

Reading Review

Reviewed by : Pichon Théo

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Type of work : Short Story

Title : The Student

Author : Anton Chekhov

Place of publication : Unknown

Date of publication : 1894

Overview :

This is the story of Ivan Velikopolski, a Russian student of theology of 22 years old. He goes hunting, probably to cut the monotony of the fast of the week a few days before Easter.

The night begins to fall and it starts to get very cold. He arrives near the house of two widows (a mother and her daughter). He enters into the house, attracted by the heat of the fire. Very quickly, he makes a parallel between this cold night and the night where Jesus was arrested. Ivan tells the two women that night, and thanks to his oratorical skills he passes emotion. He leaves them very happy because he has the impression of having created a link between the past and the present. Since that day, his "life seemed to him enchanting, marvelous, and full of lofty meaning".

Commentary :

- There is plenty of religious references
- It's an original way to promote happiness
- The two widows are like prophets for the student

Personal point of view :

I really appreciate reading this story. Despite of a lot of religious references that I didn't like , it's a very good story with a great end. This story allows to know a little more about life in Russia in the 19th century. We know that the autumn is very cold because they make a fire to warmed them up. To conclude , the moral is , to be happy you have to cling to something , here it's the link between the past and the present .