

O'Henry's Selected Short Stories and Hemingway's Power of Freedom

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The Gift of the Magi-

This short story depicts a love theme which gives the courage and motivational power to delimit the problem of money. Della suffers due to lack of money because she plans a surprise gift for her husband. But her capability never keeps her aloof from fulfilling her wishes. This depicts her true love towards Jim her husband, so she gets her hair sold to get the money to buy a surprise Christmas gift for him. Thus, time itself represents love is the guiding force in her life makes her happy by bringing togetherness making sufferings and pains forgotten. While Jim unlike her sacrifices his forefather's gold watch out of love describes his dedication and devotion towards a sincere love relationship. But only true relationships exist because they are happy together and their this togetherness brings happiness which gives them the strength to sacrifice their forefathers treasures by fulfilling their hopes and desires to make gifts more worthy like the magi who brought priceless gifts for Jesus Christ so historically bringing the most priceless possession out of love, faith and respect similarly both of them sacrifices to win the faith, trust and respect towards each other out of love as they both selflessly sacrifices their priceless possessions out of love.

The Furnished Room-

This is a tragic love story which depicts the four main characters-The Youngman who wanders all alone, Miss. Eloise whom the man searches, Mrs. Purdy the housekeeper and her coworker Mrs. Mc Cool . The main protagonist is the young man wandering and searching his love but fails to find her. This describes his obsession in love to find his love after ceaseless five months search so after hiring a room to rest he finds the presence of the girl he loves in the same furnished room which reminds him in the form of mignonette, so he lost control over himself and began to talk to it. And lost control over himself resulting in broken faith to find her after not finding her whereabouts he commits suicide in the same room where she too had committed suicide represents love theme as the most prominent one.

While Hemingway focuses to find peace and place in a new community so finds life meaningless as all his hope to find adjustment in a new environment fails. Thus, feels frustrated, alienated and hopeless after war life becomes estranged for him so the theme of lost generation is eminent.

Even Henry feels life pointless and unavoidable resulting in lost faith since he does not get what he wants even after his constant prayer because he feels exhausted to face the reality of life so freedom replete with possibilities. And it is freedom which provide comfort and essence in life to adjust during adverse situations reflects unity, stability and equilibrium to gain strength and stability in life and to stand against anguish to realize one's absolute freedom in danger.