

# A feast of vultures

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The Feast of Vultures: Meaning and Symbolism\*\*

### Summary of the Feast of Vultures

The Feast of Vultures is a powerful and haunting poem by the acclaimed African writer Chinua Achebe. It depicts a scene of devastation and decay, where vultures gather to feast on the remains of a recent battle.

### Meaning Behind Vultures

Vultures, with their long association with death and decay, play a significant role in the poem. They represent the harsh realities of war, the mercilessness of nature, and the fragility of human life.

### Symbolism of Vultures in the Poem

In the poem, the vultures symbolize multiple concepts:

- **Death and Destruction:** They embody the horrors of war, consuming the remnants of conflict and the lives lost.
- **Oppression and Exploitation:** The vultures feast on the bodies of the oppressed, representing the dehumanizing effects of unjust systems.
- **Cosmic Indifference:** The vultures' indifference to the human tragedy underscores the vastness and uncaring nature of the universe.

### Is Vulture Good or Bad?

In most cultures, vultures have a negative connotation due to their scavenging nature. However, in some indigenous traditions, they hold a more ambiguous or

even positive symbol.

## **Vultures in Greek Mythology**

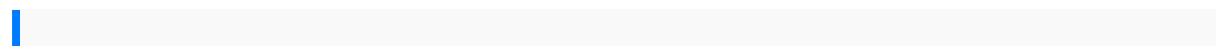
In Greek mythology, vultures are often associated with the god Prometheus, who stole fire from the gods and gave it to mortals. The vulture that tormented Prometheus is seen as a symbol of punishment and divine vengeance.

## **Portrayal of Vultures as Evil**

The portrayal of vultures as evil may stem from their association with the underworld and their scavenging habits. In some cultures, they are believed to be harbingers of misfortune or death.

## **Conclusion**

The Feast of Vultures explores the themes of violence, oppression, and the fragility of human existence. The vultures in the poem embody these somber realities, serving as a potent reminder of the darkness that can permeate even the most sacred experiences.



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