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Literary Analysis

"Snows of Kilimanjaro" and "Winter Dreams"

The “ Snows of Kilimanjaro is a story written by Ernest Hemingway, and he uses Harry as the protagonist. “Winter Dreams” is a short story written by F. Scott Fitzgerald using Dexter Green as the protagonist. The purpose of this section is to describe the similarity and differences between the narrators in the two stories. The protagonists in Hemingway's "Snows of Kilimanjaro" and Fitzgerald's "Winter Dreams" have similarities and differences in the way they develop their plot. First, the two narrators share similar ideas regarding life. They both believe that their life was special and their race was special and glamorous. This condition is seen in the two stories when they narrators show their love for money and a luxurious life. When Hemingway explains at the beginning of the story that a leopard was seeking the tip of the Kilimanjaro, he tries to explain his life where he seeks “the house of God” (Hemingway, np). At first, he believed that living a luxurious or rich life full of procrastination was what mattered the most. Harry depicts his desire for a glamorous life when he says, “I will have all that I want. Not all that I want, but all that there is” (Hemingway, np). He lived off the wealth of his wife, which derailed him and made him lose moral values. This situation is evident that he had lived a glittering life, not considering the values and morals of the society.

Similarly, Fitzgerald’s “Winter Dreams” explains the entire life of a certain young man called Dexter Green. Dexter was born from a humble background by describing his life since the

age of 14 to 32. Dexter yearns for Judy Jones' love and the woman makes him desire a life full of luxurious or glittering things (Fitzgerald, np). He strives for a life filled with wealth as well as acquiring a high social status. Dexter desires a life, which can be referred to as the American dream where he becomes successful but might not get happiness. Dexter thought that having wealth and the woman he loved would make him happy, but later his wife changes her mind and he is left in agony. Dexter's heartbreak makes his feelings and moods to be iced up (Fitzgerald, np). He wanted to get glamorous things which included riches, money, and a beautiful woman. Besides, the two protagonists share the fact they both end up in a position they never expected. At first, they thought that acquiring wealth and living glamorously would make them happy, but they later realize that it only brought sadness and regrets. Dexter ends up alone, whereas, Harry seeks the top of the Kilimanjaro as a way to change his life and live a better life.

Nonetheless, Hemingway and Fitzgerald differ in their views as portrayed in the two stories. In the "Snows of Kilimanjaro," Harry realizes that he had messed up and decides to go for the African safari which was a way of putting his life back on track (Hemingway, np). His past life was characterized by war, loose sex, revenge, lost love and drinking. All these problems indicate his loss of values and resulted from the desire to live a luxurious life. Later he realizes his mistakes and decides to embark on a journey that will change his life, and unfortunately meets his death while there. In the "Winter Dreams," Dexter does not make a decision to transform his life. He loses the ability to care and feel after Judy leaving, meaning that he becomes worse after his dream is shattered. Unlike Harry, he does not transform but instead maintains his dream of living a glittering life, although this time without a beautiful woman.

“To Build a Fire” and “Snows of Kilimanjaro”

“To Build a Fire” is a story written by Jack London using an unnamed protagonist whom he refers to as the man who goes to venture alone in the Yukon territory. Nature acts almost as a separate character in these two stories. The paper aims to provide a comparison of functions of nature in the two short stories. In both London's "To Build a Fire" and Hemingway's "Snows of Kilimanjaro." The two stories are similar in the way they present nature because they both consider nature as an independent being able to act on itself without influence from the characters. Jack London and Hemingway believe that nature can affect the fate of humanity. Harry tampers with nature and it fights back leading to his death. On the other hand, the man is in constant war with nature but nature seems to be winning, showing how powerful nature is.

In the story "To Build a Fire," the narrator shows how powerful and independent nature is and acts without the concern of whether the narrator reaches the camp or manages to build a fire, or even if he freezes and dies (London, np). This story creates a picture that nature has consciousness, although it might not be the reality. There is a struggle between a man trying to conquer nature and nature trying to conquer the man. In the story "To Build a Fire," it seems like the man has a conflict with nature, and they engage in a fight. He knows that the Yukon Territory has its laws regarding nature but defies them, which causes a battle between him and nature. From the fight, the conditions seem not to favor him and nature takes him down slowly from his body parts to his life (London, np). From the happenings in the story, it seems as if nature took the role of punishing the man for defying the laws of the land. The advancement of the wrath of nature is seen throughout the journey of the man. He encounters several challenges, including cold, numbness, frostbite, falls into water, cannot light a fire, cannot feel the external extreme conditions of his body, and eventually goes into a deep sleep. The events leading to his

death show that nature is powerful and will always fight back. Therefore, it is crucial to understand that an individual cannot overpower mother nature. “It did not matter much, after all. What were frosted cheeks?” states the man (London, np). This statement shows that he did not understand the full power of nature.

