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**The Biography of Oscar Wilde**

Oscar Wilde, one of the most famous and talent writer in Victorian era and world literature history, was born in a middle class family in Dublin, Ireland. On October 16, 1854. Many years later, his name spread out the whole literature world for his notable works.

Wilde’s father, William Wilde was a doctor who knighted for his medical advisor work for the Irish Censuses. He later founded a hospital to use all his personal power to help and treat the city’s poor. Jane Francesca Elgee, Wilde’s mother was a successful poet who has deeply influenced her son’s career chosen and writing style.

In 1864, Oscar Wilde attended the Portora Royal School at Enniskillen. However, he’s an unpopular person among his classmates. Wilde is a young man who interested in beautiful flowers, sunset and Greek literature. Wilde is an excellent student in his college and University. In the last two years of his college life, he won the school’s prize for the top classic and best drawing student

In 1871, Trinity College awarded Wilde the Royal School scholarship to Wilde. At the end of his first year in college, he received the college’s highest honor for undergraduate students—the foundation scholarship}

After graduated from Trinity College, Wilde received the scholarship from the school and he continued his study in Magdalen College, Oxford University. In Oxford, Wilde continued to receive the best grades from his classes. Wilde also started his creative writing in this campus. Right before his graduation, the Newdigate Prize was gave to Wilde for his poem “Ravenna’ as an undergraduate student of Oxford in 1878.

After graduated from Oxford University, Wilde moved to London. In London, he has a good friend called Frank Miles—a high class popular portraitist in London society. Wilde continued his poem writing in London but it only received very few praise from people in literature area. In 1882, Wilde went to the America for his lecture tour. In New York City, he delivered an unbelievable 140 lectures in nine months.

Wilde met with some famous American scholars and literature masters when he don’t have lecture during the time in America. Wilde was so happy to meet with his most admired figure- Whitman. He later described Whitman as “There is no one in this wide great world of America whom I love and honor so much.”

Upon the end of his American tour, Wilde went back to London. He enjoyed the wonderful time of giving lectures so he started another round of lectures between England and Ireland which was ended until the summer of 1884. Wilde began to see himself as a leading figure of the aesthetic movement-- an intellectual and art movement supporting the emphasis of aesthetic values more than social-political themes for literature, fine art, music and other arts.

Constance Lloyd was Wilde’s wife, a rich English woman. She married with Wilde on May 29, 1884 and have two sons: the boy called Cyril born in 1885 and Cyril’s little brother called Vyvyan who born one year after. The English magazine Lady’s World hired Wilde to save their magazine from falling out the fashion one year after his wedding. As the top editor of Lady’s World, Wilde’s excellent ability revitalized this once popular magazine. He redefined the magazine as a book which not only care about what women wear but also their feeling and thoughts. Wilde also made the magazine include the content of literature, art and modern life which even drove male readers felt pleasure while reading this magazine--The Lady's World.

**Wilde’s Works**

From 1888 to 1895, Wilde not only became a great editor of The Lady’s World but also produced all his amazing literature works. *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*, a collection of children's stories, was published in 1888. Three years after, an essay collection arguing the tenets of aestheticism called *Intentions* and Wilde’s only novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* was published. The novel told a story of a beautiful young man, Dorian Gray, who wishes (and receives his wish) that his portrait ages while he remains youthful and lives a life of sin and pleasure.

The novel was referred as a story that has no morality in that age but it now revered as a master piece of Victorian era literature. In the preface of the novel, Wilde defended himself as "an ethical sympathy in an artist is an unpardonable mannerism of style" and "vice and virtue are to the artist materials for an art."

In February 1892, Lady *Windermere's Fan*- Wilde’s first play was opened and widespread popularity and critical acclaim, people were stunned by this play and asked Wilde to change his literature form from poems to playwright. Wilde did accepted those wisely advised and used his talent ability on literature created more famous plays in his era. In the following few years, Wilde wrote the plays: *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *An Ideal Husband* (1895) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895).

**The Turning Point of Wilde’s Life and His Prison Time**

Wilde had a great time while he have gotten so many his literature works been published. However, his abnormal relationship with a handsome young man who’s called Lord Alfred Douglas was discovered by others. On February 18, 1895, the Marquis of Queensberry, the father of Lord Alfred Douglas, had heard the affair about his son and Wilde from other people. As a warning and humiliation for Wilde, the Marquis of Queensberry left a calling card at Wilde's home which said: "Oscar Wilde: Posing Somdomite," a misspelling of sodomite. Although Wilde’s homosexual behavior had already been an open secret for a while, he was so made by this note. He’s reasonable thoughts totally lost in his angry, he made the decision which had ruined his life--to sue the Marquis of Queensberry and let him apologize for what he did.

The Queensberry had an easy victory in this case. On the trial, he and his lawers presented all the key evidences of Wilde’s homosexuality. The evidence include the homoerotic passages in Wilde’s literature works and also the love letters that Wilde wrote to his son- Douglas. Wilde lost the trial and arrest for his indecent behavior in that era. Wilde was charged in the guilty of “gross indecency.” On May 25, 1895, Wilde was sentenced to two years in jail.

In 1897, Wilde finally emerged from prison. He was physically depleted, emotionally exhausted and flat broke. He left London, the city full of miserable memories. Wilde moved to Paris, France. In France, Wilde was spending his time in cheap hotels and friends’ apartments. Douglas came to meet him several time but he eventually left Wilde because he felt that this is no longer the successful married man that he used to love. The painful experiences almost eliminated Wilde’s passionate about writing literature works. In the last few years of his life in France, he wrote very little. “The Ballad of Reading Gaol” was his only notable work as a poem that describes his prisoner life which was completed in 1898.

## The Final Stage of Wilde’s Life and His Legacy

On November 30, 1900, Wilde died at a young age of 46 because of meningitis.

Hundred year have past, the talent Ireland young man was still remembered for his master pieces and his complex personal life—exuberant personality, the excellent literature ability and his homosexual affairs. Wilde’s literary works are the imaginative and undeniably beautiful works. The novel The Picture of Dorian Gray and his play The Importance of Being Earnest, are considered one of the most valuable masterpieces of the late Victorian period.

Throughout the entire life Oscar Wilde, he deeply referred himself as a represent figure of aestheticism and his all his works has expressed Wilde’s idea about the aestheticism that he believes and likes. "All art is at once surface and symbol,"(1) the sentence from Wilde’s novel The Picture of Dorian Gray. "Those who go beneath the surface do so at their peril. Those who read the symbol do so at their peril. It is the spectator, and not life, that art really mirrors. Diversity of opinion about a work of art shows that the work is new, complex and vital."

Work Cited

Wilde, Oscar. The Picture of Dorian Gray. Brooklyn, New York: Millennium Publications, 1890 Edition. Print.