

The son's veto essay



"The Son's Veto" basically revolves around the relationship between a mother and son.

This short story offers us, the readers, a very insightful critique of the social class system in-place in England during the nineteenth century. The plot begins where the story introduced the protagonist, Sophy, who is a rather "humble" human from a rural English village; a fact that plays a major role in her unhappiness throughout the story. After she marries into a more "proper" existence, Sophy and her new husband, Mr Twycott, a preacher 20-years her elder, are socially forced to relocate because they had committed "social suicide" by combining two distinct classes. Randolph, the son of Sophy and Mr Twycott is refined by the high class of society he is involved in. He is proud, arrogant and believes himself to possess the qualities that were demanded in a gentleman's society because of his father's clerical position.

This is obvious in him even as a young boy, in the way he carries himself-with all the polish of a public school student. He is very fastidious, impatient and sometimes very unfeeling; this is evident in the way he behaves towards his mother. For example : He dominates her emotionally and hurts her ever so badly with his insensitive orders. We find him devoid of affection for her and he is ever so shameful about her lack of lady-ship, her incorrect way of grammar and speech and even the little mistakes she makes now and then. out-casting her because of her past or when he tells her that he is ashamed of her for wanting to remarry a man from her lower-class past it is evident that strong social prejudices existed during this time period as he oversteps the guidelines of behaviour towards elders, especially his mom.

When Sophy wanted to get married to Sam, she took Randolph's opinion first but he refused, horrified that his reputation as a 'higher class person' would be ruined so he refused to allow for his mom to marry Sam and made her swear not to marry him without his approval. How can a son who eventually becomes a well-respected priest treat his own mother like 'garbage' when she is older than him? I guess the proverb, "Like Father, Like Son" applies in this story and Randolph's characteristics clearly display the apparent social prejudices that existed in 19th century England. For a son to keep his own mother from acting on the only thing that would make her happy proved that class divisions were quite a serious issue and could hardly be resolved even within a family. As the story progresses, we find that he is ripped away from basic human qualities- he has no feelings for the underprivileged, or the so-called low class of society, other than contempt and disrespect and down to earth prejudices.

His uncaring thoughts are apparent in his words as he talks of his mother's background. Although he is half country-boy, he tries to cover up the fact that he is one. He cherishes the belief that he is a gentleman with every ounce of his being. He is ashamed of his mother's background and claims that it has already done enough damage to him.

He is very obstinate, as he sticks firmly to his decisions and never moves away from them, as we can see till the end of the story. Even then he doesn't regret his decision of not letting his mother marry Sam. He is desperate to carry his culture and ambience unscathed and shows that he would do anything to protect it. Moreover, we can see that Randolph clearly respects his father as he believes that if his mother had married Sam, it

would bring disrespect or dishonour his father. ' I owe this to my father! ' he said shows how much he disliked the idea of Sophy marrying a lower-class person. Lastly, we can see that Randolph loathes/ dislikes Sam the gardener as he suspect him of clouding his mother's judgement and decisions by asking for her hand in marriage, thus, spoiling his reputation! Lastly we can also see that Randolph is very self-centred and selfish as he does not care about his mother's feelings and only cared about his own views and beliefs.

Sophy is always left alone ever since her husband passed away without a companion. Randolph is always out and becomes a successful young smooth-shaven priest. Like Eve and Adam..... very woman need a man as their companion to complete each other through marriage is a social union or legal contract between people called spouses that creates kinship. The definition of marriage varies according to different cultures, but is usually an institution in which interpersonal relationships, usually intimate and sexual, are acknowledged.

How can Sophy's son (priest) cannot understand or helped his other by the can guide, help everyone else towards the right path of life? In conclusion, Randolph is very stubborn that does not care about the well-being of others (mom) but himself.