THE THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF "THE MARK OF THE BEAST"

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Abstract

"The Mark of The Beast" is a short story written by Rudyard Kipling. He was born in Bombay, India and spend most of his childhood there. But after turning six, he and his sister moved to England in order to launch their school education. From that day on, he faced so many difficulties and also had to deal with countless bullying and humiliating as well as his sister. All of that experiences and brutality of his early years inspired him to create masterpieces which are depicted to severity and viciousness. "Stalky and Co" or "The Mark of The Beast" can be perfect examples for the themes above.

Keywords: native, proverb, inheritance, chaos, Hanuman, sacred, Silver man, leper, soil, gravel, Hydrophobia, mark, confront, crony, torture.

Discussion:

The story commences with unidentified first-person narrator notifying a "native", or an East Indian proverb, that declamatory asks whether one knows which gods are strongest. Then narrator mentions about Fleete, who is Englishman, travels to India because of his uncle's inheritance. He owned a little money and some land in the Himalayas near a place called Dharmsala and both properties had been left him by an uncle. All the chaos begin when Fleete gets drunk on New Year's Eve and his friends escort him back to Strickland's house, where he is staying. However, all the way home, he become very drunk and uncontrollable, without caring about his surrounding, puts out his cigar on the head of the statue of Hanuman, the monkey god which is considered sacred, infuriating the locals. Strickland suppose that local community overwhelm three of them for Fleete's actions but strangely, without any warnings, a Silver Man come out from behind the images of god, who looks like leper. He slowly but surely inclines against Fleete's chest and momentarily rests his head before the friends can wrest him away. Afterwards, temple priest apprise Strickland that even though he is done with Hanuman but Hanuman is not done with Fleete. After leaving the temple and reaching home, the strange behaviors begins to exhibit in Fleete's character which worried his friends. Fleete grows strange actions like obsession with eating chops means raw meat, also whenever he approaches near horses, they start to feel uneasy

and fear from him. Apart from that a strange mark appeared to his left chest that looks like the black rosette pattern of a leopard's spot. After some days, Strickland and narrator find Fleete in front of the house where he is evidently rolling in the soil and "the smell of the earth delightful". Later, the men wait for gravel, commenting that Fleete to come down for dinner when they hear the howl of a wolf from his room, terrifying both. The moment when they enter the room, they witnessed horrifying scene that Fleete was snarling and trying to climb out of the window. Strickland and narrator tied him up so he would not run away and showed him to doctor Dumoise who thought this was Hydrophobia. But Strickland strongly believed that is not hydrophobia instead he thought, Fleete was bewitched by Silver man which is actually right. Therefore, both he and narrator caught up the leper and tortured him until he agrees with curing Fleete's disease. After so many hours of terrible tortures, Silver man heals Fleete's curse by putting his head on top of the chest of him where the mark is spotted. From that moment, soul of Fleete came to himself and started to come to his senses after a few seconds his eyes were closed. In the morning when he woke up, black leopard-rosette on his chest had already gone. He looked very tired and drowsy, could not remember anything then confronted to his cronies and said "Happy new year". So, narrator and Strickland decided not to inform him about all the actions which happened in the past such as him turning into unmanageable beast. But after a few years when Strickland had married, narrator and him desired to publish it as a story to report public about this unsolved mystery that unintentionally happened to them.

Conclusion:

"The mark of the beast" by Rudyard Kipling symbolize unenlightenment and egotism which conveyed in India by it is colonized times of British empire. In this story, Fleete portrays a man with lack of knowledge about any kind of religions and think he is superior from others, disrespects the Indian culture and due to that gets stuck into several unusual issues. Despite that he got out from these problems with the aids of his fellows and starts to live to his daily life.

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