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Conflicting Drunkard

Adults can be very contradicting with their spoken words and actions that they take. This story is about a boy (prince) who travels to different planets and leaves his most prized possession on his own planet, his rose. In Chapter 12, there is a drunk man who lives alone with his bottles of beer and spends most of his time drinking because he is ashamed of his drinking. To the little prince it is very clear that the drunkard is unhappy, but when he tries to help, the drunkard goes into a deep silence and sadness. The little prince is then stuck in this situation of sadness with a drunkard who has no way out of his misery. The chapter 12 of *The Little Prince*, written by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, is a work of fiction. The universal theme that conflicts is comprised of opposing forces which is expressed in chapter 12 through the characterization of the drunkard, the impact of shame, and the paradox of addiction.

Initially, the way the little prince is explored is through characterization of the drunkard. The little prince travels to different planets and meets all the different kinds of characters in the world/society. He also gets to meet 4 different types of people on the way. Of the which consist of the drunkard on the second planet, where the drunkard spends all of his time on his planet drinking solemnly. In *The Little Prince* the author states, “This visit was a very brief one, but it plunged the little prince into a deep depression”(Saint-Exupéry, 34). The little prince was just on his way to his next planet when he met the drunkard, and found out what his problem was. Upon learning the drunkard’s problem the little prince feels depressed because the drunkard is lost in

his own mind. It also states, “And the little prince went on his way, puzzled.” Due to the drunkard being ashamed that he was drinking, but yet continued to drink, it also made the prince feel puzzled because he could not find a good enough explanation as to why someone would do something they were ashamed of. The fact that the drunkard causes the little prince to feel bad for him, it also impacted the way he feels about himself. This leads to the impact he has about himself and about his drinking problem.

Furthermore, chapter 12 is also explored through the impact of shame. The drunkard is ashamed that he is drinking, so he continues to drink to forget his drinking addiction. The alcohol is not going anywhere and he is making the situation worse. The impact on him being ashamed is him drinking. In *The Little Prince* the author states, ““Forget what?” inquired the little prince, who already was sorry for him. ‘Forget that I am ashamed,’ the drunkard confessed, hanging his head.” The drunkard is ashamed he is drinking so he continues to drink. Him drinking is impacting how he is ashamed, and the more he drinks the more he becomes ashamed. The author in “*The Little Prince*” states, “Grown ups are certainly very, very strange.” The way the grown ups act impact the way the children think about them, the children are ashamed of the way their parents think. The grown ups are shifting the way others view of them. Although, when the children grow up they eventually convert into how the grown ups act. In conclusion, the drunkards drinking problem is affecting how he feels about himself since he is ashamed. To be ashamed is to be embarrassed or feeling guilty, it comes from your inner-self. It impacts the drunkard so much because he is the adult and he does not like the way people or children think of him. The author in “*The Little Prince*” states that he is continuing to drink he will continue to be ashamed. He is impacting the children to think of grown ups as strange people although the

children convert into adults as they become grown ups.

Moreover, chapter 12 is explored through the paradox of addiction. The drunkard's actions are ironic especially since he does them after saying drinking shames him. In the article, *Understanding Drug Use and Addiction* by the National Institute of Drug abuse, "Drug addiction is a chronic disease characterized by drug seeking and use that is compulsive, or difficult to control, despite harmful consequences." This describes the drunkards addiction because even though his drinking causes him to be ashamed he still drinks. So instead of not drinking anymore he continues to drink even though he is ashamed of his drinking. In article also states "Brain changes that occur over time with drug use challenge an addicted person's self-control and interfere with their ability to resist intense urges to take drugs." This explains how even though the drunkard is ashamed of drinking his drinking interferes with his ability to stop. When the prince asks a question hoping to help the drunkard responds rudely and almost in an annoyed tone because he wanted to be left alone. The definition of paradox is, two ideas that contradict each other and the drunkards actions of drinking are contradicted with his feelings toward drinking. This chapter was expressed through paradox of addiction.

Ultimately, the universal theme that conflicts is paradoxical is expressed in chapter 12 through the characterization of the drunkard, the impact of shame, and the paradox of addiction. The little prince was impacted by the drunkard because he was confused on why he was drinking, if he was ashamed of himself because he was drinking. It matters because the drunkard represents the majority of adults in our society on how people who need help reject it and try to fix it themselves, but end up in the same position or making it worse.

Works Cited

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