

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI

NPTEL

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Gender and Literature

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So welcome to the second lecture from caffeine natural slides in this course and gender and literature, so in the first lecture which was the introduction lecture into that to lecture for this particular text we talked about the political and cultural conditions which produce the stakes so obviously it is the First World War shock stirring and some totally better body democracy in the First World War we talking a bit about the gender reconfigurations after the first world war.

So what were the major changes which were brought modules at the level of you know democracy also develop psychology was also level of gender locations after the first world war especially in Europe because in the text which is situated presumably in Europe, so we thought about how the entire idea of dominant a genetic map dignity the construct of dominant genetic masculinity was completely changed after the First World War primarily not least because the number of young men able-bodied healthy young men drop dramatically after the First World War.

So most of the men who were there after the war were he is the old man were too old to go to the world or men who have been paralyzed a traumatized but it was the non healthy men so the number of healthy young men dropped dramatically and this particular text shop story is very short stories when we are short instructor ages I read but despite its brevity it is very intense an attempt taken away it reflects this cultural condition after the First World War and also we look to the way in how certain professions have been occupation sudden in the public spaces open up for the woman after the First World War.

So if you look at any history of the World War we find from the length of the gender studies you find that after the World War we started having in Europe a woman bus conductors women birds

drivers woman plumb conductors etc and the reason is obviously very simple there were not enough men available at the time there were not enough able-bodied functioning men available after the first world war because of this tremendous violence which the war created yes and also the entire you know we talked about how a little bit about how the medical history changed officers were especially the medical treatment of trauma change after the first war.

So it moved away from the very materialistic model of electric shock and confinement and corporeal control to a more psychoanalytic model of treatment which is obviously propounded by some of the students right who as you know is a very important figure in literature because we have a lot of a very rich tradition of criticism called psychological criticism which comes into founded by a Freud and he was actually interested in the desert looking three texts like Hamlet David Copper field which were used as medical histories for Freud as well.

So we talk about his background we talked about this conditioning which created the fly this particular short story by Katherine Mansfield and then we looked into the text and we saw how at the beginning of the short story we have a very particular and clear construct of genetic masculinity through the figure of the boss you know the unnamed figure the boss and we talked about how the very title of the boss is a construct for the figure boss its authoritarian explore establishment he is the patriarchal person of sort of fellow eccentric person who is very comfortable in being and control who enjoys entitlement who enjoys privilege who enjoys the position of authority and that is how he opens up in the short story in the flight.

And complete contrast to that we have a sailor called Mr. Woody Filed who we saw in the previous lecture how he was increasingly infantilized he is obviously a little baby he cannot control his nerves he cannot control his memory in someone who is controlled by its woman his wife and his daughters and at this point in the shop story we notice how the woman in the short story seemed to have more control than we men and we talked about how the woman they allow or do not allow Mr. Woody feels to go out necessity to behave in a particular way they are in control.

So they are the people who are controlling Mr. Woody fearless behavior his newsmen successful primarily because he is a sick man, so Mr. Woody field as an old sick man here presents the greatest and symbolically the decadent inactivity of Europe and of course we saw he ended the first lecture the point where there was a description of Mr. Woody feels wife and daughters are

going to Belgium to take a look at the grave of their son Greggy now it was also mentioned how the grave of ridiculous graver the bosses sons are very close to each other.

And of course the boss never mentioned it son till the point in the short story and leave just a very brief and quick glimpse of you know Lincoln this granular glimpse of a living photo graph of a blade in the boss's desk a photograph which it does not draw the attention to of Mr. Woody feel he did not want to show it off but we saw a photograph of a young boy in the soldiers uniform and great looking young boy in a soldier's uniform and after getting reported Mr. Woody feels and the way he described to his wife and daughters having gone to see the grace of his boy we get to know we have the knowledge now that aborted son – you must have fought in the law and must have lost his life in the first world law something that he does not want to talk about too much.

Now we ended the first lecture in talk about travel what tourism trauma tourism how an adult idea of going to see the graves of the dead people it became a big industry of the First World War and increasingly travel companies like Thomas Cook they began to flourish after the First World War primarily because a more men and women wait to sit a travel to see the last remnants of the young of the loved ones be great for a lot of their loved ones the people the places where the people died.

So those become became focus of tourist interest after the First World War, so the entire industry of tourism entire industry of trauma tourism it sounds a bit of an oxymoron that is the way we describe it trauma tourism it flourished it so really came in a big way often first world war and would it feel itself wife and daughters they embody as travelers when they go to Belgium to see the graves of the sons they embodied this trauma tourism the embodied destroyers who end up the First World War to take a look around the places where their loved ones died right.

