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Research Analysis

In this essay, the DC comic book “Watchmen” by Alan Moore, and Dave Gibbons is used as the argumentative subject; the scholarly articles “The Human Stain: Chaos and the Rage for Order in Watchmen” by Bryan D. Dietrich and “Moore and Gibbons’s Watchmen: Exact Personifications of Science” by Brent Fishbraugh are used as the reference documents, in order to prove the reason that “real world” prefers Dr. Manhattan’s flexible political view over Rorschach extreme morality, Such topic can be approached by the outlaw actions these two main characters.

First, a summary of Dietrich’s article will be provided. At the first quarter of the article, Dietrich mentioned that the “Watchmen” is driven by two forces or characters, one is Rorschach; the other one is Dr. Manhattan; he mentioned that both characters are the symbolism of law breaker, where both characters break the laws under different motive, “Rorschach represents those who would see no gradations of good and evil” (Dietrich 122), “Dr. Manhattan represents those who would see all sides at once, the whole as well as the parts.” (Dietrich 123). Later on, Dietrich explained one of his “stains”, which is the object “eyes” in the “Watchmen”, each pictures of eyes can mean differently. For example, the comedian’s eyes throughout the flashbacks have represented “rapist, murderer, terrorist, vigilante, king-maker....”(Dietrich 126), but because this character has introduced the complex relationship between the first Silk Spectre(Sally Jupiter), because such relationship gave birth to the second Silk Spectre(Laurie),

this action ultimately effected the return of Dr. Manhattan, in such case, he recommended that Dr. Manhattan is a sculpt-able personal. Throughout Dietrich's work, he emphasized the importance of flexibility, which Dr. Manhattan suits this category well; however Rorschach fell behind, and becomes a dispensable character.

Later on the author also made a symbolic connection with Rorschach's mask as one of his "stains", where he pointed out the pain of Rorschach's mask, is either a butterfly or it's a dog's head splits open. "The idea of interpretive malleability or infinite indeterminacy is never far from the fold here." (Dietrich 129). One of his "stains" is the shadows that keep appearing throughout the comic, which can be interpreted as sex, love, hate, fear, etc. The smiley face is mentioned during his article also, meaning changes throughout the comics; he mentioned that at the end, it is up to Rorschach and Dr. Manhattan to interpret Ozymandias' plan, "No, it is Jon and Kovacs who will have to decide if the smile is a smile, or if the world should be turned upside down."

Second, the summary of Fishbaugh's article, author mentioned the origin of "Watchmen" was generated from Moore and Gibbons, that how would their ideal heroes react, when the heroes are placed in the "real" world, which is the time period between Vietnam wars and at the brink of a full on nuclear war between Russia and USA. Fishbaugh mentioned Rorschach's character is created by the environment surrounded him. "Rorschach was created entirely by his environment, and it is that environment which has driven him to the extreme behavior he so often demonstrates." (Fishbaugh 192), he also explained the motive of Rorschach joining is out of guilt, based on the scenario, the murder of Kitty Genovese, and the time when Rorschach discovers a kidnapped child was brutally tortured and fed to the German Shepherd. "it proves to be the turning point in his life" (Fishbaugh 193). Fishbaugh said that's the reason Rorschach

treats the criminals with brutality, instead of being “soft”. He stated that “Rorschach represents the soft, personal, somewhat subjective sciences”(Fishbaugh 194). However Dr. Manhattan is the total opposite of Rorschach.

“Jon represents the cold, hard, true mathematical and chemical science.”(Fishbaugh 194). At this point, the author connects the personalities between Dr. Manhattan and Rorschach, he stated that Dr. Manhattan is the logical character, where Rorschach is the emotional, passion driven character. He criticized Dr. Manhattan losing his humanity slowly to science, however he gave Dr. Manhattan the benefits of being able to adapt when situation rises, based on the conversation of finding his humanity with Laurie, and understanding peace can be kept by force from Viedt’s plan.

Ultimately both Authors stated that the book “watchmen” prefers the character Dr. Manhattan over Rorschach, because Rorschach is the last character that has been killed, and correctly by the hands of Dr. Manhattan.

Rorschach’s character is dispensable, because he is an emotional driven character, where he clearly understand that the world would be safer if Ozymandias’s plan is successfully executed; however his extreme morality of knowing right and wrong gives him the motive of trying to tell the world the real “truth”, such action was denied by directly killing Rorschach’s character in the comic, which in a way Moore and Gibbons rejected the idea “perfect world”. Moore and Gibbons believes there are more to it, than just a clear cut between good and evil; they believe in flexibility, in such sense, they introduce the character Dr. Manhattan. Dr. Manhattan is the total opposite of Rorschach; he believes in possibility, even when Dr. Manhattan got accused of passing cancer to the people, which leads to his exile to Mars, however

he re-discovered his connection with humanity, which means multiple possibilities is the golden keys in Moore and Gibbons' world.

It is a set stone case, when Moore and Gibbons writes off Rorschach's character by having Dr. Manhattan killing him. They directly proved the point: the "real world" prefers Dr. Manhattan's flexible political view over Rorschach extreme morality.