

FS: How to learn to hide from world?

Why? only when hidden, truly close to God

Why people pull away? mother being sick child to heal, moral (moral) view

not out to stop you, full of silly, mistaken ideas

Sees evil in future wife, refuses to marry asking, humane ^{evil} nature everywhere

elder says to hermit, looks better, too obvious, people become curious

Solution: hide without holding 'big sign', hide - replace view

Petrushka, ordinary & unimpressive, nobody thinks of her, God means us to be like her

Lives by being used by everyone around her AND she doesn't see herself as she truly is SOLUTION

She lives for God thinking she lives for men

Another kind of being there for humans: doesn't understand what she's doing, truly hidden

problem: FS hasn't found it by instinct, FS can't do that, tried to his best, replace externally

live ordinary peasant life, etc., story just like FS, sees it, trying to tell us he's doing it

The narrator prefaces the story with his comments on a crushed, but still living thistle he finds in a field (a symbol for the main character), after which he begins to tell the story of Hadji Murat, a successful and famed separatist guerrilla who falls out with his own commander and eventually sides with the Russians in hope of saving his family. Hadji Murat's family is being contained and controlled by the Chechen leader who abducted his mother, two wives, and five children. Aside from the fact that Murat wants to save his family, he additionally wants to avenge the deaths of other family members. The story opens with Murat and two of his followers fleeing from Shamil, the commander of the Caucasian separatists, who is at war with the Russians. They find refuge at the house of Sado, a loyal supporter of Murat. The local people learn of his presence and chase him out of the village.

His lieutenant succeeds in making contact with the Russians, who promise to meet Murat. He eventually arrives at the fortress of Vozdvizhenskaya to join the Russian forces, in hopes of drawing their support in order to overthrow Shamil and save his family. Before his arrival, a small skirmish occurs with some Chechens outside the fortress, and Petrukha Avdeyev, a young Russian soldier bleeds out in a local military hospital after being shot. Tolstoy makes a chapter-length aside about Petrukha: childless, he volunteered as a conscript in place of his brother who had a family of his own. Petrukha's father regrets this because he was a dutiful worker compared to his complacent brother.

While at Vozdvizhenskaya, Murat befriends Prince Semyon Vorontsov, the Viceroy's son, his wife Maria and his son, and wins over the good will of the soldiers stationed there. They are at once in awe of his physique and reputation, and enjoy his company and find him honest and upright. The Vorontsovs give him a present of a watch which fascinates him. On the fifth day of Murat's stay, the governor-general's adjutant, Mikhail Loris-Melikov arrives with orders to write down Murat's story, and the reader learns some of his history: he was born in the village of Tselmes and early on became close to the local Khans due to his mother being the royal family's wetnurse. When he was fifteen some followers of Muridism came into his village calling for a holy war (ghazavat) against Russia. Murat declines at first but after a learned man is

sent to explain how it will be run, he tentatively agrees. However, in their first confrontation, Shamil—then a lieutenant for the Muslims hostile to the Russians—embarrasses Murat when he goes to speak with the leader Gamzat. Gamzat eventually launches an attack on the capital of Khunzakh and kills the pro-Russian khans, taking control of this part of Dagestan. The slaughter of the khans throws Hadji and his brother against Gamzat, and they eventually succeed in tricking and killing him, causing his followers to flee. Unfortunately, Murat's brother is killed in the attempt and Shamil replaces Gamzat as leader. He calls on Murat to join his struggle, but Murat refuses because the blood of his brother and the khans are on Shamil.

Once Murat has joined the Russians, who are aware of his position and bargaining ability, they find him the perfect tool for getting to Shamil. However, Vorontsov's plans are ruined by the War Minister, Chernyshov, a rival prince who is jealous of him, and Murat has to remain in the fortress because the Tsar is told he is possibly a spy. The story digresses into a depiction of the Tsar Nicholas I of Russia, which reveals his lethargic and bitter nature and his egotistical complacency, as well as his contempt towards women, his brother-in-law Frederick William IV of Prussia, and Russian students.

