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Assignment 1: Boccaccio

The story portrays two knights Sir Guillaume de Roussillon and Sir Guillaume de Cabestanh as friends on a level that they both wore the same emblem. When Cabestanh falls in love with Roussillion’s wife and that feeling is also reciprocated by Roussillion’s wife a tale of passion rises. However this forbidden love takes a twist in which Roussillion finds out about this and develops a hated for his friend. This feeling of hated which is developed by Roussillion is clearly a sign of his experience of betrayal that he may have felt and this in turn leads Roussillion to create a plan to get revenge on the forbidden lovers. To reach his result he hunts down his now estranged friend treating him with no respect and takes Casestanh’s heart from his body as a hunting trophy. After committing this horrendous act with no feeling of remorse Roussillion bring his trophy home. Additionally he uses this trophy as a tool to get revenge on his wife by making here consume the flesh of her lover. Unknowingly the wife consumes the heart of her true love, but after finding out what she had done she takes her life to be with her lover and finally commits an act of revenge on her husband.

This story inherently is a tale of Revenge and Passion. The revenge committed by the knight in form of a murder while the act for his wife being suicide. This aspect of revenge also leads to an idea of control where the knight Roussillon wanted to control his wife which in return would not subdue to this control and commits suicide as her last act of freedom.

The story also conveys a tale of passion like no other. A passion which is forbidden. This idea of passion is directly shown when the wife eats her lover’s heart and when she finds out what she has done she commits suicide. Her idea of not being able to live without her lover and the feeling of guilt of the act she has done suggests that the love she had was true. This suggest that passion is depicted as an ultimate goal between the lover’s and this finally happens in their death when both of them are buried in the same tomb.