

Analysis on Approaches of Death in “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night”

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Article Received: 07/08/2023

Article Revised:06/09/2023

Article Accepted:09/09/2023

Published Online:11/09/2023

DOI:10.47311/IJOES.2023.5.09.38

Abstract:

The poem “Do not go gentle into that good night” is written by Dylan Thomas which was dedicated to his father. The major conception of this poem is that death is inevitable and endured with contrastive ideas such as celebration, sorrowful, bravely, courageously. This paper aims at analyzing the different approaches of death which is experienced by people in life with reference to Do not go gentle into that good night.

Keywords: Inevitable death, Wise men, good men, wild men, grave me, revival of hope.

Introduction:

Dylan has written this poem for his dying father in order to motivate him to fight against the death and face it bravely. Later after many analyses, critics state that this poem not only motivates Dylan’s father but also several people who are stuck in between many consequences of life and death. The title of the poem itself creates a strong inspiring statement that do not go gentle into that good night, here Dylan uses the term ‘good night’ as death. A person should not gently go into the sleep of death; he or she should strive to fight against the inevitable death. In our life, death is considered as the saddest element which makes a distance between the departed person and the eternal world. All the good deeds of men are cherished forever but their existence is only vanished. Hence a person should not easily give up in his life, instead should accept the struggles and move on. In this poem, Dylan describes about four types of men who have different approaches of death and how they react in their life with conflicts.

Wise men’s approach:

The first category of men are Wise men, Dylan portrays this kind of men as scholarly people who considers death as a natural process of life. They don’t fear dead, they endure it as a part which comes at the end of life. These men are in the eager to make their lives remarkable by holding on to the life even at their struggles. They face death with the dignity in order to overcome the fear of death. Wise men strive for their existence in this world to

create an individuality and powerful message. They have the contrastive idea of accepting death and at the same time they tend to fight against the inevitable death to make their life and teachings revolutionary. In the second stanza, where Dylan describes about the wise men, he uses terms such as forked no lightning which means that these wise men are acceptable to death but on the other hand, they have established no influence of their knowledge in this world. Dylan motivates his father to get inspired by the conception of wise men that readily acquire the invitation of the death and contrastively fight against the inevitable death to establish their ideology and influence on the coming generation. This category of men lives their life in a practical way as they understand the meaning of life and undergo all the natural process of life. There are other men either fear the death or else accepts the death and disappear, but wise men are unique who strive to fight against this unavoidable death. Wise men are smart enough to live their lives by shooting the appropriate usage of words in their speech. In this stanza, Dylan uses the term 'dark' to describe the end of life that is the death. Wise men are beware of this dark end and contend in order to sustain their individuality and brevity.

Good men's approach:

Good men are regarded as the frail men who rage against the natural process of death. They weep on their night that is their death, in a furious way they weep over their end. Good men fear the unavoidable death in their lives, their last moment in the world is departed with the unacceptable notion. In this stanza, Dylan uses the phrase 'last wave' which means that the last breath of their life is going to hit the death as the last wave hit the shore to die. They wish that their deeds should be ideal and sustain the world, but the reality is that their deeds lack importance and are frail. The term green bay refers to the bay which is green, and the good men are determined to make their deeds to dance and bloom brightly in the society, but the truth is that they cry furiously during the time of their death and are unacceptable to the death. Dylan tries to convince his father to be brave enough and not to lament or cry like good men do when they had to face the inevitable death. He motivates his father to fight against the death and not to weep furiously as good men do.

Wild men's approach:

Wild men are the joyful people who understand the reality of life only in the later part of the life. In this stanza, Dylan uses 'the sun in flight' here day is the circle of life, and the flying of sun represents the bright and beautiful part of life. They travelled the flight to the extent height and enjoyed the song of life. The sun in flight also represents that life is short and transient. One day this small flight of sun needs to come to an end. They resist the oncoming of the darkness in their life, only paying way for the light and brighter part of life. They don't accept the death peacefully and they refuse to die. They enjoy the flight of happiness but later learn that the sun is going to disappear at night. The night is death which is considered as the end of man's life. The delightful flight of sun gets vanished with the occurrence of night. Though they lack the seriousness of death, they enjoy the advent of life at its top. Dylan encourages his father to witness the attitude of wild men who live his life

with flight of happiness. Dylan's father should strive to live his life and accept both the dawn and dusk of life.

Grave men's approach:

Grave men are considered as the serious men, who are very close to the death. In this stanza, Dylan explains that these grave men who are about to die are nearly blind and cannot see things clearly. Though grave men lack the sight, they strive to rage against the death. Poet compares the grave man to meteors instead of extinguishing candle because they have the thirst to live and reach the light in the life. They are so frail to withstand their lives but still those tries to resist the darkness and end of the life. Poet uses the irrelevant term to compare to the grave men in order to show the attitude of grave men towards the inevitable death. Though the old man knows that they are going to die but still their hope and confidence make them shine and twinkle in the light of life. Dylan asks his father to be confident like the grave men who know that are going to sleep into the dark night of death but still have the charm to live their life with the evidence of light and hope in their eyes.

Revival of hope:

This poem was written by Dylan to his father who was not well and was about to die. With the help of four categories of men: wise men, good men, wild men and grave men Dylan motivate his father to be confident and bold. He wishes that his dad should fight against the darkness of death like wise men and grave men. He should enjoy the flight of life which he lives every day like the wild men. He should accept the fact that death is inevitable and a natural process as wise men accepts it bravely. He should not fear the death as good men do while try to make his deeds sustainable.

Conclusion:

This poem reveals the universal thought of hope and death which are essentially inter connected with each other. Dylan's poem not only motivates his father to overcome the fear of death but also of number of people who are stuck in between the survival of life and end of death. Everyone should overcome the fear and fight against the death. People should strive to live their life and make their thoughts and individuality specific in this eternal world.

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