

THE WAR OF EMPYRIA (BOOK ONE)

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ABSTRACT

In this creative work, the author would like to give picture of the reality and phenomenon happening in the life of humanity through a fantasy novel. The main theme that is used in this creative work is ambition. In this project, he would like to show how ambition can drive each individual into taking any action that will lead them closer to their goals. He would also explore how the bloom of ambitions can be triggered by many things such as revenge, sense of justice, or dissatisfaction. The purpose of this novel is to show how every person has the natural existence of ambition in themselves. However, sometimes the reasons of those ambitions for every person are differing in each other, and in some certain states can lead to a conflict.

Keywords: revenge, ambition.

INTRODUCTION

As the writer of this novel, the author wants to show how expensive is the price to maintain the universal peace of humanity. We know that sometimes there are those whose ideals and desire violate the freedom and the life of majority people, and therefore we who consider ourselves as the defender of righteousness shall make a stance. However, there are times when we have to fight those whom we love because their ideals confront with our concept of righteousness. It must be difficult especially if the one we must fight against is the one who has painted dreams and endured hardships together with us to fight for a noble purpose. However, as time flies by, our path is separated. Our concepts of noble purpose are not in line anymore, but contradicting each other instead. This novel will give a picture to the readers of how two warring concepts can involve a whole land in a war. It also proposes an idea that even among differences, peace can be maintain as long as we respect and trust each other.

The novel that he writes is about two young knights who walk their path of destiny, and also five kingdoms struggle to maintain peace. The two young knights and those kingdoms will find problems await in their path of destiny, especially the antagonist whose urge is driven by revenge. The focus of problems in here is actually the psychology of the round character (Althier) and the antagonist (Ubel). After observing the phenomenon related to humanity which happens recently, the author concludes that human is a being which can be easily disunited by different interests. After understanding that fact, in this first book, here are some problems which he explores:

1. Why someone wants power?
2. What can happen when one's desire contradicts with the will of people?
3. How revenge can trigger someone's ambition?

After some observation, the author tries to answers those questions as following :

1. Someone wants power in order to achieve some certain goals which vary

for every individual. With power, one can create, rule, control, direct, achieve, and persuade.

2. When one's desire contradicts with the will of people, he/she will be resisted and recognized as an antagonist by the people who resist his/her attempt to fulfill his/her desire.
3. Ambition can make someone justify every deed of him/her such as betrayal, deception, slander, murder, and genocide as the right thing.

THEORY

In this creative work, the author uses five theories which are related to each other. Those four theories are *Need for Power*, *Psychology of Ambition*, and *Psychology of Revenge*.

Need for Power

The need for power can be two types, which are personal and institutional (McClelland's Theory of Needs). Those who need personal power want to direct others. While, those who need institutional power want to organize the efforts of others to further the goals of the organization. One's need for power can bloom as he/she finds his/her goal through the process of experiencing life.

In this creative work for example, Althier needs power to fulfill his ambition of purifying the world. While for Ubel, he needs power to seek for revenge. However, both needs both institutional power and personal power to fulfill their goals.

It is also in line with Nietzsche's idea of will to power. He mentions that Will to Power is a natural drive in human inner self, not a morality or immorality, but simply because human is living. When there is a need for power, there must be an ambition inside one's heart.

Psychology of Ambition

Ambition can be defined as a strong desire to achieve something. Ambition can be related to Abraham Maslow's theory of hierarchy of needs (Saber Roy, 2008). In Hierarchy of Needs, ambition can be included in the same group under the *esteem needs*, for esteem needs is the need of achievement and self esteem. So does ambition which factor can be also the need to achieve something or to increase self esteem. How ambition related to this creative work can be seen clearly through the actions of each character whether it leads to morality or immorality, whether it is triggered by a noble purpose, vengeance, dissatisfaction, or lust. Various ambitions are depicted in the story. For example, one of the antagonists in the story which is the older brother of the main protagonist has the ambition to expand his power to the entire land, because he is unsatisfied with his current power. He wants to achieve more wealth, more power, and more territories.

Psychology of Revenge

Revenge or vengeance according to is a form or an act of retaliation, retribution, and infliction of punishment done by someone to a person or a group who has mistreated, injured, humiliated, or harmed him/her. Related to the psychology of ambition, vengeance is also one of the factors which trigger someone's ambition. I can conclude that the bloom of revenge in someone's heart is not caused merely because he/she has been mistreated, but more than that. Being mistreated is just the trigger, but the reason is more than that, and quite logical.

There is a quotation from Shakespeare, "If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?"

And if you wrong us, shall we not revenge?" (Karyn Hall, 2013). In here, Shakespeare wants to say that revenge is actually a natural drive in the heart of humanity. People want to seek for revenge because some of them want to regain their self esteem, for they feel that they have been humiliated. By making the ones who have humiliated them losing their self esteem, the avenger will feel that they have regained their self esteem. Some others believe that revenge is the way to maintain justice. They believe that it is actually a form of protection or prevention against someone's wrong act so that in the future he/she will not hurt anyone else. While the others might believe that revenge is simply a way to regain their rights, and to make the target feel what they feel so that both will feel even.

