

If fiction is unreal story how can it inspire
morality as a guide to human action.

OUTLINE

Introduction

Meaning of fiction

Meaning of Morality

How fiction can inspire morality

Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

The question if fiction as an unreal story how can it inspire morality from them is necessary and worth asking. This is because it makes fiction real and gives man the opportunity to learn from them. Hence it is possible that Morality can be derived inspired in a fiction.

There are various ways through which to investigate whether fictitious literature contains moral values. This would be clearly shown below.

MEANING OF FICTION

Fiction is an imaginative work of art which is forged. It is a deliberately fabricated account of something. It is forged, which implies that ^{it} originate from nowhere other than the author's mind.

Fiction is also defined as any forged writing or story. It is a message that often time passes across truth but ^{not} did necessarily happen as a bue effect.

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MEANING OF MORALITY

Morality refers to the goodness or badness of human actions. The actions of man which are good are moral while those that are bad are immoral.

Morality is concerned with why certain actions of man are regarded as good/right and others are regarded as wrong. It is an interesting and extensive problem in philosophy and religion.

HOW FICTION CAN INSPIRE MORALITY.

There are three ways in which we can investigate how fiction explores morality. These are:-

Review the characters in a fable; a novel or drama and make moral judgements about them.

When we review the characters in a play or novel through analysing their actions, we can come to a moral judgement which incites feelings such as joy, sadness or guilt.

In a novel, if a character is reviewed to be either a villain, brave or courageous, it is the

Moral judgement of such character.

A good example is the character of Cain in Genesis. He is reviewed as a villain because he killed his brother Abel out of envy. His actions are morally abominable to many persons.

Fictitious stories gets a moral grip on us and cause us make moral judgements about the character that is unfolding in the plot - just like Cain is considered ~~not~~ a villain.

2. Looking beyond specific Characters and see if we can draw principles of action and morality, in a general sense.

This has to do with whether the moral judgements already derived by reviewing the characters as either praiseworthy or condemnable could be built into a moral theory. That is to know if it can be universalized. A kind of philosophical generalization or abstraction. These moral judgements move from subjectivity to general objectivity.

For instance, from the character of Cain we can erect a theory of envy. By doing so we move from

applying this moral judgement to ourselves.
Seek to make a standard for everyone.

3. This is the stage where we make creative conclusions about moral judgements derived from the fictitious work.

Taking ~~quest~~ envy as an example, we ask questions like: Is envy a wilful action? Can we decide not to envy? or does it just happen? Is it within the power of Man, to grow beyond it.

By asking these questions we try to derive conclusions about these moral actions and how we react to them.

Conclusion

With reference to Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe demonstrate the interplay between ethics and anthropology in the life of the man that was the main character of the novel Okonkwo.

OUTLINE

Introduction

Ethnographic background

Ethics

Anthropology

Interplay of Anthropology & Ethics.

INTRODUCTION

The novel Things fall apart, by Chinua Achebe tells the story of the Igbo man especially as it concerns the life and activities of Okonkwo and the coming of the white man to the eastern parts of Nigeria.

Okonkwo was a proud, ambitious and brave man in Umuofia who and determined that he would not live like his father Ezeudu, however, fate dealt with him in the most unfavourable manner ranging from his banishment, loss of his son to the missionaries and

his death.

Chinua Achebe, used the character of Okonkwo to elaborate the influences of fate, destiny, freedom, will and courage in the life of man. He tried also to show the interplay between the culture of the Igbo man and that of the white man. Hence we will analyze the ethical and anthropological influences on the life of Okonkwo.

ETHICS

Ethics is the branch of philosophy that studies morality, that is the rightness or wrongness of actions. It explores the principles and values that guide human behaviour.

It is a systematic study of the concepts of right and wrong conduct and how individuals and societies should act. It addresses questions related to what is morally acceptable, just and virtuous.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

Anthropology is the study of the nature of man and his environment. It is a holistic discipline that seeks to understand the diversity of human experience across time and space. It tries to understand the man diversity and how societies adapt and change over time.

INTERPLAY OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ETHICS.

Okonkwo the major character in this novel epitomizes the importance of strength, courage and martial prowess. As the novel began, Okonkwo is presented as one of the strongest warriors in the land of Umuofia for having thrown Anambra the cat on the ground on a wrestling match. A mark of his strength, bravery and courage. Though Okonkwo's father Unoka did not leave to him any property after his death, Okonkwo strived to make himself a respectable man in the society. He worked so hard to break away from the fate similar to that of his father Unoka, a weak, lazy and effortless man. Achebe puts it succinctly by stating "the idea of fear of failure and weakness dominated him. -- It was the fear of himself, lest he should be found

to resemble his father?"

Okonkwo to avert this curse as that of his father manifested within himself what it means to be a successful man. He had a large family of three wives with sons and (children) daughters. He had a successful farm and it was one of the largest. He had titles that qualified him as an elder in the village. He was also one of the most successful men in the village with regards to war. Since a man is judged according to his worth and not according to the worth of his father, Okonkwo following the necessary ethical laws and norms of the land is said to be a successful man.

However, fate plays a hard game on Okonkwo. Irrespective of his will to avert a fate like his father's life seems determined that it would end just like his father's smoke or worse.

His misfortunes begin with the ~~loss~~^{death} of Ikemefuna, who called him father, his banishment for 7 years from Anluofia, losing his son Alwu to the missionary and to crown it was his death (suicide) after killing a messenger of the white man. Achebe describes

The saying of the elders

Okonkwo thus " ~~It is~~ said that when a man says yes,
his Chi would also affirm was not true, ... Here
was a man whose Chi said Nay despite his own
affirmation!"

In the life of Okonkwo we see the interplay of bravery,
courage, hardworking, fate, will, determination and
death. All these show the anthropological nature of
Okonkwo's life and how he lived on this society to
challenge them.

CONCLUSION

