

Reflections on Everyman- Poem by Dante

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E351 Literature of the Western World

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Life is uncertain, but death is sure. And “it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this is the judgment”. Death is a reminder of how little control we have over our own lives. Death is a powerful, non- accommodating force. Death is all encompassing and shows no respect to gender, ethnicity, or religious affiliation.

Several saying across social and religious platforms support the statement that death is a powerful force, while life is not forceful at all. “*Winners go around in circles*”, “*Many positive attributes are not well received*”, and “*let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*”(Galatians6:9). All of these statements suggest that while life is moving forward, death is the force that is always working against the positive aspects of living.

Everyman is just one of many pieces of literature that speak on receiving all of life’s promises, challenges, and the results of being a living soul. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts (Proverbs 21:2).

Death surrounds us and our everyday life, something that we must adapt to and accept. Death is a reminder of how little we have to do with life. Death is strong and unforgiving. Death is introduced to us in Dante’s play with a clear and powerful assertion of his purpose. Death’s first statement Almighty God, I am here at your will, Your commandment to fulfill. This is deaths permission to avail himself on us. Death went to say Lord I will in the world run over all, and cruelly outsearch both great and small; this is deaths mission. Deaths actions are not his own, but higher power than himself. Death does not care who it runs over. Death forces us to acknowledge how frail we are. The theme of death is presented as God’s judgment on man. Death cannot be bought or sold. Death explains that life is a borrowed commodity. Surprisingly death is not even yours. Death gives us his mission. Death is a one-time ordeal and it is final.” Nay, thereto I will not consent, Nor no man will I respite, but to the heart suddenly I shall smite, Without any

advisement. And now out of thy sight I will me hie; See thou make thee ready shortly, For thou mayst say this is the day that no man living may escape away”

It is so easy to do good. Sounds familiar, well it's not. Good deeds since the beginning of time has been a challenge with evil or negative forces. When we follow good the results are may not always as positive as what we think will follow. Good deeds are sometimes rewarded after the deeds are long gone. We honor people, places, and things of good will long after the deed is accomplished. Good deeds are defined by Dictionary.com as an act of kindness. Good deeds are weak, because they usually accompany morality or principles. Good deeds are weakened by a society that is only concerned about themselves. Good deeds are in our reading is in the grave, and that illustrates to me that no matter how good your works are, at death the seize to be significant. Good deeds give an account. Good deeds aid and assist and these actions are not promoted as positions of strength in our reading or our society today.

Man left to his own devices will fail. *Everyman* was given the ability to understand on something on some level. Scripture records, “Wisdom is the principle thing: therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding” (Proverbs 4:7). *Everyman* is given the choice of doing good deeds, and are issued with the announcement of death. The challenge for everyman is to do good while here, because when death is given his orders to visit you there are no altering them. *Everyman* is different yet the same. Everyman is given choices, everyman is given an appointment with death, and everyman has a greater force regulating these acts.

Challenges are inevitable to everyman. There are aspects of living through our reading that resonate within me. Good deeds are a healthy choice even though it may not be immediately recognized or seen as valuable. Death is a requirement for the living. *Everyman* will have to give

an account for his deeds, whether good or evil. There are moral and spiritual instructions that guide everyman's life and helps in the decision making.

Bibliography

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