

Young goodman brown

Literature



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Young Goodman Brown Young Goodman Brown is a short story by Nathaniel Hawthorne and it uses the third person narrative point of view. The narrator tells the story of a young person called Goodman Brown who departs his wife Faith in search of something strange in the forest. Therefore, Goodman acts as the protagonist guiding the plot especially his despair in faith and how it ruins humanity. A doubt in faith forces him to question the essence of salvation in life. However, there are antagonists in the story such as Faith, Good Cloyse, and an old man he meets in the forest. Consequently, the three antagonists demonstrate the theme of Puritanism that afflicts the main character when he attempts to comprehend the functions of belief and salvation amidst existence. It is such confusions and doubts that make Brown an unhappy man because nobody is determined to tell him the truth (Hawthorne 2). He is also unhappy because he harbors excesses of self-doubt concerning marriage that he now equates to depravity.

Brown could have behaved in a different way especially for himself and his family if he acknowledged the futility of religion and its use for humanity. This means he should have practiced self-restraint in making critical judgments against the institution of marriage that compels Faith to leave him. As a result, Hawthorne is trying to caution people against overreacting to situations or particular sins committed by humanity because it is something inevitable. It is also in human beings to cause moral harm to others in the disguise of religion (Hawthorne 3).

Work Cited

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *Young Goodman Brown*. New York, NY: SAGE. 2011. Print.