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Professor Stubbs

English 201

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Reading Questions Week 3.

- 1) How is Gilgamesh characterized thus far in the poem? (that is what can we determine about his character based on his appearance, actions, speech, thoughts, relationships with others, reputation, etc.?)
 - A. In the poem, Gilgamesh is characterized as a powerful and tall king. He is made to be the strongest, huge, handsome, radiant, perfect man; semi-god. Gilgamesh is a tyrant, bully, an animalistic lover, he is a giant, and he oppressed his subjects and they all cried out to their gods, and Enkidu was made to the mirror image of Gilgamesh to balance the order of thing.

- 2) How is Enkidu first characterized? How does he “evolve”?
 - A. Enkidu is just characterized as the mirror image and double in strength and courage as like Gilgamesh. Enkidu was created as a help to Gilgamesh; he had animalistic instinct and get along fine with the female animal, he eats and drinks with them. He was huge, and wild, scary, and powerful. Because of his animalistic nature, he was introduced to priestess Shamhat to seduce him sexually. That act kind of evolve Enkidu into a human being; and his animalistic survival skills departs from him. He was brave and powerful and a best friend to Gilgamesh. Finally, Gilgamesh was introduced to Gilgamesh by the priestess Shamhat.

- 3) How does the relationship between Gilgamesh and Enkidu develop?
 - A. The relationship between Gilgamesh and Enkidu develop by Shamhat, the priestess introduced Enkidu to the king Gilgamesh. Although, Gilgamesh was the one who sent Shamhat to Enkidu when he was in the animalistic form. Once they got introduced, they tested their strength and power by fighting each other. Gilgamesh ends up winning the fight. Then, their relationship blossomed from there on. They became great friends; they never did anything without one another. In the chapter book II, Enkidu said, “Gilgamesh,

you are unique among humans. Your mother, the goddess Ninsun, made you stronger and braver than any mortal, and rightly has Enlil granted you the kingship, since you are destined to rule over men.” (pg. 89-90)

- 4) What major feat do they accomplish together in this first half of the text?
- A. The major feat they do accomplish together in this first half of the text are from book II to book VI was the two best friends’ mission to go destroy Humbaba, the Cedar Forest guardian’s monster. Both Enkidu and Gilgamesh set out on a quest to destroy Humbaba, the monster of the Cedar Forest. Gilgamesh went to his goddess mother, Lady Ninsun to pray for protection. At the beginning, Enkidu had crossed paths with Humbaba, the monster while he was in the animal form. Hence, he told Gilgamesh about it and Enkidu recounts to Gilgamesh, that no one ever set foot in the forest because of Humbaba. However, Gilgamesh was set determine to go on the hunt. Gilgamesh checked first with the elders and the young, once he gets their approval, him and Enkidu were on their way. When Enkidu and Gilgamesh entered the Cedar Forest, Humbaba, the monster knew them and made a deal with them by saying, “he said, “I know you, Gilgamesh, don’t be a fool, go away, leave the cedar forest.” (Book V pg. 122) He even addressed Enkidu as well, but they would not listen. With the help from Shamash, the lord god, they defeated the monster even though the monster begged them to let him live. What I noticed was, when Humbaba the monster, died, the heaven rains a soft rain. They cut all the cedar trees, they make temples out of them, they made a raft to go down the river and they took with them the head of Humbaba. Enkidu got punished for killing Humbaba, the gods got angry. Enkidu got struck by the gods with a sickness, and he died; Gilgamesh was sorrowful over his friend’s death and left the city in search of immortality. He never got it because no men alive can get immortality. You are born and after living your life, you die.
- 5) What inferences about life in ancient Mesopotamia can you draw from the text so far?
- A. The inferences that I can draw from the text about life in ancient Mesopotamia is that, life was joyous for the people, they had a great king, and life was great in ancient Mesopotamia. It is a great city to live in with magnificent temples, the god and the goddess communicate with the people. They call their city “The great-walled Uruk.” The great-walled Uruk was a rich city, lacked nothing.
- 6) What subject and/or themes see emerging in the text so far? Provide textual evidence to support your answer.
- A. The themes that keep emerging in the text so far is the Great Walled- of Uruk that is the city where King Gilgamesh and his subject lives. On page 154-155, Gilgamesh had made a statute of his friend Enkidu from rich gold, copper, silver, metal, gems. The Great- Walled Uruk was very prosperous. The people of Uruk mourned Enkidu,

on page 151-152, Gilgamesh announced that the Great-Walled Uruk “mourned you, Enkidu who gave their blessing when we departed, may the hills mourn you and the mountains we climbed; may the pastures mourn you as their own son. ” (pg. 152)