

Weekly Written Response #3: Tale of Two Brothers

TaiHsuan Lin

Prof. Stubbs

ENG 201

2.9.2023

Original Art Response to “*Tale of Two Brothers*”



I noticed similarities between the Tale of Two Brothers and Joseph's story, and it appears to be a very Egyptian mythology, which I thoroughly enjoyed reading. I drew this painting because I couldn't stop seeing "hair" appear multiple times throughout the story, and it seems symbolic. The word "hair" first appeared in (3,2), when Anubis' wife told Bata, "Do not make me abandon my hair dressing." I'm not sure what it means, so I looked up a little bit about the meaning of "hair" in Egypt. Women wore their hair long, even beneath wigs, and short hair is only seen in devotional contexts. Robins contends that women's locks were closely linked to fertility, reinforcing the notion that sexual maturation was the point at which young women's hairstyles diverged from those of young men. So to my point of view, she's emphasizing sexuality, which makes Bata so angry and replies, "Aren't you my mother?" Another significant reference to hair was when God gave Bata his wife, as stated in (10,7), "the pine brought one plait of her hair." We also discovered that her hair plait contains the fluid of all the gods. It is now a greeting from another country. Despite the fact that the two different strands of hair in the story belong to different people, they all cause Bata's death, and ironically, his wife's hair even causes him to become her son. I just feel like it's a weird but romantic way to link all the key terms of Bata's life changing points, so I also put the pine tree and ox that represent Bata in the paint. I just felt like it was a strange but romantic way to connect all the key terms of Bata's life changing events, so I painted the pine tree and ox that represent Bata.