



The study of symbols of kafka metamorphosis

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ABSTRACT

The Metamorphosis is the most famous work by Franz Kafka, published in 1915. The story is about a travelling sales man by the name Samsa Gregor who wakes up to find himself transformed into an insect. Franz Kafka used a number of stylistic devices including descriptive imagery metaphors and when writing The Metamorphosis. I will describe three of the main symbols used: the insect, the picture of the woman, and the furniture.

Keywords: The metamorphosis Franz Kafka, Franz Kafka symbolism.

1. INTRODUCTION

The story begins with Gregor Samsa waking up as an insect. As the story proceeds on, Gregor accepts himself being an insect and never questions why or how this transformation could happen. His only concern is getting to work. Gregor not being worried about his new condition makes the audience question whether or not he had even physically changed at all. The household in which Gregor was living had complications. Before Gregor's transformation, he had been living a rather gloomy life, comparable to an insect. He consumed himself in his work to provide and support his family. He did not have any other friends, and besides his sister, he had slight communication with his parents. This symbolizes his state of being. Gregor did not wake up and turn into an insect. He had finally realized that he had been an insect for a good bit of time.

The symbolism of the insect

From the beginning of The Metamorphosis Kafka offers a comical depiction of Gregor's "squirming legs" (Kafka 13) and a body in which "he could not control" (7). Gregor's initial reaction to this situation was the fact he was late to his dissatisfying job as a salesman, but Gregor knows that he has to continue his job in order to keep the expectation his family holds upon him to pay of the family's everlasting debt. When Gregor's family eventually realizes that Gregor is still lying in his bed, they are confused because they have expectations on Gregor that he will hold the family together by working. They know if Gregor was to quit his job there would be a great catastrophe since he is the glue to keeping their family out of debt. The communication between his family is quickly identified as meager and by talking to each other from the adjacent walls shows their disconnection with each other. Kafka introduces the family as lacking social skills in order to offer the reader to criticize and sympathize for Gregor's family dynamics. Gregor's manager makes an appearance quickly after experiencing the dysfunction within the family, the manager expresses his concern with his lack of inadequate "duties in the firm" and the "really shocking manner" he has been communicating towards his job (11). When Gregor finally gets the door ajar, "only half his body is visible" and his grotesque body is revealed to his family and manager (15). Undoubtedly, Gregor feels