

The Mysterious Stranger Story Analysis

Posted on January 8, 2020

Setting, Narration, and the Arrival of the Mysterious Stranger

The short story “The Mysterious Stranger” is described by August Feldner, a 16-year-old printer’s learner. The actions of the short story happen in 1490 in the tiny village of Eseldorf, Austria.

August is living and working in a dilapidated ancient fortress where the photocopy workshop is situated. Heinrich Stein, a gentleman of the age of mid-50s and the leader and master of the printing shop is mentioned all over the short story as the master. The master is living in the fortress with his partner, Frau Stein, and her 17-year-old descendants from an earlier wedding, Marie Vogel. The sister of the master, Frau Regent, and her 17-year-old daughter, Margit Regent, are also living there. In accumulation to August, there are six further people who work in the printing shop, and they all are living in the castle: Ernest Wasserman, Hans Katzenjammer, Moses Haas, Adam Bins, Gustav Fischer and Barty Langbein. A conjurer by the name of Balthasar Hoffman is also living in the castle (“The Mysterious Stranger, and Others by Mark Twain”).

“Nothing exists; all is a dream. God-man—the world—the sun, the moon, the wilderness of stars—a dream, all a dream; they have no existence. Nothing exists to save space—and you!” (“The Mysterious Stranger Quotes by Mark Twain”).

Number 44 and the Disruption of the Printing House

Someday, a teenager of around 16 or 17 comes to the castle, outfitted in tatters and supplanting for foodstuff. When he is inquired about his name, he states them it is Number 44, New Series 864,962. On the inquiry of this uncommon forename, a majority of the people of the castle complained that he must be expelled from the castle. But Katrina, the ancient cook, rises to his protection and asserts that he must be allowed to live in the castle. The master approves to permit Number 44 to start working in the castle doing different responsibilities.

“I know your race. It is made up of sheep. It is governed by minorities, seldom or never by majorities. It suppresses its feelings and its beliefs and follows the handful that makes the most noise” (“The Mysterious Stranger Quotes by Mark Twain”).

Shortly, the master suggestions Number 44 a post as the trainee in the printing shop. The majority of

the men employed in the shop make instant hating expressions to Number 44 and start doing a lot things as they can to overtask and embarrass him. August textures kindness for Number 44 but sees that if he speaks whatever is in Number 44's protection, he will be disliked by the rest of the people in the castle. The residents of the fortress initiate to consider that Number 44 has enchanted controls, and they undertake that the conjurer, Balthasar, has provided him with these magical powers ("The Mysterious Stranger, and Others by Mark Twain").

Finally, August furtively makes friends with Number 44, and Number 44 enlightens that, though Balthasar has given him certain enchanted control, he previously had enchanted controls beforehand he reached the castle. Number 44 says that he desires to endorse the knowledge that his controls originate from Balthasar to strengthen the conjurer's standing. Number 44 explains how August is unseeable. August also studies that Number 44 can understand and read his opinions and views from his mind ("The Mysterious Stranger").

Conflict, Labour Resistance, and the Acceptance of Number 44

The person who was working in the printing shop requested that Number 44 should be expelled from the printing shop, but the master refused to expel him. Lastly, they adapt to start a strike against Number 44 until he is expelled from the castle. The printing shop imagines completing the book of Bibles, but the work is unable to be completed, provided that the men are on the walkout. Distressed by these proceedings, the master had come to be severely sick and lay down on his bed.

In the middle of this catastrophe, the traveling copier Doangivadam reaches the fortress. Knowing the circumstances, Doangivadam instantly took edge toward Number 44, among all the other printing shop employees. One night, they all went up to the shop and discovery that unseen workforces were mysteriously producing the Bibles. By the next day, the order to print Bible books is completed, and the catastrophe is ended. However, the men are on strike.

The people of the shop decide that Balthasar has provided Number 44 with the magic supremacies to comprehend the Bible production deprived of them. They loom to have Balthasar scorched as a heretic, except he is forced to make a promise to stop Number 44 from accomplishing furthermore magical activity. Balthasar said that if Number 44 accomplishes the further, more magical activity, he will perform an incantation that will diminish the boy to ashes.

Doubles, Identity, and the Supernatural Transformation of the Workers

After that one night, the men are all taking food altogether, and abruptly everyone discovers that his

Identical has seemed in the apartment. The Identical whose appearance was precisely like their Original one were enlightened that they were Mark Twain, eager to start working in the printing shop, and they would hand over their salaries to their Original.

The finest method to tactic this subsequent story is to describe solipsism which means alone is signifying self, in the Latin language. The mind of solipsism struggles that the character can be alert of nothing but it's his own involvements and conditions. The viewpoint of solipsism debates that, consequently, the only reality of which one can be categorically unquestionable is nature.

In this unusual fundamental short story, Mark Twain essentially went outside the idea of solipsism. He is not just saying that nothing but the person can be recognized by the character. He speaks that nothing but the character subsists. Hence, later, Theodor discovers himself, and this finding of character is expected in the Bildungsroman (psychosomatic story) but at an astounding worth. The personality he determines is just only a supposed story or thought, and the cosmos with which he was allocating is only his creative and imaginary fantasy.

Satan, Morality, and the Philosophical Conflict of the Story

Furthermore to this main disagreement of the story, there are numerous minor melodies. Satan was a seraph earlier to his descent, but meanwhile, God hasn't figured it in the narrative, Satan takes the rule the domain of the short story. Satan is remarkable and as diverse as Theodor as a monster from a minor inflamed spider; he is uninterested in the dilemma of mortality and completely deprived of ethical consciences.

"Satan was accustomed to saying that our race lived a life of continuous and uninterrupted self-deception. It duped it from the cradle to the grave with shams and delusions, which it mistook for realities, and this made its entire life a sham. Of the score of fine qualities which it imagined it had and was vain of, it possessed hardly one. It regarded itself as gold and was only brass" ("The Mysterious Stranger Quotes by Mark Twain").

Human History, Pessimism, and Twain's Final Vision

The damaging precipitate of the human past was attained beforehand in the Origin novel of the Flood and William Godwin's Enquiry (1793).

However, what outcomes is an unusually delightful and absorbing philosophy example. The complete short story, panache, event, and enthusiasm develop rechargeable each time Satan seems. Existence is certainly cloudy in the middle. The boys love him, beseeching him to stay, adoring him, overjoyed

in his attendance. Satan is the lovely, influential counselor all boys pursue, and the person who reads is persuaded that Satan adores them (“The Mysterious Stranger, and Others by Mark Twain”).

Theodor is so truthful and simply worried, at one and at the same time so loving and interrogative, that one classifies simply with the youngster, no matter what the age of a person. Throughout the Socratic interchange that follows among the 16 thousand years old, well-known, and humble infancy, the person who reads the story segments the adolescent’s miracle and wriggles with his uneasiness. In the last part, when he is leftward categorically unaccompanied in that place, the person who reads must be emotionally distressed and spreads out with the relationship for which Theodor aches and which Satan entitlements he could never have.

Works Cited

“The Mysterious Stranger, and Others by Mark Twain.” N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Sept. 2017.

“The Mysterious Stranger Quotes by Mark Twain.” N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Sept. 2017.

“The Mysterious Stranger: Summary, Analysis & Quotes.” *Study.com*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Sept. 2017.