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CORMAC Mc CARTHY VIEWS ON EXISTENTIALISM FROM THE NOVEL THE CROSSING

Research supervisor & Guide

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The plot takes place before and during the Second World War and focuses on the life of the Protagonist Billy Parham, a teenage cowboy: his family; and his younger brother Boyd. The story tells of three journeys taken from New Mexico to Mexico. Once they cross the river, the venture into nature and enter the middle part of the story. The river serves as a symbolical border, so when they start crossing it on their way back, the characters enter the final part. This scene is also the climax of the short story.

In the passage from Cormac Mc Carthys novel “ The Crossing,he describes the main character alone in the wilderness as he carries the body of the dead wolf to bury her. Mc Carthy contrasts the ideas of life and death to portray the impact the wolfs passing had on the Protagonist through his use of imagery, syntax and symbolism.

Mc Carthy uses imagery to create a dramatic contrast between the lonely mood of the main character after the wolf’s death and his beautiful reminiscence of her. Mc Carthy begins by describing the “talus slides” and tall escarpments which depicts the main character as a powerless man in a vast world, conveying the feeling

of helplessness that the main character is experiencing. He can do nothing to mend the loss of life, to revive the free and boundless spirit of the wolf. The wolf's eye, once full of life, "gave back no light", signifying the loss of her soul. Mc Carthy contrasts these images of the deceased wolf with vivid recollections of the wolf running in the straight, where the grass was wet and the sun's coming as yet had not concluded.

The crossing forms the second part of Cormac McCarthy's Critically acclaimed Border Trilogy, a story that began with All the Pretty Horses and Concludes with Cities of the Plain.

Set on the South-western ranches in the years before the Second World War, Cormac McCarthy's. The Crossing follows the fortunes of sixteen-year old Billy Parham and his younger brother Boyd. Fascinated by an elusive wolf that has been marauding his family's property, Billy captures the animals-but rather than kill it, sets act impulsively for the maintains of Mexico to return it to where it came from.

When Billy comes back to his our home he finds himself and his world irrevocably changed. His loss of innocence has come at a price and once again the border beckons with its desolate beauty and cruel promise.

"The crossing is like a river in full spate: beautiful and dangerous". The times.

When Billy finally catches the animal, he harnesses her and instead of killing her, determines to return her to the mountains of Mexico where he believes her original home is located. He develops a deep affection for and bond with the wolf, risking his life to Save her on more than one occasion.

Critics disagree about the greater significance of Billy's encounters with the wolf. Wallis sanborn argues that although noble, Parham's mission to return the captured she wolf to Mexico is objectly flawed... if is nothing more than a man violently controlling a wild animal through the guise of pseudonobility. Raymond Male witz argue that the wolf's " literary agency" becomes visible when Billy's way of thinking about the wolf conflicts with the way the narrator describes the creature.

Along the way, Billy encounters many other travellers and inhabitants of the land who relates in a sophisticated dialogue their deepest philosophies. Take, for example, a Mormon who converts to Catholicism and describes his vision of reality in this way.

“ Things separate from their stories have no meaning. They are only shapes of a certain size and color. A certain weight, when their meaning has become lost to us they no longer have even a name. The story on the other hand can never be lost from its place in the world for it is that place. And that is what was to be found here. The corrido. The tale and like all corridos it ultimately told one story only, for there is only one to tell.”

He also meets an opera troupe performing pagliacci in the wilds, the characters of which curiously parallel Billy and Boyd’s relationship with a girl they save along their route.

“He watched the play with interest but could make little of it ... in the end the man in buffoon’s motley slew the woman and slew another man perhaps his rival with a dagger.”

In the second border crossing, Billy and Boyd have set out to recover horses stolen from their family’s spread. Their relationship is a strained one, with Boyd displaying a more stubborn nature than that of his brother, a characteristic that hinders Billy’s attempts to protect him. Boyd is eventually shot through the chest in a squabble. After he is nursed back to health, he disappears with a young girl.

The third Crossing features Billy alone attempting to discover his brother’s whereabouts. He learns Boyd has been killed in a gunfight and sets out to find his dead brother’s remains and return them to new Mexico. After finding Boyd’s grave and exhuming the body, Billy is ambushed by a band of men who desecrate Boyd’s remains and stab Billy’s horse through the chest. Billy, with the help of a gypsy, nurses the horse back to riding condition.

The last scene shows Billy alone and desolate coming across a terribly beat up dog that approaches him for help. In marked contrast to his youthful bond with the wolf, he shoos the dog away angrily, meanly. Later, he feels a flood of remorse, he goes after the dog, calling for it to come back-but it has gone. He breaks down in tears.

Conclusion:

The crossing is a book about human beings and their relationship with God and in particular about their attempt to decipher divine justice. Mc Carthy explores this theme with Dostoyevskian eloquence in Billys conversations with the sexton of a ruined church. The climax was when Robert agrees to help Manny Cross the border. The location was Juarez, Mexico. The falling action would be when Robert fought the group of young men so they didn't kidnap Manny. The resolution would be the moment Robert gives his wallet to Manny before he passes away.

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