

Interpretive Thesis – The Positive Prince

Introduction

In the novel “The Positive Prince” under the “Famous Tales”, edited by Mary Walker, we look into the journey of the relationship between a statue and a swallow as they grow even closer to each other. In the field of psychology, “Attachment Theory” describes an interesting dynamics of these types of relationships. For one, this can be applied to the interpretation behind the statue and the swallow’s attraction patterns in “The Positive Prince”.

The Dynamics of the Relationship

According to the concept behind the Attachment Theory, the relationship that exists between the lonely statue and the active swallow can be considered as similar to that of a child-caregiver relationship (APA, 2004). The swallow serves as the caregiver, while the status can be considered as the child. Take note that it is the dynamics of the actual relationship between the two which is quite similar to the child-caregiver relationship. Similarly, there is also no connection with their actual age.

The Attachment Theory also suggests that the moment the child starts to predict some patterns with his or her caregiver, there will be an expected turn to the relationship. The connection will now start to develop some differences between the individuals, making their relationships quite different from that of other relationships. This particular scenario was easily evident in “The Positive Prince” the moment the relationship starts to develop, coming from an awkward, hesitant state, to that which is more secure. As the two characters started to bond with each other, there have been changes in the way interaction happens.

The Attachment Pattern of the Statue



At the start of the story, the attachment pattern of the statue is that of someone who is quite anxious. However, as time passed by, as the story continues to develop, that pattern started turning to being something that is more secure. Eventually, the statue started showing some signs and a pattern of being anxious, as shown in the way it has become exaggeratingly clingy to the swallow. At a certain point in time, the swallow even sought for consistent reassurance from the swallow.

In “The Positive Prince” the statue consistently begs for the attention of the swallow, asking him to stay all throughout the night. This happens every day, showing how the statue actually feels. The statue shows some signs of fear that one day, the swallow might leave him any time. As time passed by, the statue starts to put trust on the swallow even more. When that happened, the attachment pattern also changed from feeling anxious to that of being secure.

Towards the end of the story, the statue continue to protests about the absence of the swallow. Still, it accepts the fact, and feels comforted every time the swallow returns. However, when the swallow finally dies, the statue cannot bear living without him, thus dying as well. This scenario shows that the statue simply reverted back to its anxious pattern.

The Attachment Pattern of the Swallow

Still making use of the Attachment Theory, the attachment pattern of the swallow, assuming the role of the caregiver, is one that is classified as a secure attachment pattern. The swallow gives a favorable response to the statue in an appropriate way, even timely at that. This is evident in several scenarios within the text, as the swallow carries the tasks promptly. For instance, the swallow carefully picked the ruby from the sword of the statue, delivering a beautiful girl, and returning promptly to spend the

night by the statue's side. The moment when the swallow was no longer sure whether or not he should continue to do what the statue wanted him to do, he was always there to carry out with the tasks.

Conclusion

The story behind "The Positive Prince" highlights the relationship between a statue and a swallow, following a series of events in their everyday life. When connecting it with psychology's Attachment Theory, both of the character showed patterns that are clear, including their relationship dynamics (Madison, 2004).

References

- American Psychology Association (2004). Understanding the Concept behind Attachment Theory. Sacramento: APA.
- Madison, H. (2004). The relationship between attachment theory and relationship dynamics. *Behavioral Psychology*, 12, 24-30.
- Walker, M. (1999). *The Positive Prince*. In *Famous Tales*. New York: Children's Publication.