Isolation in “The death of Ivan Ilych” and “The Metamorphosis”

Name

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*In the text “The Death of Ivan Ilych” and “The Metamorphosis,” what is the meaning of isolation that the authors try to make throughout the reading? How does it relate to our society? What are the connections?*

**Introduction**

In the text of and the metamorphosis the theme of isolation has been clearly brought about by the two authors. Isolation is the condition of being alone especially when one is going through some challenges**. In the text “The Death of Ivan Ilych” his illness, suffering and the fear of death made him to separate himself from the people.** In both the two texts Ivan and Gregor **failed to go above the social life and they were both isolated by their family members**. This made them to isolate himself with the rest of the people. All their life was mainly concerned with their happiness. Gregor and Ivan were also becoming ***more isolated mentally and emotionally with his family.*** Gregor faces remorseless pressures because his father does not care about him and this finally led to his death due to constant pressure. Gregor’s family is shocked but he tries to adjust the situation. Over a long period of time his finally decides to reject him because they viewed him as a burden. In both the two texts Ivan and Gregor **were both isolated by their family members and they eventually died due to stress.**

Ivan Ilych's is facing serious illness **in the book *death of Ivan* Ilych is and this is mainly seen when he isolates himself.** His suffering and fear of death made him to isolate himself from most of the people. His friends, family members and the colleagues who studied together in school did not mind and they just continued living their normal lives. Ivan comes to discover later that find out that no one was caring about him. Ivan’s life was well assimilated and this is what Ivan was thinking about his whole life. “*The story of Ivan Ilych’s life begins with his death”*. The wealth and the glory that he cherished all through his life all perished. when he was still alive his family did not care about him and he was isolated all through his life. Ivan Ilych does not only suffer physically but he also suffers spiritually. “*He suffers spiritually as he tries to find the meaning in his death”*. The author tries to explore the different kinds of suffering when people are being isolated. Some common examples of the suffering are; emotional isolation, indignity, fear and doubt. Ivan Ilych’s way of life is mainly described by his time and class. This instill in him the drive to be selfish. This is clearly seen when he constantly seeks to maximize his own interest and his own pleasure. Ivan never thought that his wife was part of his life. He views himself as an alien who slept next to Praskovya because he was busy in assimilating what was expected of him by the society*. “He accepted to be a father because marriage demands him of it”* (Tolstoy., p.54).

Ivan fulfilled all his duties as a son, a father and as a husband but he **failed to go above the social life and also isolated by the family members**. This made him to isolate himself with the rest of the people. All his life he was mainly concerned with his happiness. “*His beliefs were very different from the rest of the people”*. In most cases when error is taken to be wisdom, there will be no escape from the doom. This is exactly what happened to Ivan. Ivan also undergoes the spiritual alienation in his youthful life, but he does this in the negative direction. For instance, from his boyhood, where his mind and soul were moulded by factors outside him like passion and desire of attainment. Ivan’s fight was mainly against himself and he attached whole of his interest to the upper classes of the society. He lived more in future more than in the present. And because of this he used to spend most of the time by himself. “*The final phase of his life is full of different kinds of assimilation*” and finally he gets rewarded with light of truth and salvation (Tolstoy., p.78).

In both the two texts Ivan and Gregor **were both isolated by their family members and they eventually died due to stress.** In the end he is discouraged and he isolates himself from the social life. The theme of isolation is very vivid in this book. Ivan felt that his family had isolated him. This because his own family did not have sympathy and this made him to be more irritated.. The life of Ivan Ilych is simple and ordinary. His marriage was also not stable because they lacked love and peace. Ivan married Praskovya Fedorovna because she came from a rich family. Ivan did not believe in some of the things like the spiritual love. His love was already invested with personal convictions and his personal opinions. (Tolstoy., p.78).

The reader can clearly see that **Gregor’s was isolated due to his illness**. This is clearly seen when Gregor mentions *“That’s all I’d have to try with my boss; I’d be fired on the spot”.* For many years Gregor was isolating himself from his family and friends and therefore he had no social life. He was writing to criticize the theme of isolation and most of the young people usually isolate themselves so as to avoid the outside world. Franz Kafka suffered from a very serious mental disorientation.One of the most difficult topics to teach is the metamorphosis. There are many themes which are embedded in this topic and one of the most common topic is the isolation. The struggles of the Gregor samsa goes through with his father just shows the many problems that the young people are facing. This book was written after the outbreak of the world war and therefore it is important for one to read and understand so that he/she can be able to make text-to-world connections. In this book Gregor isolates himself from the society. This is seen when the author reveals that Gregor used to “*stay in his own room and the he speaks to his general alienation from modern society requires him to marry and work hard so that he can provide for his children”*. It is also clear that Gregor is incredulous with inner feelings of both fear and guilt of being a parasite to his family*. “From this book it is clear that people are mostly hurt by the people that they love”.* This means that the more care, time, material things, love energy that a person occasionally devotes most of the time is not appreciated by the family members. (Kafka., p.42).

From this book it is clear that Gregor samsa undergoes a physical and the mental transformations and this made him to **fail to go above the social life and he was also isolated by the family members**. This is because he faces relentless compressions that his father used to place on him which and this eventually led to his death. Gregor’s family is shocked but he tries to adjust the situation. Over a long period of time his finally decides to reject him because they viewed him as a burden. This clearly shows clearly that Gregor was isolated by his family*. “Wishing him dead, his family started to wish that Gregor to die and finally Gregor dies”.* His family viewed this as a blessing because a burden had been removed from their presence. This clearly shows the symbolic illnesses in the families and also in the society.

In both the two texts Ivan and Gregor **were both isolated by their family members and they eventually died due to stress*.*** *“A great miracle then happens and this happens when Gregor wakes up only to find that he has been transformed into an insect”*. He is then unable to get up and go to work as a travelling salesman. Because of his new body translation, he is unable to do anything but just lay in his bed. And due to this his boss comes to his house and inquires about him, but because Gregor is an insect then he is not able to communicate and explain his situation. When he reveals himself his boss is so shocked and he ran away. He finally loses his job. Gregor’s transformation is very similar to the development of an illness in this modern society. For example, when a person develops AIDS, he/she is isolated by his friends and the family members and the sick patient is left to suffer. In this present generation most of the people are being isolated by their family members because of illnesses or the physical disability. Social isolation is most common in individuals who suffer from different conditions like HIV/AIDS (Kafka., p.63).

**Conclusion**

According to this two books it suggests that isolation mainly both the mental and the physical state of the person. Isolation mainly corned with the beliefs of the person and also the believes of the society. For Ivan Ilych decided to be a father because he believed that marriage demands him of it. On the other hand, Gregor believed that his family did not care about him and “*they wanted him to die”.* This defines the abstract nature of the work of the open scene.

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