

TO FEAR OR NOT TO FEAR: THAT IS THE QUESTION

Fear is a commonplace quality among human beings. From the day we are born, fear invades our lives; and it does not leave. Our everyday existence consists of fear about certain things--school, work, and relationships. Most of this fear is subdued in our subconscious. However, fear is inescapable, important, and it poses serious questions.

The inescapable portion of fear is contained in the subconscious, but still emerges within conscious thought. Death, the most recognizable fear overwhelms many people. It is definitely inescapable, because everyone dies. Some people are afraid of death for the pain before the ending; then again, some people fear what is beyond death. In "The Pearls", fear of death is not a factor. The pearls cause Jensine another great fear: failure. Jensine is very much afraid of losing the pearls from her necklace, because she would greatly disappoint Alexander, her husband. Alexander gave her the pearls as his grandmother instructed him to many years ago, and he expects Jensine to take good care of them. Fear of failure causes Jensine to please Alexander as much as possible. The inescapable portion of fear contributes to the importance of fear.

Despite the dislike of fear, it contains some importance to our everyday lives. Fear causes us to be humble. Fear of death creates a sense of vulnerability within us all. Some people may not show their humbleness a great deal, but their fear of death is beneath their false exteriors. Faith is another reason why fear is important. Fear of the afterlife often overwhelms many of us. Belief in God allows people to feel somewhat secure about the afterlife. The importance of fear links us to the results of fear.

Some fears end fatally, but not all of them do. In "The Pearls", a result of fear is when Jensine questions her life and the future of her marriage. The results also cause Jensine to wonder where her marriage is headed. Jensine examines the truth because of fear. Jensine fears that the truth may be in what Alexander considers to be of more value: the marriage or the pearls. Philosophers and deep-thinkers would dwell on these fears, because the fears are not a life or death situation. The fears create hypothetical situations.

Inescapable quality, importance, and results are the components of fear. Fear is something that is difficult to understand. It is also difficult to deal with for some people.