensation for her globe that he broke with the help of *Shadow*. The girl's do good for the needy in Fairy Land.

- Water Bodies

Magical water bodies are found everywhere. Water bodies of any type mostly acted as guides helpmates. For instance, the basin water in his room created a river that led him to the bath of the Fairy Land. The spring or river in the desert guided him to the gulf, that magically took him via a boat to the Fairy palace. The Fountain inside the palace guided him to the underwater world and equipped him with a supernatural vision that enabled him later to discover the maids and dancers. The wintery sea fantastically enough had changed its nature to a summer sea and helped to lighten his soul over his past grief of his brother's death. And took him effortlessly to a safe shore.

- Boats.

Similarly, wondrous boats were present as lifeboats. They were ready to take him voluntarily by magical means and without any steering or guiding agent to safety. The first boat waited for him unattended to take him to Fairy Palace and the second saved him from the waves of the wintery sea of his past over to the calm summer sea and right to the safe shore where he met the old woman. The two boats help in transmitting Anodos to different spheres.

- Books

Books in a fantastic way remade their world for him to live as their main characters. Books are important aspects because their worlds and events became real for Anodos. Through reading he reincarnated the books' own characters and lived their lives. For example, he traveled to the world of the found babies and to Cosmo world of the enchanted mirror in which a princess is imprisoned. They also act as transition means.

- The Red Mark

The red mark that Anodos used to magically travel back from the three different worlds just by looking at it is another fantastic aspect to mention in this section.

- Doors

Doors are magical. They connect Fairy Land to other world or spheres. For example, *Shadow* belonged to another sphere but Anodos allowed him to appear by opening the door in the ogre's house. The door in the fairy palace led to the underground country. The four doors in the island transferred Anodos to different time places. They act as means of transition between Fairy Land and the other spheres/ worlds.

- The Protagonist Anodos

Finally, I will include the main character's analysis with the fantastic elements because he is the character that made all the fantastic possible and all the elements revolve around.

Anodos is the main character in *Phantastes*. He resembles his name which means pathless that he wanders without any goal in Fairy Land and has a fairy blood in him which is the quality that paved the way for the fantastic adventure.

He is a twenty-one years old and acts as the protagonist and the narrator. As he appears right from the beginning that he lives in a state of confusion and perplexity of mind between his consciousness and unconsciousness. He encounters this daily especially in the morning in the process of awakening. This state of perplexity was dominant after his twenty first birthday party that deepened this state with the new responsibilities, legal duties, and receipt of inheritance. He says," I woke one morning with the usual perplexity of mind which accompanies the return of consciousness." and then continues," As my thoughts, which a deep and apparently dreamless sleep had dissolved, began again to assume crystalline forms."

(5)

He is a youth that still immature, imaginative, and dreamy. He needs love and companionship, and this is clear in his reactions with the ladies he met. He wanted to hug the grandmother fairy, loved, and followed the white lady and felt secure like a child in company of the old lady of the square cottage. He is immature so he misjudged the grandmother fairy and underestimated her due to her tiny size. As soon as Fairy took the size and form of a human lady, he could not help but to hug her and his admiration did not cease when he knew her age ,two hundred thirty seven, This shows his lack of motherly love and compassion. He is imaginative and dreamy to the degree that made him design his own room as a forest with daisy flowers, trees and so on to escape the harsh reality of harsh inanimate life and to give him the impression that he is in another world but not in his own room and estate and always thinks of Fairy Land and if there is a way to get into.

He describes things not as they are but as how they appear to him. For example, he describes himself as a geologist that digs on the strata of the human world. (6)

Anodos has a fairy blood in him and only due to his blood he could travel and wander within the Fairy Land. This was remarked ambiguously in the talk of the grandmother fairy when she said, “ I dare say you know something of your great-grandfathers a good deal further back than that; but you know very little about your great- grandmothers on either side.” (8) but later it was clearly stated in the talk of the first lady he met in Fairy Land “You have fairy blood in you” (13), then she answered his question if he will be able to see the beings in Fairy Land saying, “That I cannot tell yet, not knowing how much of fairy nature there is in you ” (17).

Anodos is a rash, curious and fearless that he wanders aimlessly, opens doors without thinking of the dangers he may encounter. He tends to break rules as in breaking the rule that says “ No one enters here without the leave of the Queen” (117) but at the same time he is innocent like a child that he perceive things as they look to the extent that he cannot handle the fact that evil can be hidden behind beauty “What distressed me most- was the perplexing question- How can beauty and ugliness dwell so near?” (48).

Finally, Anodos’ personality changed steadily during his journey in Fairy Land. He got rid of his selfishness when he favored Sir Percival as the love of the white lady. He learned to self-control and self-sacrifice. He became mature and realized that the real man is the man that does what a man should do and take his responsibilities. It was a journey of growth for him.

4. Conclusion

To put everything in one picture we can emphasize that *Phantastes* combines many fantastic elements. The secondary world of Fairy Land had nothing that can be regarded or rationalized as real. It contained uncertainty of the surrounding, illogical world rules, magical creatures of all kinds and species and with different natures., magical dwellings, wondrous boats, transferring books, doors and body marks, fantastic water bodies, enchanting beauty, fanciful characters and most importantly a protagonist with a fairy blood. His love of nature is excessively presence almost everywhere and integrated in almost every element throughout the novels. Pridmore states at the beginning of his article *Nature and Fantasy* states, “Nature is a powerful presence in George MacDonald’s work, encountered in many moods but always as a force for good” (1)

Finally, the fantastic world that MacDonald created in *Phantastes* opened the way for all the unusual fantastic elements to be presented in a logical, yet fantastic way in one of the earliest Fantasyworks as an independent genre. Docherty says:

What makes *Phantastes* so remarkable a work is the extent of MacDonald's reliance upon his own *Phantastes* to create his images and, equally, the depth of his understanding of other writers —particularly of Dante, Novalis and Spenser—and the way this enables him to create a complex dynamic structure for the material generated by his unconscious. (11)

Phantastes shows MacDonald greatness and individuality as a fantasy writer. By the above elements, we can conclude that *Phantastes* is a great fantasy novel that contains more than the necessary fantastic elements put together in a way that makes readers feel, through the main character, as they are in the Fairy world themselves. The originality in his world-building made all the fantastic elements blend in a flowless way to make one unbreakable fantastic world picture.

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