Tim Yang & Leo Chai

Mrs. Goldenberg

ENG3UB-03

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# Transcript of Interview with Rudyard Kipling (Author of *The White Man’s Burden*)

## Cast

Gloria Borger (host) – Tim Yang

Mary Ham (co-host) – Tim Yang

Rudyard Kipling – Leo Chai

Victor Gilliam – Leo Chai

## Props

Film crew

Mugs

Mic \* 2

No headphones

Speaker

Radio

## Script

//Play Advertisement;

Gloria Borger: Welcome back to Pewdie-cast. I am your host Gloria Borger, here with my partner, Mary Ham.

Mary Ham: Hello everyone. Mary Ham here, reporting for pewdie-cast

Gloria Borger: So today we have a very interesting topic floating on our subreddit r/Language and literature. Have you heard of it?

Mary Ham: Nay ~~thee~~. what is't?

Gloria Borger: So, I was looking around in the colonialism section for some memes to show my sensei when I came across this post with this very controversial poem.

Mary Ham: Oh, the one about white supremacy?

Gloria Borger: Yes, the one written by Mr. Kipling who we have on the air right now

Mary Ham: What?! Where is he? Where art thou, Mr. Kipling?

//Mr. Kipling comes out of the desk

Rudyard Kipling: Hello, my good sir Mary. How is your day?

Mary Ham: what? I thought you were dead! How did you get a person from the 19th century on the show?

Gloria Borger: well, with the sponsor of this video of course, Audible. Listen to your favorite books on the go with audible, use code pewdiecast through the link in the description to get 20% off of you purchase. My personal favorite book is *On the Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin, which covers the amazing process which evolution took place through the causes of natural selection. Now, time is precious. Please introduce yourself, Mr. Kipling.

Rudyard Kipling: My name is Rudyard Kipling. I write journals, novels, poems and short stories. I am so good at writing that I won the Nobel Prize of Literature in 1907. I was born in India in 1865 but I took school in Britain, and I live in Vermont in USA.

Gloria Borger: So, we have been reading this poem that you wrote back in 1899, “The White Man’s Burden” I believe it is called. Mary, can you read the first stanza for us please.

// Marry Ham reads the first stanza

Marry Ham: That was quite interesting. What are you referring to when you are saying the white man’s burden?

//pause

Alex: viewer discretion is advice for possible offensive content.

Rudyard Kipling: In my time, there were many people that was uncultured and us white people believes that it is our duty to help them out of their state of nature.

Marry Ham: I see you have some fancy terms there. What does the state of nature mean Gloria?

Gloria Borger: The state of nature refers to the time that philosophers hypothesize to be before any organization existed to hold a group together. People of this state is categorized as uncivilized and still in a primal survival mode. So why did you write this poem? What was your goals when you wrote it? How does cultural difference between these groups contribute to their social position?

Rudyard Kipling: As I have stated in my poem, these half-devil half-child savages clearly needs our guidance in order to live a proper civilized life. Thus, we need to take on the burden of teaching them. The purpose of this poem is to tell other white man about our responsibility, as superior beings, to guide these others to live a better life, which they do not deserve. Just pointing that out.

May Ham: That is a very interesting point of view you have there. You know, most people in the current society would not agree to your ideology. Are you still listening?

Rudyard Kipling: I was just reciting a quote from the book On the Origins of Species: “**from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved**.” As man originated from Africa and kept evolving after they left. It is clear that we are a more evolved version of any colored man, and thus we need to help our ancestors, as their intelligence is not competitive enough to match their more evolved descendants.

Gloria Borger: That is some very detailed and subjective phrases you’ve used there Mr. Kipling. We are going to have to stop you there as there is much more to go through. Mary please read the fourth and fifth stanza for us please.

// Marry Ham reads the 4-5 stanza

Gloria Borger: So, from what we analyzed back in the studio, our crew interpreted these stanzas as your calling to white man back in your time. Is that so? Would you be able to provide more detail as to how you used language to convey your thoughts about the marginalization of the time?

