

17 set 2020 - Dubliners: The sisters

There are four characters involved:

- The boy (who is the narrator)
- His aunt
- Old Cotter
- Eliza (the sister who explains)

The situation is that the young boy gets to know that his former teacher of Latin and religious has died because of his third stroke.

The problem is that the boy is no unhappy, but instead he feels relieved and free.

There is a problem of pedophilia, which is only hinted and never made explicit. It's told only his relief on priest's death.

Old Cotter tells the child and relatives that the priest is died, but the child is still uncertain: he will go to the shop, and just after seeing the note on the glass he will be finally relieved

After this relief he went to bed, and dreamed about the Priest, and talk about paralysis.

He receives a confession from the priest, and the child feel like he is moving into a pleasant but vicious region. He confess his pedophilia and while doing it he smiles, with his lips wet of saliva. Then the child remember he is dead, and the child himself smiles, and this smile absolve the priest and his simony (sin of buying and selling religious privileges).

All this is not written explicitly.

James Joyce created a new way of writing: writer abdicates from is role and only characters are speaking. He writes in the age of anxiety with Virginia Woolf. In fact here he tells the story from child's point of view, and so he exaggerated all because of it.

The priest description (that came from the past life of the child from the priest) connotes him as shabby, sick, disgusting, sloppy, improper, filthy.

The child feels annoyed from relief he feels about the death of the priest. He feels annoyed because of the sense of guilt imposed by the church.

His relatives haven't understood what was going on, and tells the child to feel sad because the priest was a good teacher. They list what he had taught to the child.

The priest is described through disgusting details about his physical appearance that

show his lust. An example of many strange priest's attitudes is

he used to smile pensively and nod his head, now and then pushing huge pinches of snuff up each nostril alternately. When he smiled he used to uncover his big discoloured teeth and let his tongue lie upon his lower lip—a habit which had made me feel uneasy in the beginning of our acquaintance before I knew him well.

The novel is divided into two parts, and between part 1 and 2 there is a **caesura**, which is when the child says what the priest had taught to him.

In the second part two characters are introduced, who are

1. **Nannie**, which is the diminutive of Anne (and also means “bambinaia”): she is the latter priest's sister
2. **Father O'Rdurke**: he prepares the priest at all

Through the story we get to know that the protagonist is a child through some details:

- he enters the room on tiptoe, which is very childish
- he pretends to pray
- he tries to catch every detail, to be sure the priest is dead
- he declines food in order not to do noises

The priest was a **disappointed person**, a **failure**: he could have had a great career, but he didn't exploit the position.