

Titus andronicus is a  
primeval man essay



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Titus Andronicus is a primeval man. His behaviors were all based on natural impulses instead of reasoned, justified actions. When he allowed the ritualistic murder of Tamora's son, killed his daughter Lavinia, murdered the two remaining sons of Tamora and feed the flesh to her prior to killing her, he perfectly exemplified man's inclination for barbaric actions. It was cruel, brutal and unnecessary. His actions were driven by anger. He was consumed by revenge. All these constitute to man's primal instinct; to act on impulse, without reason nor justification for such actions. He is monstrous for acting in a brutal manner.

He is narcissistic for wanting revenge for the betrayal and anguish he felt, thus the murderous, barbaric acts. Unlike Oedipus, who eventually realized the mistakes of his actions and tried to atone for them by blinding and exiling himself, Titus Andronicus did not have any feeling of atonement, or repentance. Aaron is a cunning man. His actions are less barbaric than those of Titus, however, this doesn't mean that Aaron is a better character than Titus. Both of them are barbaric only on different degrees and in different ways but barbaric nonetheless. The sphinx is a monster that lures its victims through the face and voice of a virgin, wings of a bird and talons of a griffin. It proposes riddles and promises fortune for those who are able to solve the riddles and demise for those who fail.

Amongst the sphinx, Titus, Aaron and Oedipus, The sphinx may be considered the most barbaric. It attracts its victims like a predator lures its prey. Unlike the human characters mentioned, the sphinx has no concept of conscience and remorse. It does not and will never regret the deaths it imposes on its victims. Science is comparable to the sphinx. Science, seen

by ignorant, untrained eyes, may be viewed as something marvelous and inspiring just as the face and voice of a virgin are viewed beautiful by unsuspecting victims of the sphinx. The riddles of the sphinx may be viewed as scientific arguments and theories.

When one becomes a victim of science, one becomes fixated by its principles. One goes in search for answers in great lengths and efforts. The victim becomes determined to act on the given principles and find the answers to scientific questions, for the victim is only given two choices: a fountain of knowledge or a life forever troubled by questions left unanswered. Furthermore, the promise of fortune through scientific success confines the victim in the scientific realm while overlooking the possible catastrophe that may happen when one fails in the scientific arena. Science, like the sphinx will always be alluring to gullible, unwary victims. In this day and age, one needs to be cautious in its quest for knowledge. When you go too deep in your journey and you get lost, you might find it hard to find your way back to the correct path. Titus, Aaron, Oedipus and the sphinx all presented the human qualities of revenge, grief, regret, atonement, and hunger for truth and knowledge.

Today, we are expected to act in a cultured manner. There is no room for barbaric behaviors. The traits presented by these characters should remind us of how far man has changed and make us realize that despite these changes, there are still plenty of room for improvement.       WORKS

CITED Bacon, Francis.

The Sphinx. Shakespeare, William. Titus Andronicus. Sophocles.

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Oedipus. Oedipus, The king by Sophocles“ Sphinx or Science”. <http://www.mlahanas.de/Greeks/Texts/Bacon/AncientWisdom6.html>