Rudyard Kipling: That is very accurate. These three stanzas are my favorite out of the entire poem. In stanza four and all of the stanza before that, I have been focusing on displaying the difficulties faced by white man. For example, I wrote in stanza four “No tawdry rule of kings” to warn people that we are not working for glory, but for the “common things”.

Gloria Borger: Very detailed work you have there, we also noticed that you used an instance of biblicism in your poem. In stanza 5, you used the phrase “Why brought he us from bondage. Our loved Egyptian night?”, which is from the Bible. This alludes to the freeing of the Jews by Moses out of Egypt, and how the slaves were not appreciative of his actions. So, can you tell me why such biblicism about the freeing of the Jews is fitting to the poem within this stanza? How is this connected to the marginalization between disparate cultures back in your time?

Rudyard Kipling: In this instance, I am referring to the native people that we are helping. We are teaching them the truth of life, and the appropriate way to live like a human. However, instead of being returned with thankfulness, they give us blame and hate. I don’t see how this have anything to do with the marginalization of cultures, because we are just trying to help them, and they are not even giving us anything back.

Mary Ham: I am going to have to disagree with you there, as much as I respect you, your views are simply unacceptable today. Your poem clearly aims to marginalize certain cultures and to prioritize whites back in your time. The use of words such as, again, from the first stanza; “Your new-caught, sullen peoples. Half devil and half child” clearly indicating these others as biologically different you, and that they are intellectually inferior.

Rudyard Kipling: The culture of these man? Many tribes kill new born babies and abandon old people. As a sane individual, I see this as completely unacceptable and inhumane. Are these the culture which you are protecting? We are just teaching them how to properly live an appropriate life because we pity them. (These people were indeed half devil half child when we first saw them, but for the name of lord, we must help them, and remove the half devil in them. )

Gloria Borger: Calm down, calm down, we still have a painting to go over. Thank you, Mr. Kipling. Mary, can you pull up the painting by Judge Magazine?

// Rudyard Kipling leaves

Mary Ham: Here it is! The one drawn by Victor Gillam back in 1899 for Judge magazine. Please welcome Victor Gillam on Stage!

//Victor Gillam comes on stage

Gloria Borger: Hello, Mr. Gilliam. Out editorial team was analyzing this painting and came up with the following thoughts: To be clear, the white man depicted here, John Bull and Uncle Sam, are essentially carrying the burden, that is the other cultures, represented by the others. Is that correct?

Victor Gilliam: That is true sir. I drew this to represent the ideology expressed in Mr. Kipling’s poem. As you can see, John Bull and Uncle Sam is stepping on the stones, which represent all the bad things which a nation would need to avoid during its growth.

Gloria Borger: I see that there are words depicting the path to civilization. How were these words chosen for the painting?

Victor Gilliam: These words are representative of all the characteristics that an uncivilized nation needs to get rid of in order to become a civilized nation

Gloria Borger: Can you please explain to us how these words, such as superstition, are related to what happened in history?

Victor Gilliam: Superstition refers to the belief in 3 supernatural being, such as myths, and tales over science and reality. Superstition is what people rely on in their early stages of development of a civilization, and it must be abandoned as civilized nations seek nothing but only the truth. Having it being placed on the rock in this image shows that America and Britain are teaching the right way to approach life. They have the privilege of learning these knowledge through our wise words, we learnt all of these the hard way

Gloria Borger: Thank you very much. I see you have paid much attention to detail when painting this piece of history. For example, you have included details such as the sweat on John Bull and Uncle Sam to show the hard work which the United States and Britain are doing. Moreover, the disparate cultures presented here are also shown to unappreciative of the foreign help through their attempt at escaping the basket.

Victor Gilliam: I see you have very sharp eyes. I have worked very hard on this painting and I appreciate your respect to it.

Gloria Borger: Thank you for your time today, although I do show my respect to your work, it is not suitable for today’s society. But that is all the time we have for today. Again, thank you to Audible for sponsoring today’s podcast. Please check them out and use the code pewdiecast for 20% off. We will see you next time.

# Work Cited

BIOGRAPHY. *Rudyard Kipling Biography*. 2019. document. 8 June 2019.

Darwin, Charles Robert. *On the Origin of Species*. United Kingdome of Great Britain and Ireland: John Murray, 1859. Print.