

Критическое эссе по рассказу Джонатана Фоеера "Love is Blind and Deaf"
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Many people prefer to read classical literature, novels of the great writers such as Charles Dickens, William Thackeray, Oscar Wilde, Charlotte Bronte, etc. Unfortunately, sometimes they are skeptical about the works of modern young writers. However, we should not underestimate our contemporaries, because these people write stories and novels, understandable for a person of the 21st century. One of the most famous modern writers is the popular young American writer Jonathan Foer. Some consider his work to be incomprehensible and unclear, while others admire his talent. But still, among his many stories, we should highlight one particular, which is the object of many disputes and critical studies. "Love is Blind and Deaf" – that is the name of it.

On the one hand, "Love is Blind and Deaf" seems to be a simple story about the first people, Adam and Eve, who lived in their paradise garden. However, it is really full of symbolism, hidden meaning, and stylistic devices, which help us to go deeper into details of this story and understand the author's idea. In terms of macro-components of poetic structure, one can single out the theme of the story. It is a relationship between Adam and Eve and how they tried to find a connection with God. It is necessary to mention that this is a story describing the relationships that we have today. The story begins with a biblical account adapted to today's scenario.

The author tells the story which includes both description and narration. He describes the appearance of Eve with such words as "*rotated incisor*", "*gnawed remnants of her fingernails*" and Adam's personality using the phrases "*weakly narcissistic*", "*selectively impervious to reason and unwonderfully childlike*". These phrases are used to show the imperfection of a common man. Both Adam and Eve were people created by God, so they had imperfect features. The story consists of their desire to be together and their inventing new ways not to be aware of the canyon between them. The climax of this story is the scene of their meeting at night. "*They were always inventing new ways not to be aware of the canyon between them.*" Denouement follows the climax. At the end of this story, there was a conversation between the God and the angel. It ends with a subtle jibe on relationships and how it works these days.

Actually, the author draws the parallel between the first people Adam and Eve and the modern people relationships. That is why the idea of this short story may be formulated in the following way. At the very beginning, the relationships between man and woman are gentle, beautiful, but over time, they can change. This is a kind of test for family life. After passing through these tests, people either break up or remain together until the end of life. Usually, if they break up, then maybe all the previous feelings were not real.

An image is a leading component of a poetic structure, so we can single out a number of images in this short story. Foer depicts in this extract word-images by using

some symbols. A fig tree is understood as a symbol of marriage, fertility, lust, femininity, but also the truth. Leaves and fruits are sometimes interpreted as a combination of male and female principles, symbolizing life and love. Here Adam's eyes were covered with fig leaves. "*He bound his hands with fig-leaf stems and pulled a fig-leaf quilt up to his nostrils*". Eve's ears were covered with these leaves, and she stuffed her mouth with fig leaves.

To stir up the reader's imagination, one can point out the principle of recurrence and the principle of contrast. There are several repetitions in the text, namely "*being blind, Adam never had to see*", "*being deaf, Eve never had to hear*"; polysyndeton is presented as an insistent repetition of the conjunction "and", the adverb "then" and the ordinal numeral "the first". There is also an anadiplosis that is a catch repetition, represented by the repetition of the word "close". Such sentences as "*Adam saw spots; Eve heard pulses. He saw shapes; she heard tones*" depict the principle of contrast.

Personally, I consider that in this story the author touched on many issues of humanity as a whole and the problems of the modern generations. Since he draws parallels between these characters and the contemporary people, we can explain these problems in the following way.

Initially, God created people imperfect, taking Adam's vision, and Eve's hearing. He tried to teach them to live together. But when sight and hearing were restored, the young realized the imperfection of their partner and began to drift away from each other, swear and create problems for themselves. That was the second test to accept their beloved and not to rely on his being veiled or beautiful words.

As for the parallel with modern life, usually a man imagines himself to be next to a perfectly beautiful woman, and a woman is ready to love a man who feeds her with beautiful speeches. No wonder they say that women love with their ears. That is why it is very important for people to understand that the real beauty of a person lies in his or her soul. If he understands the essence of his half, they will have a spiritual peace.

The author reveals one of the most important problems of continuation and development of the human race. Without normal family relationships, it is impossible to create a perfect new generation. That is why people should learn to overcome difficulties together and to be close to each other.

Despite the simple story about two lovers, this work is a little difficult to understand the meaning. Due to the difficult language of presentation and the usage of symbols, this story is worthy to attract the attention of any reader who studies the English language and culture of its speakers. Such writings make you think over many things and see the problems of modern society from the other side.