

O‘GENRINING “SO‘NGGI YAPROQ” (“THE LAST LEAF”) HIKOYASI HAQIQIY DO‘STLIK RAMZI SIFATIDA

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada hayot qadri va chin do‘stlik kabi insoniy fazilatlarining amerikalik iste‘dodli yozuvchi O‘Genri tomonidan yorqin bo‘yoqlarda tasvirlanadi. Asar mavzusining bugungi kundagi ahamiyati va dolzarbligi hikoyadan olingan parchalarning tahlili orqali ko‘rsatib berilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: ramz, chin do‘stlik, hayot qadri, qissa, xarakter, syujet, pnevmoniya, carpe diem.

THE SHORT STORY “THE LAST LEAF” BY O‘HENRY AS A SYMBOL OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP

Abstract. This article focuses on description of the value of life and true friendship, analyzing extracts taken from the short story “The Last Leaf” written by O

Key words: symbol, true friendship, value of life, short-story, character, plot, pneumonia, carpe diem.

William Sydney Porter, better known by his pen name O‘Henry, was an American poet and short-story writer. He is considered to be one of the most famous writers of his time. Every story written by him has left a deep imprint on with its profound

meaning on readers’ hearts and minds. His unique talent, ability, sense of humor is still recognized in large groups and international literary - cultural parties. And even if there were optimistic spirit and high mood evident in his works, the writer’s lifestyle was not as smooth as his works. His first literary work was published in 1904 with the name of “*Cabbages and Kings*”. Just like Edgar Allan Poe, Garth and Mark Twain, Henry’s books skillfully revealed the true American spirit, vices that are an obstacle to the development of society, the readiness of the population for every evil in the pursuit of wealth, shortcomings through bitter sarcasm and funny suffering. One after the other, the writer’s creations: “*The Four Million*”, “*The Trimmed Lamp*”, “*Heart of the West*”, “*The Voice of the City*”, “*Roads of Destiny*”, “*Options*”, “*Strictly Business*” and the most popular “*The Last Leaf*” appeared in the world and found their way into the hearts of his fans. However, our attention has been drawn to his short story “*The Last Leaf*”, because this work is directly related to the life of the society; people’s depression in solitude, the return of an optimistic life due to the “last masterpiece” of the unlucky old artist was depicted with the great taste. O’Henry was called “*the king of short stories*” without hesitation all over the world.

“*The Last Leaf*” was published in 1907 and included in his collection “*The Trimmed Lamp*”. Portraying strong relationship between two friends, the literary work encourages readers not to despair and appreciate life no matter what happens. These thoughts will definitely be confirmed after getting acquainted with the plot of the work.

One particularly cold winter, Johnsy falls ill with pneumonia and it looks likely she will die of the disease. The doctor sees a patient Johnsy, and takes her friend Sue aside. The doctor tells Sue that her friend has no hope of living that Johnsy does not want to recover. Johnsy herself believes that she will perish when the last leaf of the year falls from the ivy vine outside her window. She has resigned herself to dying, much to the frustration of Sue, who is trying to help her friend. Sue and Johnsy live in the top apartment of the house. On the ground floor, Behrman, a male artist in his sixties lives. He is always talking about being on the brink of producing his “masterpiece”, but has never yet done so. He is, in short, a failed artist. When Sue tells

Behrman about Johnsy’s belief that she will die when the last leaf falls from the tree, he scoffs at such a superstitious idea. However, when Sue asks him to come and pose for her (he often poses for other artists), he agrees. When there is only one leaf left, there will be strong winds and storms. But the leaf was still firmly in place and would not fall. The days turn into night and still the last leaf clings to the vine. After days passed, Johnsy apologizes to Sue, realizing how selfish it was to long to die like that. If we analyze his words, it is really a sin to wish for death. It is not only in our Islamic world, but in all religions this law exists. Also, she interprets the tenacity of ivy as a sign that she should not have been so ready to embrace death.

The doctor visits and announces that Johnsy’s condition has much improved. However, he has also come to visit Behrman downstairs, who has fallen seriously ill with pneumonia. Sure enough, he dies soon after.

In the final paragraph of the story, Sue tells Johnsy that Behrman painted an imitation ivy leaf and attached it to the vine on the wall the night the real last leaf fell to the ground. That leaf, which was good enough to pass for a real leaf, is his masterpiece, which he has finally produced. But in going out into the cold weather to paint the leaf, he caught pneumonia and died.

When it comes to the analysis of this story, Two key details of the story – Johnsy’s belief that the last leaf on the vine is a “sign” of her own imminent demise, Behrman’s belief that he is imminently about to produce his life’s “masterpiece” – converge at the story’s close, as it is revealed that Johnsy’s superstitious belief is what enabled him to paint his masterpiece. Similarly, the existence of Behrman’s fake leaf gives Johnsy the necessary mental strength to turn a corner with her illness and realise how wrong it was to wish for death. A number of O’ Henry stories contain abysmal irony, especially in their final plot twists. “The Last Leaf” is more ironic than most, perhaps because the stakes are so high: Behrman dies of the same illness which afflicted Johnsy; Behrman gives his life in order to save Johnsy’s, but also to produce his life’s work, his “masterpiece”.

The life given by God has a very special meaning a value in which people sometimes forget to thank or either regret. Every person should appreciate his life and live it with a certain purpose. Usually, all of us are always striving for something in our life. That is why; we always have hope and love in our hearts in order to live. While reading this story, reader can comprehend how important self-confidence is in a person’s life. Although Behrman’s good deeds to bring Johnsy back to life lead to his death, in the end he succeeds in his lifelong dream of creating a “masterpiece”, and he left such a good memory from himself.

Thus Johnsy had to appreciate her life more than ever and took the responsibility of living it meaningfully, as now she has to live not only for herself, but also for Behrman’s sacrificed life. Admittedly, in today’s globalized period, many young people are losing their purpose in life. They even try to commit suicide in the face of small problems. Nowadays such situations are common among the youth. So, members of society should teach them how to patiently overcome obstacles, up and downs, not to lose hope, setting a clear goal in life. And this short story of O’Henry invites everyone to take a deep look at the same issue.

In conclusion, it can be said that life is a priceless gift. And every person should not waste it, when faced with difficulties, should not despair, light the ray of hope and continue to live with a goal in front of him as the main characters Sue and Behrman do for saving the life of their close friend Johnsy. The moral of the story enables readers to understand the value of life by devotion of Sue and Behrman who did not give up even there was no hope. As it is said, in life, Hope dies last, that is why do not stop believing in virtue and miracles. JUST VALUE LIFE AND FOLLOW CARPE DIEM.

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