Quang Huynh

Schrader

Exp. Humanities

08 September 2022

Plot Armor

David is a young shepherd Israeli boy from the biblical verse of *David and Goliath*. One of eight sons, David’s task was to herd the sheep and bring military supplies to his older brothers. At the time, there was an ongoing battle between Palestine and Israel. David was too young and untrained to participate in the battle but thinks he is ready. At first, King Saul doesn’t approve David to fight due to his size and experience in fighting. Saul tells David, “You are not able to go out against him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” (Line 33). Saul thinks that David is too amateur to fight Goliath. Then, David says he has experience in killing lions and bears to defend his sheep. Saul gives into the idea of letting David fight in the battle and offers David bronze armor and metal weapons. David refuses Saul’s offer and enters battle with a slingshot and 5 pebbles. Moreover, David goes to the bottom of the valley of Elah, where Goliath is waiting. Although Goliath is a big and mighty foe with combat experience, he is no match for an agile and clever David. David charges at Goliath and shoots a smooth stone directly at Goliath’s forehead, instantly knocking him. Next, David runs towards the body of Goliath to grab the giant sword of Goliath, where David cuts off his head. Furthermore, King Saul stated that anyone who kills Goliath would get a prize. The Israelites say, “…The king will give a great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his family from taxes in Israel.” (Line 25). Because David came home with the head of Goliath, King Saul granted David’s family special benefits.

There are many artistic depictions of David from David and the Goliath. Many artists throughout the years have tried to recreate their own idea of David in the forms of structures. I believe Andrea del Verrocchio has the best depiction of David. Verrocchio’s structure of David is made out of bronze and shows a young and short David. David looks scrawny, weak and skinny. David looks like he is not an experienced warrior and his stance shows the confidence that he has. In addition, the bronze medium symbolizes how David refuses to battle in bronze gear and David’s attire is very fitting for his character. I appreciate the irony and the connection that it has with the story. David is standing confident and has a skinny shape. This is a direct comparison to the story, where David is a poor, young, weak but clever Shepard. The sculpture shows David’s confidence and arrogance.