In the story "Snows of Kilimanjaro," the narrator depicts nature as a mighty and godly entity. This aspect is seen through the interaction of Harry and the surrounding environment. On his journey, he encounters several challenges with nature due to his actions. Harry dies from a gangrenous infection while on his Kilimanjaro safari (Hemingway, np). Similar to the man, Harry takes advantage of nature by killing wildlife for sports purposes. Coincidentally, he acquires infection from a cut and faces death in several instances in the story. He slightly slips away from death when he encountered a hyena. Later, Harry dies from the infection showing that nature was in control (Hemingway, np). His death was a punishment for misusing or destroying nature's resources showing that nature acted like a separate character capable of its decisions. However, unlike in the story "To Build a Fire," Hemingway gives nature a godly depiction by relating the top of the Kilimanjaro to "the house of God." This situation shows that he respected nature despite his actions. He believed that traveling and relating to nature will change him and make him a better person than he was before.

Calixta and Judy Jones

"At the Cadian Ball" is a story written by Kate Chopin using Calixta as the main character, whereas Judy Jones is one of the crucial characters in "Winter Dreams." The purpose of this section is to compare and contrast between the Calixta and Judy regarding how they develop their sexuality. In the 19th and 20th centuries, women were restricted by tradition to express their sexual needs. Calixta and Judy are more similar in the way they promote this factor

because they both did not follow these traditions. In the story "At the Cadian Ball," Calixta is involved with several men but later settles with Bobinot whom he was not attracted to. She also explains that, "young men were plain looking and boring" (Chopin, np). This condition shows that she had the right to choose whoever she wanted and could freely exercise her sexuality. Judy Jones is also known for her beauty which she uses to her advantage. Judy is seen as independent to her suitors and she even controls Dexter to live a luxurious life. However, she leaves him when she felt necessary meaning that she was free to do as she pleased which was not the case in the traditions regarding women during this era.

Fredrick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs

Fredrick Douglass is an escaped slave who had previously served several masters, but later became an activist of freedom for slaves in America. Similarly, Harriet Jacobs was a slave who later escaped and got freedom after serving various masters. The purpose of this section is to describe the effect of slave institutions on the slavemasters who owned Fredrick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, as well as the effect of slavery on the masculine identity of Armand Aubigny. The institution of slavery had adverse effects on the slavemasters of Fredrick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs. They both encountered different masters but had to run away due to the brutality experienced. As Douglass explains, his first master, Captain Anthony was a brutal and inhumane person who enjoyed whipping his slaves. The institution believed that slaves could only be controlled by engaging them in hard labor and punishment throughout to ensure that they were obedient and submissive. Besides, the institutions used religion as a way to justify their actions towards slaves. Religion is usually a consolation individuals turn to when in difficulties. The slave masters used religion to oppress the slaves and at the same time, the slaves used religion for consolation. Christianity during this time was used from an extreme to the other. The slave

masters based on two virtues when preaching to slaves, which include obedience and submission. Thus, it was a means of justifying their brutality and promote slavery in America. Douglass and Jacobs show the moral contradiction between Christianity and slavery based on the actions of their masters. If slaves follow the teachings and interpretation of the masters concerning the Bible, they would not have a chance for liberation. However, not all slave masters were transformed by the institution because they would let slaves acquire different skills like reading and writing.

Armand Aubigny is one of the characters in Chopin's "Desiree's Baby." He is the father to the titular child and the husband to Desiree. Slavery had an effect on the masculine identity of Armand Aubigny because his family came from a mixed race. Chopin explains this situation by stating that, "I thank God for arranging our lives in a way that Armand will never realize that his mother belongs to the race cured with slavery"(Chopin, 182). He was a "dark, handsome, rich man," and owned a plantation in Louisiana. The fact that his son and wife were of mixed blood. This condition makes him despise them and treat them as slaves. He became brutal to the point where he was said to possess the spirit of Satan. This statement is evidence of his masculine identity that resulted from slavery. He could not bear with the fact that his family came from slavery blood yet he wanted to uphold the family name known for years of slavery.

Work Cited

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