

Yeyeong Kong

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ENG201: Global Literature I

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Literary Analysis Assignment: The Epic of Gilgamesh

You resemble someone who has lived their entire life once you have covered the Epic of Gilgamesh's last scene. The bonds of male friendship, the highs and lows of love, the thrill of exploring the unknown, the struggle against monsters, the deepest dreams and sleep, the unending search for immortality, and the anguish of a man who must face death. Gilgamesh, who turned into a beggar and sought a method to escape death, is comparable to a prince who gave up all and went out to attain a state of release from the anguish of both life and death. The hero, though, leaves without acquiring anything. He is just going to die. Even after encountering Utnapishtim, the immortal, and crossing the Sea of Death, the hero who was denied the opportunity to live forever still must confront death. No solitude can admit that facing death is difficult. That is only a luxury. Death is complete seclusion, the zenith of seclusion, and the consummation of seclusion.

Gilgamesh is a $\frac{2}{3}$ god and $\frac{1}{3}$ human, He excelled in all aspects, but no one could march him with strength. The people of Uruk were always worried about him. His tyranny intensified day and night. The tyranny of the people afflicted by Gilgamesh went to the gods of the Heavens, who applied to the greatest god, Anu. Anu, then summoned Aruru, the goddess of life, to make Gilgamesh a mate. "Let them summon Aruru, the great one, she created the boundless human race. Let her create a partner for Gilgamesh, mighty in strength. Let them contend with each other, that Uruk may have peace." Enkidu was created when Aruru scattered

the clay on the steppe with her hand. Enkidu lives with animals in the wild. Frightened by the sight of Enkidu, a hunter tells his father that he is interfering with the hunt by filling the pits he has dug and setting traps. The hunter's father then tells Gilgamesh about the savage and that he will take care of it. When the hunter went to tell Gilgamesh, Gilgamesh took Shamhat, the goddess of the temple, with him. Upon finding her Siamese heart, she says, her Enkidu will approach her, and henceforth her wild animals will reject her Enkidu. Shamhat has sex with Enkidu for six nights and seven days. (The role of a priestess as a prostitute is a sexual ritual tradition that has been central to religious worship.)

Enkidu tried to return to the wild, but wild animals avoided him. Enkidu gained reason and understanding in exchange for his physical abilities. Enkidu could not move his body as before, returns to Siam Heart Shamhat asks Enkidu to go to Uruk instead of going back to the animals and tells him about Gilgamesh, who is strong and perfect. Enkidu wanted a friend who would understand his heart. Meanwhile, Gilgamesh had a dream and told his mother, Ninsun, about it. In the first dream, something like a star fell from the sky, and Gilgamesh couldn't move even if he tried to lift it, and all the people of Uruk surrounded it and worshiped it. Uruk's people were gathered together in the second dream after an ax was thrown in the streets. It is said that Gilgamesh took it from both dreams and brought it to her mother, who made it Gilgamesh's partner.

Upon hearing the story of Gilgamesh's dream, his mother interprets it. The bravest one with the greatest strength on the mountain will come to you and befriend you, she says. Gilgamesh waits for him, expecting a friend just for him. Shamhat and Enkidu stay at a shepherd's house en route to Uruk. They serve bread and beer to Enkidu and treat him, but he only looks at them because they are strangers to Enkidu. Then, Sham Hart recommends him

again. "Eat the bread, Enkidu, the staff of life, Drink the beer, the custom of the land." He drinks beer and eats bread, and he is very satisfied and drinks seven bottles of beer. I feel good and sing a song. Enkidu bathes in water, anoints himself with oil, and becomes fully human. He then goes out with a weapon and defeats the lions and wolves that threaten the shepherd. Enkidu sees a man in a hurry and asks him what's going on. A man who goes running errands for a wedding, tells Enkidu that Gilgamesh exorcises the power of the first night over the newlyweds. When Enkidu hears this, he becomes so angry that his face went pale. And he heads to Uruk to give Gilgamesh a shot. When Enkidu arrives in Uruk, many people praise him and rejoice that Gilgamesh's rival has appeared. "The whole of Uruk was standing beside him, the people formed a crowd around him, A throng was jostling towards him, young men were mobbed around him, Infantile, they groveled before him." When night fell, Gilgamesh appeared, and Enkidu was waiting for him, standing on the road leading to the bride-to-be's house. As Enkidu stands in the door with his foot, Gilgamesh pounces on him.

The two start fighting in the middle of the street (public street, public square), but it gets so intense that the buildings around them shake, breaking walls and knocking down doors. However, when a decision is not reached, Gilgamesh stops the fight, calms down his anger, and turns away. Enkidu praises Gilgamesh. The two embrace and kiss, forming a friendship. In the forests north of Uruk lived a monster called Humbaba, which was harming those who went to cut trees. Gilgamesh instructs him to kill Humbaba, the forest monster and cut down the cedar tree. When Enkidu lived with the beasts of the field, he went to Humbaba's forest, and he said to Gilgamesh: "The forest is a radius of 600 km, and who can enter it? Humbaba was sent by the god Enlil to protect the cedars of the forest. Humbaba's cry is like a flood, his mouth is fire and hidden death. Hunting Humbaba is hopeless." However, Gilgamesh rather persuades Enkidu.