So what if you talked about how their wife and daughters went to Belgium to take a look at Reggie's grave and regular wave happens to be quite close to the boss's son's grave and then leave loose on the dry grasses and loose on the table or the price of jam and they were dealt English maybe woman was saying, so obviously the focus shifts from the trauma to the tourism so he talked about the price of Jam he talked to God you know how the garden parts are so nice and maintained its as it has gone to a little you know a little touristy Museum which is to be well-maintained and they obviously have to pay a ticket to get in.

So it is completely linked with an industry of travel the industry of tourism so as you can see this is something which came up with historically so this is again a very important bit in this chart story despite the brevity is so deeply embedded in a real historical condition it so deeply reflective of the real historical commission that is right it is at a significant job sorry okay. So would appeals description of this wife and daughter great the Belgians they can look at its own grave it is real candidates exactly what happened after the First World War and then this is what we wanted to tell to the boss this is want to wonder what it would be say to the board we come all the way to see the boss to report this that you know my wife and daughters went to Belgium to take a look at my son's grave and they happened to come by your son's grave which is also that quite close by.

So your son's grave and our son's grave are quite close to each other and they are very peaceful as very well maintained the settle up okay, so this is the point in the short story when entire logic begins to change and we talked about how in the previous lecture how this entire idea the woman traveling and coming back and report in to the men is the complete opposite of what we saw in how the darkness where the men had travelled had the adventure all the misadventure comeback and lied to the men women who were insiders who had no idea about what was happening in the empire outpost of Empires the Kreutzer is intended in how the darkness.

For example it is missing form of life to he get she gave default romantic report of Kurtz's life and death which you never get to know which it does not she must never know what really happened in the in the colonies and the outpost of the colonies and complete contrast to basically how the Buddha field wife and daughters going to go Jim that they can look at the Sun creation coming back and reporting to the men and of course reporting host of all the Jam prices price of a terrorist but the nice broad garden path etc.

Which is a very touristy kind of report so the men stay back the men are paralyzed to travel the to paralyzed to travel you know they cannot travel because in medical reason they cannot travel because of psychological reasoning and it is a woman who travels women that take control the woman to decide the woman have agency after first world war. So in a red resistance sense I mentioned in the previous lecture how the First World War was emancipation was the beginning

of the end of this flea or template Europe template domination right there is the beginning of the end of this valid eccentric control of women and in and we non-white people right.

So at the beginning of the end of philosophic at the beginning of the end of patriarchy as in knowledge as an even before that so it was the beginning of the emancipation of women with the beginning of the freedom of the colonies etc it all began to take place after the first world war, so in that case the doctrines the first were maybe regarded quite rightly so as a massive paradigm shift in masculine's economy in the gender economy that prevailed in Europe at that point of time.

So the fly the captain Mans field is a rape attempt date is very complex short story which deals with these topics which deals with these things so we came to the point of the short story in the previous lecture where would it be remembered after having drawn the whiskey to the bottle offered him who remembered what had come to kill the boss he remembered that what his wife and daughters had told him about the son's grave or the bosses son's grave and relayed the report to the boss he said to him the end of your son's grave is very well-kept your son's grave is very well looked after and then you have the freak in obvious question to the boss you would never been abroad heavier you have never been there to see your son's grave having and the Broad Street plays no.

And the narrative informs as for various reasons he had not been abroad the various reasons he had not been there so you know we get we get a sense of this is perhaps getting on the dark now this is perhaps getting a bit a really complex now so the story began in a very simplistic by an aristocrat of a way where the boss was typically manly man but the boss was completely in control the boss with someone I had a huge inject up office very phallic architecture in his office drinking whiskey reading the Financial Times so very manly metonymy simplifiers or manliness you know whisky financial time.

So you know he is the mongolism complete no it is a completely on the ball about finances completely in or in control of his nerves who is drinking whiskey which is very manly drink, so everything was hopefully going for him in terms of his manly construct for the constructed manliness that he wanted to be embody now this is the point in a short story where that begins to change when you know would you feel informs in the about the son's death about the bodice remains them of a song said of course he knows that son is dead but it reminds them returns yet

and it informs that the fact that you know the son's grave is very well looked after and Belgium very close to a vertical grades a vertical son's grave it and then it departs.

