

REVIEW ON THE NIGHTINGALE AND THE ROSE

Pardis Karami Nejad

M.A. Student of English Literature
Vali-e-Asr University of Rafsanjan
Iran

Sohila Faghfuri

Ph.D. Faculty member
Assistant professor of English Department
Vali-e-Asr University of Rafsanjan,
Iran

One thing you can strongly admit after reading *The Nightingale and the Rose* by Oscar Wilde is that nightingales are stupid. The story of romance has always been in literature and there are thousand characters who sacrificed themselves for their beloved but in this story why is the nightingale the one who dies?! Let me begin with another story: once upon a time, in a village, there was a sick cow. The vet told the owner that if the cow did not stand on his four legs after three days, kill it. A sheep heard the conversation and every day encouraged the cow to stand, on the third day, the cow stood and the owner sacrificed the sheep to celebrate the good fortune. The didactic point of the story was that do not interfere to the things which are none of your business. I think this story must not be considered romantic since the nightingale's stupidity is highlighted more vividly. First, who asked her to find a red rose? Second, how could she tell if she has found the true love?

The nightingale was not the only living creature who heard the boy's cries. There were a green lizard, a daisy and a butterfly but none paid attention to the boy's demand as if they knew it is a one-day whim and would go away soon. It was only the nightingale who took the boy's sobbing seriously and could not help interfering. When she says:

"Be happy," cried the Nightingale, "be happy; you shall have your red rose. I will build it out of music by moonlight, and stain it with my own heart's-blood. All that I ask of you in return is that you will be a true lover, for Love is wiser than Philosophy, though she is wise, and mightier than Power, though he is mighty. Flame-coloured are his wings, and coloured like flame is his body. His lips are sweet as honey, and his breath is like frankincense.

The Student looked up from the grass, and listened, but he could not understand what the Nightingale was saying to him, for he only knew the things that are written down in books"

She signs a one way contract in which she is totally aware of what is going to happen but the other side does not have a faintest idea of what is going on. There are people who devote their lives for others but the point is that do others want the devotion?! Sometimes you may put a lot of effort to do something for somebody else but that thing is not as important as you think for them and then you are the victim of your own action. The same story for the nightingale, if the boy knew the consequence he might not even think about the girl. Sometimes, in our real life we

suffer because of our own faults, the thorns on the rose to the nightingale's heart are our own flaws such as prying, jealousy and stupidity which knowingly how shameful these features are we stick to them and destroy ourselves. Oscar Wilde was perhaps suggesting that those who meddle in others' lives and personal affairs will pay non returnable prices such as life.

During the story we do not see any signs of boy attempting to find the red rose, which proves that despite his cry for help, he is not really in love. After the girl's request, the boy falls on the grass and sighs; if he was a true lover he would have searched everywhere to find a rose. The boy was not a man of romance as the writer describes, he is a man of science and philosophy. If the nightingale had an atom of brain, she would have examined the lover deeper and deeper. When the girl asks the boy for a rose in winter, she is obviously sending him away and the boy cries, not for a rose but for the girls desire for someone else. The next day as he faces the crimson rose, he double checks his chance for her love, but she ignores him again. The way the nightingale realized that she has found the true love, then everyday is filled with lovers, a brat who cries for candy, a teenage who cries for a fancy car and a crook who cries for mercy. What I am trying to say is that the nightingale judged too soon about the true love.

In short, Oscar Wilde is a prominent figure in short story. he was the first one who changed the happy endings of fairy tales and showed poverty in his stories. Although this story might look tragic in surface but deep down it ends happily. A nightingale that has been looking for true love during her lifetime apparently finds one and devotes her life for love. In her point of view she died with respect and honor, she died for something that she believed in with full satisfaction. The second character, the boy, did not get together with his so-called beloved but look at the bright side; imagine a romance between a book and jewel. A book is the pure juice of one's thoughts and desires and a jewel is a piece of rock. When the materialistic girl rejects a boy of books, he returns to his own world, where he belongs to. Even if they married, they would not live long. Wilde masterfully ended the story in the best way possible, although it may shock the readers; the characters accomplished their aims without knowing it.