"God has eternal life, but human life is finite (numbered). What man can achieve is nothing more than a puff of air. It's enough for you to follow me and cheer me on from behind. When I fall, my name will be exalted. Gilgamesh, who fought the ferocious Humbaba My name will be passed on to my descendants." In the end, Enkidu goes to the forge with Gilgamesh to make a huge weapon. And he tells his people his plans. Gilgamesh didn't listen to the elders of Uruk, so not even the seeds were eaten by him. The elders of Uruk send Enkidu and Gilgamesh off. fixed elders advise Gilgamesh to trust and seek help from Enkidu, who knows the forest well, and Enkidu asks for King Gilgamesh. Together, Gilgamesh and Enkidu go to Ninsun's temple, Egalmah, to receive advice and blessings. Ninsun makes two requests to Shamash, the sun god. Then, he puts a token on Enkidu and adopts him, hoping that he will take good care of Gilgamesh. Gilgamesh climbed the mountaintop and sprinkled flour, praying for Shamash to give him Gilmong. Enkidu builds a temporary tent for Gilgamesh to dream, and the two sleep there. Gilgamesh tells Enkidu about his dream after waking up in the middle of the night. This event is repeated several times.

The first dream was of a mountain collapsing on Gilgamesh and Enkidu. Enkidu says the dream is a dream. It is said that the mountain is Humbaba and that they will catch the monster, kill it and throw away the body. The second dream was that the mountain threw down Gilgamesh and tied him up. An ominous light was burning, and the young man, the most handsome in the world, pulled him down the mountain, dispelling Gilgamesh's fears and enabling him to rise again Enkidu says the dream is Gilmong and the mountain is Humbaba. The third dream was that sparks rained down from the sky and death rained down. Then, the hot energy disappeared, and everything turned to ashes and fell. Enkidu says that the dream is a dream and that they will defeat Humbaba. Compared to the previous three dreams, the fourth was even worse. Gilgamesh

looked up to see Anzu, an enormous bird with lion-headed wings that descended over him. The monster's mouth was a ball of fire and its breath was death. Then, a young man blocking the road broke the bird's wings, grabbed him by the arm, and threw him to the ground, and Gilgamesh threw Anzu to the ground. Enkidu tells Gilgamesh that the young man he saw in his dream was Shamash. Gilgamesh caught a wild bull in the steppe in his fifth dream. A cloud of dust rose in the sky as the roar of the ox split the earth. Then, someone pulled him over, brushed his cheeks, and gave him water. Enkidu says that the wild bull is not his enemy, but his protector, Shamash and that the god Lugalbanda gave him water. Gilgamesh weeps before the god Shamash, Enkidu encourages him, and Shamash listens. Suddenly, a voice of warning up the sky was heard. "Hurry up and confront him. Don't let him escape into the woods. He did not prepare all seven halos, one was ready, but the other six were not!" Enkidu is frightened by Humbaba's shouting and says that if they fight Humbaba separately, they cannot win. Gilgamesh encourages Enkidu and the two arrive at the mountain.

In the old version, Gilgamesh and Enkidu cut down trees on the mountain to make Humbaba hear the noise and come, but in the standard version, he meets Humbaba first. Humbaba's face becomes grotesque and terrifies Gilgamesh. Then, Enkidu encourages him again. As they confronted Humbaba, the ground where his feet touched cracked. Death began to descend like a mist as the once-white clouds turned dark. To stop Humbaba, thirteen winds was produced by Shamash. "South wind, north wind, east wind, west wind, howling wind, A strong wind, a bitter wind, a headwind, a fierce dust wind, A nasty wind, a terrible wind, a strong wind, a gust of wind. It is as requested by Gilgamesh's mother, Ninsun, to Shamash." Owing to the thirteen winds, Humbaba's face disappeared, and Humbaba could neither advance nor retreat, so he could not escape. Finally, Humbaba begs Gilgamesh for his life. He will become his servant,

and he will cut wood for the palace, he says. He begs Enkidu to convince Gilgamesh as well. However, Enkidu's reaction is cold. Enkidu says he must kill Humbaba before the god Enlil finds out. Gilgamesh accepts Enkidu's urging and strikes Humbaba's neck. Humbaba's seven halos also disappear. Enkidu wants to make a huge gate out of the cut cedar and take it to Nippur. So, they take Humbaba's head and leave on a raft.

The two companions have shown amazing courage. Even the Bull of Heaven that the sour Ishtar sent was seized and put to death. The word quickly got throughout the world. Yet it was the main reason. There was a disagreement among the gods over whether to punish those who killed Humbaba and the Bull of Heaven. He finally decided to murder Enkidu. Enkidu had a bias. He cursed the prostitute who took him from the wild to the city. Gilgamesh backed away from Humbaba in terror. The brave cannot atone for their transgressions. The gods, however, decide what to do. Certainly, mythology is a universe filled with inconsistencies and paradoxes. Death is something that modernity wants to exclude from our mental landscape. The pervasive death odor is sealed. Finance, science, and technology discuss it as though the age of endless life is rapidly approaching. The Gilgamesh Epic is being replaced by a rebellious new version. Yet this happy dystopian epic is untrue. This is so because none has given life and death as careful consideration as Gilgamesh. Because no one has ever journeyed to find eternal life like Gilgamesh, this is the case. A fake prophetic book is a fable produced by someone else's power. The brightness of the stars can be seen while the sky is obscured by dark drapes. And for this reason, the Gilgamesh Epic is so brilliant.