So would if you leaves the scene after having relay this report to the boss okay, so the entire significance of woody feel is very important in the short story what is what I feel doing so what it feels starts off as a as a contrast to the boss as a construct of construct contrast he is the opposite so he is very carefully constructed as a contrast in the boss okay so he is framed his odd is wearing a muffler he is elevated as completely exhausted he is on his way out he is competing in anon not in control in other words he is not really a manly man and complete contrast to the boss who really turns out to be a very manly man turns out to be this sort of really a sewer typically manly man who is drinking whiskey and reading the Financial Times.

Now this was the initial surface who would have considered in the short story but then again it gets more complex as I said who remembers decide that you know his son created was indulging and so it is the boss of son's grave and if and it does that to the boss and this is the beginning of the end of the bosses effort to construct himself as a manly man okay so this report really any way you get to see the short story how this particular report really you know collapses they can start the bosses in a community you know it really began to attack this entire idea of mask unity that he wants to embody so heavily right a socially successful in more successful personal success regression right in this begins to give away with this particular report.

So what if it goes away in the short story having relayed this report to the boss, now as soon as woody feels goes away the boss begins to crumble so we see a complete change in the short story where the boss travels from stolidity to fragility and this is what I said to mention in the previous lectures throughout this entire story is about a transition a shift from, so duty to fragility sort of moving away into a fragile construct okay.

Now the moment would you feel goes away the boss in the boss seems and out comes back his office shut the door and then instructs that he is not to be disturbed so it tells the secretary some of them may see negatively the names of the seemingly insignificant people are there in the short story so we get to know the boss the Secretary's name we get to know woody to explain we ever get to know in a vertical son's name but interestingly the boss's name we never get really just called the boss the boss's son's name again we never get to know instance called a boy right and it is interestingly so those who are interested in the symbolic story of this particular short story

would know that a boss represents to every man that father figures every man who is lost his son to the rock and the boss's son again it represents to everyman the young man the face of a young man who died in the war okay.

So they are unnamed they anonymous and they are replaceable so these are the boss represents the patriarchal and patriarch who had whose dry first mansion with drive for control with drive for success and really calls the world right the patriarch page wrapper principle which it calls the world affairs world rock and the cosmology of the world and so insistently and innovation between the boss's son represents the matter of the father was sent out to the world in order to satisfy the national desire for expansion for control for you know characterization and so his get is a very symbolic death his death is basically a disruption a disruption with masculine desire of centralization and control this entire map to limit hubris of expansion tantalization this megalomaniac you know desire for more and more success etc.

Which was basically which calls a lot right so the boss represents the patriarch the megalomania patriarchal desire for tantalization is basically the dragon impulse of the First World War and the boss's son who died in the First World War represents the gratitude Mata recognizes the person who is sent off to satisfy the desire or the of the father you know to expand to control the terrorism. So he is dead bodies and ranges in very symbolic way the failure of his mastering this project we did monstrosity of as mash community project.

So in a way and we mentioned this in the previous lecture anyway the entire story can be read as a feminist that I am a feminist critique of rescaling feminist critique of this entire megalomania can no desire for stanchion tantalization etc, so magnitude is writing from attorneys position mans he was writing from our position of critique in this particular short story so as we see as a story progresses from this point the boss gets more emasculated the boss gets more stripped down so his entire constructed dressing up as this big man surrounded by big gadget surrounded by the big machines and office that has been taken away gradually in the short story.

So he comes back in this office career becomes bike shop the dog sits back in his death and so far in his armchair story and instructs not to be disturb and then he begins to remember it begins to relive the loss of his son it begins to ramming the loss of his son okay now he talks about how it is really shocking for him where this entire idea of woody fields wife and daughters looking at the son's grave and he gets an image in resource of image mindlessly disturbing image for him

because a he feels as the narrator tells us he feels as if the grave had opened up and the boss son flying inside the grave unblemished and what if his wife and daughters in looking at the deck from inside the grave.

So this again this entire gains is reverse over here as you can see so it is a woman gazing of a dead man as a woman who gazing at the powerless dead man rights to the entire powerful man who supposed to be engaging with the bottom controlling was supposed to be televised centralizing was supposed to be expanding etcetera you know that particular man that particular construct that particular condition that particular desire is dead. So the Son the death of the Son is basically the death of this masculine's desire the desire for expansion the desire for profit the desire of control desire for imperialism the desire for economic expansion except for the entire desire to get so in a very interesting way they get at the Son is a depth of desire the masculine's desire and this entire image all be the image the book has not mind that they would you feel wife's and daughters and looking at the grave and out of the grave was opening up and the sons lying in the grave helplessly and the woman is staring at him.

