

Hellenism and Hebraism in The Chronicles of Narnia

Abstract:

In The Chronicles of Narnia Lewis attempts to escape the present, his books reflect his attitudes towards contemporaneity and not escapist. The Chronicles of Narnia is not one single form, but a grouping of books which vary in form, style and genre. Though it's a children's book it's read by both adults and Children. In other form enjoyed by children, criticised by adults. The Chronicles of Narnia, can be interpreted in different perspectives. Hellenism and Hebraism shine exuberantly.

Keywords:

Hellenism

Hebraism

Perfection

Culture and Anarchy

Myth

Allegory

Introduction:

Literally speaking Hellenism refers to the people who lived under the influence of the ancient Greek during the Hellenistic period and the Roman empire. Hebraism describes a quality, character, nature or method of thought, system of religion attributed to the Hebrew people. Matthew Arnolds talks about Hellenism and Hebraism in his book called "Culture and Anarchy" in which he talks Hellenism and Hebarism 'the two points of influence between which the world moves'. Lewis creation of the world of Narnia is a direct response to his immediate world. It is a rejection of modernity on many levels showing a profound preference for pastoral settings and an almost complete absence of technology. The seven books follow the biblical story of the world from creation, through the fall of humankind, to the final judgement with a social structure based loosely on Arthurian legend, Greek, Norse, Christian and many other mythologies throughout in its use of ancient monarchical structures. Where Arnold's Hebraism and Hellenism is explicitly seen. The idea with Hellenism is to see things as they really are,



with Hebraism is conduct and obedience. The governing idea of Hellenism is spontaneity of consciousness, Hebraism strictness of conscience.

Hellenism and Hebraism

Hellenism speaks of thinking clearly, seeing things in their essence and beauty, As a grand and precious feat for man to achieve, so Hebraism speaks of becoming conscious of sin, of awakening to sense of sin. It is dealing with the heart and conscience. It is pertains to an intellectual superiority are in general quiet illusory. Hellenism is mind, intellect_ a free mind and a free intellect, resistant to can't and prejudice, connected with imagination and emotion, open to all excellence, past, present and future. Arnold Hellenism is symbolic, help us to see things as they really are in Lewis Narnia.

Lewis vivid imagination in Narnia populated by remarkable animals and creatures: some of them look like the animals in our world they talk, some are hybrids, beasts from mythology. Fluffy Mr. and Mrs. Beavers, majestic Unicorns, sly animals which look like a cross between cat and a dog, the fox is a good guy in Narnia, the lion singing, wolves are on the side of the white witch fluffier dogs, gryphons have the body of a lion and the head and wings of an angel. Nymphs are nature spirits and dryads a type of nymph live in trees. It's bodies are formed from flower petals which gives eerie beauty. Fauns are another hybrid with the upper body of a human and legs of a goat, it's Mr. Tumnus. Centaur, another hybrid, which are human from the waist up, with the lower body of a horse. Phoenixes, elegant birds help in battle against evil. Dwarf: The black are with White witch, while the red with Aslan. Minotaur, this hybrid has the head of a bull and the body of a man, no one want to snuggle with him. Satyr just fauns they are goatier. Cyclops, only one eyed with white witch. Hag- with their beak like nose and mouth, this ladies give us heebie-jeebies. Boggle, their faces make us to feel that we are going to end with evil team. Apart from this creature we could see dragon, sea-people are mere people monopods are dufflepuds. Therefore Lewis delighted in all forms of Earth's mythology it creates a viable, living which make readers comforting and home like. From Greek and Nordic myths Lewis make Hellenism in our modern age.

Hebraism describes a quality, character, nature or method of thought or system of religion. The action of people who are either ignorant or resistant, strict,



narrow-minded method of moral contact and self-control, Hebraism fastens its faith in doing, so Lewis implies perfection through religion in his Narnia. Sacrifice, a unique theme in nature in the *The Lion Witch Wardrobe*, White witch betrays Edmund by deciding to kill him so that prophecy that four humans put over power and rule over Narnia would not occur. Aslan learns of this and sacrifices to die instead of Edmund. Edmund tempted with Turkish delight with greed, Father Christmas gifts brought for siblings this implies each Christians have own special spiritual gifts from God. Retelling incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection is pictured by Lewis.

The whole series Narnia works like this. *The Magicians Nephew* tells the creation and how evil entered Narnia. From *The Lion Which Wardrobe* the crucifixion and resurrection *Prince Caspian* restoration of the true religion after corruption. *The Horse and His Boy*, makes us feel the calling and conversion of the heathen. *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* implies the spiritual life. *The Silver Chair* the continuing war with powers of darkness. *The Last Battle* conveys the coming of the Antichrist (the ape) the end of the world and the last judgement. Lewis Narnia books tend to divide audiences in particular because of their religious message. The Chronicles of Narnia contain several passages which can be read easily . It has allegorical biblical episodes. Most obviously the beginning of Narnia in '*The Magicians Nephew*' allegories the beginning of the world in genesis; Aslan's murder in the allegories christ's passion; and final scenes in the last battle 'are allegorical of Judgement Day. Aslan as Christ figure.

All children's literature is inescapably didactic as it takes the process of socialisation. Even in fantasy stories it is difficult to escape the values, routines or institutions which make our society function. In "Culture and Anarchy" Matthew Arnold holds on perfection. The aim of The Chronicles of Narnia is man's perfection and salvation the supreme idea with Hellenism or the Greek spirit is to see things as they are, Hebraism considers that the body and its desires are an obstacle to right action. How man can perfect himself or making him better behind Hebraism and Hellenism is questioned. Arnold accepts that Renaissance re-established Hellenism and man's intellectual impulses in Europe and puritanism embraced the blessings of both Hellenism and Hebraism.



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