

Gilgamesh

Philosophy



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Anas Musharraf Browning CORE 104 6 March Gilgamesh In, The Epic of Gilgamesh, Jackson uses her female characters to influence men. It is apparent from the poem that women have all the power required to change a man's attitude or behavior. In this poem, sex plays a significant role since it has a strong hold on Gilgamesh and Enkidu who are some of the most powerful men, in this society. Gilgamesh is a ruggedly and super strong mortal king of Uruk. The king spends most of his free time making love to each new bride on the eve of their wedding. These women's husbands are not pleased with Gilgamesh's actions, but they cannot do anything because he is the king who is at liberty to do anything he desires.

The gods recommended that Gilgamesh required a powerful, restless and adventurous hero to be his friend and worthy opponent. Aruru, the womb goddess, decided to pick on Enkidu who lived in the wilderness amongst the animals, disturbing hunters and farmers. Therefore, one of the gods convinced Shamhat, a temple harlot, to make a civilized and humble man out of him by sleeping with him for a period of one week. However, just after having the first taste of sex, Shamhat successfully manages to convince him to come and live in the temple. She promises to introduce her to some good friends and even teach him to live as a civilized human something that he accepts. Gilgamesh and Enkidu became great friends, and since that time, Gilgamesh became so committed to his duties as a king to extent that he turned down goddess Ishtar's offer to sleep with her.

The power of women and sex, in this play, is also demonstrated when Gilgamesh turns down goddess Ishtar's offer to sleep with her. In response, he asked Ishtar, " but how could I repay you as a wife and still avoid the bitterness and strife that follow you?" (Jackson 36). This indicates how the <https://assignbuster.com/gilgamesh-essay-samples/>

gods and goddess were highly powerful and any attempt to reject their demands would result into a serious punishment. In this case, sex is used as a supreme demand that Gilgamesh has to accept. This is the reason why Ishtar released the bull to destroy the people of Uruk and it is what led to Enkidu's death. This context is further used to change Gilgamesh's attitudes and behaviors.

In the attempt to end shame and acquire immortality, Gilgamesh again is helped by a woman, Utanapishtim's wife. Gilgamesh is ashamed with his attitudes and behaviors, and he says, " I now race from place to place, dissatisfied with wherever I am and turn my step to Utnapishtim" (Jackson 59). He asked Utanapishtim, " Help me Utanapishtim. Where is home for one like me whose self was robbed of life?" (Jackson 85). The woman used her power, as a woman, to make Gilgamesh come into terms with real life and the majesty of his kingdom. This is an indication of how Jackson employed the theme of sex and women to develop the theme of the story about changing the attitude and behaviors of wild and mighty men.

Works Cited

Jackson, Danny P. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. Wauconda, Ill., USA: Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, 1997. Print.