So it is almost like a you know it is a castrating compass day as the woman staring at the man who was not castrated with not inoculated symbolically castrated symbolically taken off in a community had gone so that kind of upset that kind of a gauge is now given to the woman so in a way the bottles frightened of the woman of course I mean as you can see in this particular short story, so except woody fields you know wife and daughters one mention the shorter there is no other mention of any other one we were never get to meet and we never get to know by the way of the boss's wife we never get to know of the bottom son's mother whether he had a mother a biological mother of course he had a biological mother whether that was a legal mother whatever they never get to know his absent presence or the woman the absent presence of the mother figure in the short story is very interesting.

So it is almost a sensate the boss had tried to own he has absolute ownership on the son which did not required the presence of the mother figure which does not require seemingly the presence of the intervention of any female right so as long as the demand can control its progeny absolutely unconditionally the man seems to have absolute ownership on its progeny and he got this kind of idea that kind of English that is given to us in this particular short story and very

quickly we get to know that the boss has enormous ambition for the son the boss had his ambition that he is police filled his empire and the world empire comes short story range asleep.

So his business in a pyramid an empire and he saw say that the entire idea what sort of fun to take over and carry on from where he left off so again we have seen this entire expansionist desire the desire to expand the desire to move on the desire to tell lies to take control to make more profit you know again to confirm a labor in Master man is really part of the central desire and that desire is disrupted that desire is dead so like I said the death of the son away is symbolically the death of desire the death of its masculine's desire for control expansion cage realization etc and that is something which is very symbolically in a present in this particular short story integrate heavy kind of a way so the debt from in this particular short story is very symbolic non presence is there a symbolic figure whose debt represents the death of desire that oldest ambition dismasting the ambition for control expunging debt realization exactly the diet megalomaniac of expansion this entire megalomaniac will desire for expansion quartet realization is not disrupted tortured with the death of the son okay.

So the story begins to become really complex and psychological from this point so the broad sits with inner office thinking of the enormous lot that has happened to him because of death of the son and also we get to see that you know his loss you know this experience of loss experience in bereavement for the some it is also emotional as it is masculinity this entire idea is now that son is dead what is going to happen to this Empire in other words one is dead what is going to happen to this business who's going to expand the business who's going to perpetrate this prison.

So again if you go back and give you this for peace you know the production promotion protection and preservation or perpetuation right the production promotion protection and perpetuations, so the four PS which were governing we follow the simple principle of enough control generalization and expansion so the four PS always play with each other nervously the bottom produced this economy about the produces umpires now we need someone to do perpetrators to expand it to preserve it and but that particular presence is not gone that particular figure we are supposed to preserve it who is supposed to perpetrating suppose expanded further it is not gone you know the death of the son began so the death of the desired that or future for the boss.

So it does not really have a future its business does not have a future really in the proper sense so again we see the loss of experiences this the bereavement that it suffers is not the emotional as masculine's it is very masculine it is kind of a bereavement the very masculine is kind of that of desire right and that is something that it keeps saying over and over again in the course of the short story now what happens in this particular short story from this point is really psychological and complex.

So the boss we get to know that the boss had really suffered and it makes it very clear of you know the duty to the reader that means really suffered the loss of a son and more importantly he also mentioned he also seems to indicate that his suffering is in a way a very unique kind of a suffering right it is something which is very unique something which is very special to him at because you know and that again that is part of the hubris of the boss you know that we know what heedless it means false pride right it is not just bright as false bright the false pride which brings about a downfall of a particular figures it is a term from a Greek tragedy.

So like telepathy our you know a mafia hubris in the term which could mean sports bright as it is something which a lot of epic heroes have which bring them all the downfalls eventually so the boss in this particular short story he has a hubris of masculinity arrogance he has his hubris of nastiness expansion and control now his hubris extends to this point that he actually says that his suffering his loss is unique right.

So the fact that he has lost his son is to be seen as a unique experience of loss now the fact that millions of people lost two sons and millions of people lost a loved one in the world in a digital kid that is unborn that reduction is that redundant them right now he needs to insist he knows two German ties his own unique sense of loss okay it tells you it tells the reader quite clearly and the directive also promises that you know he has refused to move on right he has refused to reconcile to the fabulous time of death so he is not someone who is going to move on from the sense of loss because his loss is unique his sense of loss his sense of bereavement is so special it is so unique that other people might move on other people might live the logs down but not he.

