

Summary of the Movie Rashomon::

The movie is all about the philosophy of Justice and truth and honesty. The film is framed by death and birth with innovative cinematography. It is made clear that human nature in expressing or accepting things or incidents is too complex and it varies from man to man and also from the original incidents or ideal concepts. Through a simple setup, the movie reveals the complexities of human nature as four people stated different versions of the story of a man's murder and the rape of his wife especially in being characterized by multiple conflicting or differing versions, perspectives, or interpretations.

The whole incident is stated from the perspectives of a bandit, the bride, the samurai's ghost, and a woodcutter. In 12th century Japan, a samurai, and his wife are attacked by the notorious bandit Tajomaru, and the samurai ends up dead. Tajomaru is captured shortly afterward and is put on trial, but his story and the wife are so completely different that a psychic is brought in to allow the murdered man to give his own testimony. He tells yet another completely different story. Finally, a woodcutter who found the body reveals that he saw the whole thing, and his version is again completely different from the others.

And the movie ends up with a very pathetic scene with a newborn baby indicating purity. Throughout the movie, starting from the suspense from the very beginning, there were many small things to notice and to think about that deeply. Some of the unavoidable ones are the "commoner" tears off pieces of the highly symbolic gate and casually burns them, and he steals the baby's possessions. Even the priest seems to seize on the events for his moralizing purposes.

And what's lasted about Rashomon is the question of what's true. Do, say, four sides of a story ever produce a stable, square truth? Or do you always get something uneven and odd-looking? Those and the questions of man's inherent goodness or badness, which it tries to solve with a sentimental ending. Another way to think about Rashomon and its effect is as an elaborate framework that enables distrust. The film's court never issues a verdict. And it is left up to us. The only way to arrive at an official outcome is to know who to trust. And the answer here is either no one or everyone depends upon individual thinking.

From this movie, we can take the learning that human beings are inevitably duplicitous and self-serving, even we are really unable to be honest with ourselves about ourselves. They cannot talk about themselves without embellishing. But if only we would develop the courage and decency to admit the "truth" about ourselves, the world would be a better place.