

## THE DESIGN OF BENEVOLENCE IN *THE WINTER'S TALE*

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The article explores the design of benevolence in *The Winter's Tale*. The design has a pattern of sin, suffering, repentance, and redemption. The major characters repent after committing sin. Their suffering and repentance ultimately lead them to redemption and resurrection. The supernatural powers keep constantly playing their benevolent roles. The conflict between benevolence and malevolence permeates the play. In the beginning, suspicion engulfs Leontes' mind, against his very close friend Polixenes and his wife Hermione. Evil triumphs as a destructive force on Leontes' complex mind. It destroys his peace, separates his family and friends. Leontes loses his wife, his son, his friend and loyal courtiers. But in terms of Shakespeare's plan, Leontes has to be redeemed to work out the design of benevolence. Therefore, Leontes goes through a long period of penance and mourning which paves the way for benevolence.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Benevolence, Malevolence, Sin, Suffering, Repentance, Redemption*