The Tsar orders an attack on the Chechens and Murat remains in the fortress. Meanwhile, Murat's mother, wife and eldest son Yusuf, whom Shamil hold captive, are moved to a more defensible location. Realizing his position (neither trusted by the Russians to lead an army against Shamil, nor able to return to Shamil because he will be killed), Hadji Murat decides to flee the fortress to gather men to save his family.

At this point the narrative jumps forward in time, to the arrival of a group of soldiers at the fortress bearing Murat's severed head. Maria Dimitriyevna—the companion of one of the officers and a friend of Murat—comments on the cruelty of men during times of war, calling them 'butchers'. The soldiers then tell the story of Murat's death. He had escaped the fortress and shook off his usual Russian escort with the help of his five lieutenants. After they escape they come upon a marsh that they are unable to cross, and hide amongst some bushes until the morning. An old man gives away their position and Karganov, the commander of the fortress, the soldiers, and some Cossacks surround the area. Hadji Murat and his men fortify themselves and begin to fire upon the troops, dying valiantly. Hadji himself runs into fire after his men are killed, despite being wounded and plugging up his fatal wounds in his body with cloth. As he fires his last bullet his life flashes before him and the soldiers think he's dead; he gets up for one final struggle and falls to his death. Victorious, the Russian soldiers fall upon and decapitate him. The nightingales, which stopped singing during the battle, begin again and the narrator ends by recalling the thistle once more.

Silence → God is silent, like him

1. hero

2. God

3. story

basically 1st book written by Tolstoy, died 1910

HM about 1850's in Caucasus

in 1890's stuff comes out about Hadji Murat

writing 1896-1904, saved it and didn't publish

doesn't jump full into 2nd part of his life

What's his point? think: attack on war, political leadership

Story actually about love of war, magnificent when HM dies

What's it about? maybe throwback to early style, parable without a point

@ 19 minutes

Could argue it's a single work inspired all by itself

p 624: But I've

many characters, appearance disappear

p 628:

p 629: boy dead, stabbed in back, mother scratches skin off her cheeks

there is no answer, nothing you can do, virtue is not enough

life is unfair, even if you live right → will still suffer

What simple solutions, know they don't work

where does it all lead? what it means to be a human

KEY 1: p 581: can't reach, spiritually or deathbed

p 585 letter home makes it, official letter instead

What happens in plot? HM goes to Russia, family captured, reputation as traitor, then asks for forces, T says yes

then nothing happens, HM waits, they wait too long, nobody will trust, goes to fight, has 5 men describes similar to HM

betrays them and kill all 5, HM is union of action/real guts, gets killed

triumph = not so admirable, or death = very admirable, men die, family lost, everything lost, utter failure, worthless

yet, HM goes in with head held high, gets caught by mud/rice paddy, weakly surrounded, fight to death

T sees close relation to people in story = ALL mis-guided, looking for happiness

↑
random group of
people
(not enemies)

T saying you know you'll never get all you want

HM accepts death, all know it's coming, go out the same way he lived, we all failed, nothing endures

HM head chopped off, childlike smile

goes to say prayers, thanks God for everything

people who see big picture can't love life, everything permeated by evil

at end of life T 'figures it out', just accept everything to depths of his heart, accept evil

Key 2: p. 597: child recollections, tells them almost everything, but not ALL

what it means to be human, something there, beautiful, tormenting, haunting, wailing etc....

HM is not a person who doesn't care about life, he's passionately alive

gets shot, what should he do? keeps shouting, finally head cut off: deep about human condition

this is what we all are at all times, have our causes, futile but magnificent

fighting to death for not perfect cause → isn't life beautiful, God either there or absent ^{& silent}

God says has to be that way, acceptance, don't meddle just the way it is