However, from my study on those websites I mentioned above, I can conclude that a bad manifestation of revenge will not make us feel happy. It will omit love in our hearts, replacing it with hatred and anger. In fact, when we commit revenge, we usually will do worse than those who have wronged us, which means that our revenge makes us worse than him/her.

Revenge has become an issue in many creative works, whether it is a novel, film, comic, or many others. Revenge is a theme which makes a story becomes interesting to follow, whether the genre is romance, epic fantasy, action, or even comedy. In this creative work of mine, revenge is also one of the issues which make the story line flows till the end. However, from my study I also conclude that revenge does not always affect bad if we can manage it in a good way. The example in this story is Lucius (the main protagonist) and Althier (the main antagonist) when they are still studying in the military academy. In the beginning of their studies there, they have been underestimated and bullied by their schoolmates and seniors. However, they finally prove that they are worthy by keep practicing harder. Finally, they become the strongest and the best graduates. It shows that we actually can manage others' wrong attitude toward us as a motivation in a positive way.

However, if we cannot manage it, the example will be like the main antagonist in this story, Ubel the Fallen Angelus. He has been driven by revenge in doing his actions. He considers his revenge as a way to punish those who have expelled him from his homeland. The problem is that his act of revenge becomes threats for the life of many people. Therefore, it makes him worse than those expellers of him, and therefore his attempt of revenge must be stopped at once. It will also be related to my next theory which is the will of all when someone's act is violating other people's rights.

SYNOPSIS

Lucius and Althier are two young men, two best friends who have just graduated from Glabadir Academy. Althier becomes Lucius' adopted brother since the graduation. After the graduation, they decide to go home to Zerenia City. After meeting Vagros, they are told of secret things by him, that they are the Chosen Ones who can wield the Legendary Swords. Vagros feels that there are traitors near him. He only trusts Lucius and Althier, for Himmel the Angelus says that those boys are the only ones he can trust. Vagros says that they must meet Zerchius to take the Key of Darkness and the Key of Light which are now safe in his hands. Vagros gave the Key to Zerchius because he has the intuition that bad things will happen soon in West Kargia. Vagros says that Ubel the Fallen Angelus bring chaos to Emyryia, and Ubel is recruiting allies. After the meeting, unfortunately, an unexpected experience comes to them. Vagros, Lucius' father is killed, and Althier is accused of the murder. Althier and Lucius are imprisoned, and

Althier is decided to be executed on the next day. However, in the midnight, Mr. Steigen (Lucius' and Althier's teacher) comes to rescue them. As they are running away, Mr. Steigen is outnumbered by Dylindur and Kargia soldiers. Finally, Mr. Steigen is killed. Althier and Lucius keep running until they jump to a river and get separated.

After they get separated, Lucius finds himself in Farvalia Kingdom and makes an alliance with them, while Althier is in East Kargia. They meet again in the Battle at Glabadir. In the battle, they also manage to possess the Legendary Swords. The Keys are also in their hands yet. Their first missions are accomplished. Lucius and Althier also get new allies, which are the Eaglemen of Galadia after helping those Eaglemen to defend against the assault from the Wizards of Orvadia.

In the end, after coming home from the battle in Galadia, Althier finds the truth of what he seeks. He also discovers the fact that Zerchius was actually the one who responsible in burning his home village. Althier becomes the Rozen of East Kargia after marrying Gloria and killing Zerchius for the sake of vengeance.

CONCLUSION

Lessons Learned

In the process of making this creative work, the author has learned how to write a good fantasy story. Different from realistic story which usually takes settings from the real world, in fantasy genre, in the case of this creative work, he uses the setting in the world of fantasy which he creates himself. A good fantasy story is a realistic fantasy story. Even though it is a fantasy story, but it must be realistic, in the case of its details and explanations about the "systems" applied in that particular fantasy world. That is the thing which becomes the challenge to write a fantasy story. Not everyone can imagine and create a whole new world from nothing. To make the story sounds realistic and believable, many details are needed, whether it is about the architecture, the geographic condition, the language, the political systems, the life style, the map of the territories, and many other aspects. Deep research, observation, logical thinking, and imagination are needed to write a fantasy story.

Future Plans

Besides becoming the student in this university, the author is also a musician in my everyday life. Besides playing band, he also has a solo project which everything is composed by me, from the orchestration, the lyrics, and all the aspects. The lyrical story in my first solo project album, which is still in progress too, is actually connected to this novel. As a composer, my musical and lyrical style is also fantasy-based.

The story in my album takes place 1000 years before the story in this novel. The origin past history of Empyria and Aeria is also revealed in my album. Thus, after working on this novel so far, I also decide to make another album based on this novel in the future as the continuation of my first album. He also plans to publish this novel, with the help of his friends, so that when his album based on this novel has finished, he can include that as the bonus for those who buy my novel, or maybe vice-versa.

Moreover, he will also continue writing the Second Book and the Third Book as well.

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