

Samuel Jacob DQs April 5th, 2022 - "Day of the Builders"

1. The way in which "Day of the Builders" employs first-person perspective throughout the short story added significantly to the overall feel and advancement of the plot as the story progressed. In particular, the first-person point of view is especially useful in hiding certain facts from the reader and revealing them at a later point in the story. In the context of the "Day of the Builders", the first-person perspective is that of a native person to the land, describing their experience with new, foreign visitors. Even within the first paragraph of the short story, the narrator reveals that their people "were easy prey" and that they were easily "distracted by new things or any semblance of finesse" (1). These descriptions illustrate the naivety and isolated nature of the narrator's people, who she describes to be easily taken advantage of, like prey. As this was the very first paragraph, the reader is set up to see the narrator's people as one that was easily subdued by foreign powers and more technologically advanced forces. This can also be seen in the description of "the Builders", who I assume to be foreign researchers surveying the rich natural resources of the native land (1). This places the narrator's people in a secluded part of the world, only witnessed by a few foreign individuals. This also explains the fascination of the Builders when they see giant rock formations and fossilized plants. The narrator's description of the Builders regards them as highly intelligent, and their constant mentioning of the Doctor's lack of medical experience also reveals her fascination and ignorance of modern scientific research.
2. The "story of my people" found on page four of the short story is an important testament to the value the Builders had for the native land of the existing people. The passage, as stated by the narrator, was originally from the "first of [the] nine sacred stones" that belong to the people of the land (4). However, now the Builders had translated it and placed it on a metal plate that was hung at the entrance of their command center. The story expresses the will of the native people and the fears that come with foreign interference. The story recounts what would happen if foreign powers overrun their land and subjugate their people, introducing greed, violence, and death. The fact that the Builders placed this story on their command center illustrates their will to ensure that this does not happen, and the metal plate it is on acts as a reminder of that.
3. Reading through the last part of the short story, the narrator appears to be a little weary of the way the Builders are transforming their village, particularly with new technology and amenities. This can be seen when the elders were "provided with well-furnished, temperature-regulated quarters in the residential skyrise" (5). An example of the narrator's dissatisfaction with the way the Builders are transforming her village can be seen with the balcony railings, which they want changed to wrought iron instead of glaring metal.

