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Flannery O'Connor adopts fiction in short stories to convey that humanity filled with vile tendencies and attitudes which are not always punishable or the characters held responsible for their actions. The author implies in a scenario of times that the modern perception of virtues and values is obliquely vague and more so is the same characteristics of religion. The modern man does not have a high regard for religious beliefs and the virtues tied therein. Flannery's illustration of human nature is flawed, and so is the role of God in society today.

Flannery highlights the cruelty nature of human being that cannot be redeemed. *Alps* approaches the topic of segregation and marginalization of American folk beyond disparities in race, ethnicities and the harsh realities of life that shape up human culture (*Alps*). The narrator also indicates the vile nature of human beings in Flannery's narrations. The old grandmother tricks everyone into a route to Tennessee, which is not their original destination, and they encounter a rough road where their car flips over. The narrator describes the misfit meeting the travelers and killing them off one by one. The misfit also appears to be a victim of a system that shaped his tendencies and behaviors. His incarceration is due to killing his father, who had died in an epidemic which the narrator frames as a reason for his particular behavior. In the tale, 'The lame shall enter first,' Rufus is a victim of circumstances. With a mother in prison and the grandfather, who is the custodian, constantly abusive, and a deceased father. The character's hard life makes his perception of life grim, shaping him to be self-dependent, rude and inconsiderate.

His poor background also has him fending through garbage for food. The desire to be fed shapes his decision to stay with Sheppard so that he cannot lack food.

Flannery O'Connor illustrates that the nature of human beings is to be selfish in what they want or what they seek. Their ambitions, either conscious or psychological have the highest regard for them be it reasonable or not. Selfishness, as portrayed by O'Connor blinds the characters, and their true motives drive them into poor behaviors. In the narration 'A good man is hard to find,' the grandmother in the narration is too preoccupied with her want to go to Tennessee than her son's pic of Florida. She even resorts in intimidation and threats that do not yield any results from her belligerent son. In the narration 'The lame shall enter first' Sheppard dedicates his life towards the restoration of juvenile offenders but does not see any illuminating aspects of such a character in his son and chooses to ignore him entirely by focusing on his protégé whom he assumes has all the best of attitudes and morals. His selfishness towards seeing so much value in Johnson leads Sheppard to believe any ill behavior from the former as a consequence of his upbringing, but his son has a harsher fate in albeit similar scenarios. Johnson also demonstrates selfishness by tricking Sheppard that he was in the right course so that he can stay with them. Flannery proclaims that this selfish nature is specific to the nature of humanity, but also seems to dictate there is benevolence of good in the portrayal of selfishness.

Another critical assessment from the narrations of Flannery O'Connor is the cruelty of the world in regards to the different and guilty aspects of people. Her narratives counter the favorable perception that good always wins (Als). In this perspective, she intends to accentuate the absurdity in a world devoid of redemption (McBride). This perspective on narration hits its peak after the family in 'A good man is hard to find' gets into an accident. The narrator indicates that the first car to come along the dirt road has a runaway criminal inside who murders the

entire family. The family, who is murdered in groups or two, I innocent and the narrator does not describe any reason they deserve such a fate. The narrator also completely fails to indicate if the murderers are caught but imply that they benefit by acquiring their car and clothes. Sheppard's son, Norton, is just a belligerent son who misses his mother since she passed away and is holding on to the grief in the narration 'The Lame shall enter first'. The narrator ends the tale with the suicide of Norton, who was entirely ignored by his father. The narrator indicates that at the time of the suicide, Sheppard had just found a new fondness and love for his son. The narrator ends the tale with Sheppard losing a lot; his sons commit suicide, his protégé  fails him and even insinuates lies to discredit him, and his career is also in shambles. Flannery intentions behind these scenes roots behind the fact that violence that harms either the helpless or the innocent shouts more loudly any other form of abuse (McBride).

 The role of God, according to 'A good man is hard to find,' is to be called upon during times of during times when humans are faced with credible danger. The entire narration only mentions God after the family suffers an accident and encounters a dangerous criminal on the loose. The old grandmother tries to persuade him to spare them by appealing to his faith. She emphasizes the need to pray. The criminal in the same narration, on the other hand, portrays a different role of God; salvation. He explains that his incarceration was not directly tied to his actions, but he deserved it. The narrator explains that the criminal is bent towards killing the family since he does not perceive that there is  God, but wishes them salvation if they seek after death. Johnson, in 'The lame, shall enter first, staunchly believes in Christianity and God as his savior. He disregards and disrespects Sheppard's efforts to rehabilitate him by claiming that the latter is attempting to be a Messiah (Als). Finally, the narrator includes a scene where the juvenile offender is adamant that his salvation is the role of God, not a mere man. The character

Sheppard, on the other hand, demonstrates that the purpose of God is to fill people with hope and stupefy them. He finds the answers in response to daily life that is related to God as stupid and believes that any smart person can perceive to take responsibility as opposed to leaning on faith.

Flannery aims at illustrating the value of men who recognize the presence of a deity but fails to assume the need to such as a creator or God. This modern man is divided in terms of matter and spirit since the definition he has adopted for faith does not align itself with any perception of God (Als). Flannery also describes the man as faulted by inquisition, since he seeks to understand faith not to abide. Sheppard and the misfit fit into this category of man. Sheppard does not agree with the belief of an almighty and sees this as an attempt to mediate fault. He emphasizes the need for smart people to recognize facts beyond such. The narrator describes misfit as a character torn by his inquisitive nature which leads to his violent tendencies. The misfit is also apparent that he deems himself okay without requiring help from anyone. The narrator describes the misfit as once a singer and his faith led him. The spirit and matter of the character are separated with his inquisitions directed at trying to understand a God he can't reach, and God cannot contact him (McBride).

References

Als, H. (2001). This Lonesome Place: Flannery O'Connor on Race and Religion in the Unreconstructed South.". *The New Yorker* , 82.

McBride, M. (1980). Paradise Not Regained: Flannery O'Connor's Unredeemed Pilgrims in the Garden of Evil. *The South Central Bulletin* , 40 (4), 154-156.

Comment Summary

Page 1

1. All shore stories are fictional.
2. is
3. Awkward
4. Wordy
5. You need to clarify this sentence. It is more than likely critical for the rest of your essay. Is O'Connor's illustration itself flawed? Or is O'Connor simply try to say that Jim endanger his flawed?
6. O'Connor. Use the last name
7. Spelling
8. Als is not the narrator. He is simply a scholar and commentator.
9. short story. New paragraph

Page 2

10. clarification needed here.
11. short story
12. Use an example from the text of the story itself.
13. short stories
14. In
15. Each word in the title should be capitalized.

Page 3

16. Last name
17. Wordy, awkward
18. In quotation marks

Page 4

19. Clarification needed