

25 set 2020 - Dubliners: Clay

When in Great Britain you are christened the priest says "you are clay" [Tu sei polvere e polvere ritornerai]

The difference between **clay** and **dust** is that dust flies, while clay is wet.

Clay is the material used to make bricks, but it also mean mud and earth in general. It's a reference to the mortal body of man. So there is an anticipation of death

The protagonist's name is **Maria**, which is pronounced "Meraia".

The Black Maria was a van used to transport prisoners to the scaffold.

Maria is middle aged and horrible.

- She had a long nose, so that when she laughs her nose and chin touched.
- She is a spinster [zitella]
- she works in a laundry and she is a cook.
- She is very much appreciated because of her **nice character** and personality. Her companion say she is a peacemaker

Her problem is that she has a goal in her life, which is to **get married**. She still haven't lost hopes.

Instead there are few possibilities, because she is unattractive and she works with only women.

The story is centered on the sterility and humility of **celibacy**.

The protagonist ignore vital impulses: she is probably a **maiden** [virgin] and she is quit unaware and unskilled, but she still hopes and she thinks that her life will be fulfilled by the meeting of a men.

Her companion had understood this, and they gently mock her. She is disappointed by these mocks, she feels upset.

A woman say she wants a **ring** (*first reference to ring*). She always tells lies about this, saying she didn't need a man.

She is going to visit one of the two brother (**Joe** and **Alfie**) whom she looked after when she was young.

- The two brothers had fallen out.
- They were very close to her.

- They also helped her to find a job

While getting ready to go out she still find herself attractive.

She gets the bus and then she go to the *confectioner's*.

Here there is the second reference to the ring and marriage. The owner, in fact, since she was spending too much time in choosing a plum-cake into the confectioner's, asks whether she was going to chose her **wedding cake**. She *blushes*.

On the tram she meet a **gentleman**, who talk with her. She was so excited to have talked to a man that she forget her plum-cakes. But in reality the man had talked to her just because *he was tipsy* [brillo].

When she gets her guests house, she realizes she lost her plum-cake.

We get to know that she isn't so good as person because when she realizes of the lost of plum-cake *she accused the children* instead of taking responsibility.