And in actually say these lands do appear in the short story if you read it other men might live the lost on a but not he how was it possible its entire life has no meaning except for the son okay and so we would get to know the picture we get to this flashback narrative where we reassure on how they brought in the son would travel together to train every single day how the son was

picking up the tricks of the trade very quickly he was becoming popular with the people in the others everyone had a good word for him and he had this boyish charm and with a simply splendid at the time something happened.

So there is an entire idea of this entire mask construct of the Son it is raised subtly recently given to us so his boyish man who is about to become a real man and bosses of training him the bottoms basically but taking him in and to it's cold and of masculine as I maximizing him in a way so he sort of it was about he was a cusp of boyhood and manly hood he has boys Shana was insistent did about anything whenever he was happy to say simply splendid again it is very boyish but he was learning to trade very quickly it was very quickly becoming manly he was very quickly becoming a good businessman right.

Who is sitting perfectly it was put into a team to the point where the boss had left off you take it off from there and responded him finally ad infinitum and the bosses Empire would be in safe hands but this was the point why he was summoned were better locked in a sense off in the lock on the bottom is a telegram one fine day which mentioned we do to regret inform you and that was the beginning of his end that is the song which was not that of a human being but also more importantly the depth of desire and it's something I want to emphasize the debt of desire for the boss to die for expansion centralization profit making all this desire this entire network of desire comes to an end the very dramatic end with a dead office son okay.

So this was the entire symbolic significance for the son's death now attached to this attached us as you know in segments meet between privileged and authoritative and special is also the fact that how we make this sorrow very privileged how it makes us lost very privileged he actually say that that other men would live the loss down but I would never live my loss down because in a my son is the rate special son it is my son so this entire of not essentially principle that the attaches in some time off refers to desire but he attaches to even its loss is something was almost pathological this ego this entire social inflated ego this entire person stated narcissism which again is a masculine's is now attributed even in its loss.

So he actually say that my experience of loss is so special so unique that it can never be recovered from it can never be and moved away from I can never move on from the sense of loss and sense of sorrow from the sense of you know bereavement that I have just started with a death of my son okay so at this point in the short story things get really a psychological or non neurotic

hysteria okay and he was what is Terry quite carefully over here because as you know the entire constructivist area of medically and culturally was attributed to the female right to the woman so very serious the three sexes kind of thought in a division line between men and women was still dis or spilled over also in the realm of diseases in the realm of Medicine whereby hysteria was a female mala D and again really fun book by Ellen shoulder called the female model T if you want to read more about the history of this area you ignored additionally medically it was said to be a disease from womb right.

So hysteria the word is say actually comes from enough something which comes in the womb and promotes womb so other females could be history since Syria or in other word the lot of emotional control the loss of nervous control the loss of rationalism clothes was supposed to be a very female condition right because rationality was male right logic was meals and on controllers males any deviation is a departure from this construct would be automatically classified as female right.

So this area was a female multi this territory which happened to women alone and this is the point in the short story where we get to sing it how hysteria is a reconfigured in this particular context and it becomes a very interesting sense it becomes masculine's so what happens in this partnership story is very distracting the boss you know he wants to relive the loss of his son he was three feel the loss of his son he was three field or revisit his original moment of trauma his original moment of loss.

So what does the dude he shuts the door he produces this photograph of the Sun which we saw in very hoping page and very cleverly the reticule that in Tolls theorem this is something which the boss did not draw attention to you but is there in this table somehow but for some reason does not show it off in a way he shows up at electric heating and financial planners and risky though the things that shows up but not this particular thing that something of hidden object in this desk now that particular hidden object not his thought is not for grounded and the boss looks at the photographs and what does he want to do he was to try right he wants to a certain since when years after the death of a son four years of us you know but he still wants to try he still wants to relive or revisit or experience the original moment of loss.

Now the rein lesser papers of the boss they realized the male pride of the boss and interestingly the male pride at this point is equated with ability need to visit Eric now it is really complex

because as I just mentioned that hysteria is traditionally a female malady but what wants to feel special not just in his social position but also in a grief. So he says he wants a group of the world unto himself more importantly but he can still cry he can still be history even after four years after sundeck right so in other words his masculinity now it is mediated or this mind by its ability to be his charity searches again because very complex point his masculinity is medicated and determined by his ability to meet hysteric to their spherical right.

So hysteria over here that moves away from being a female malady and I should becomes masculine in his condition interestingly where about the boss wants to be history the boss wants to perform hysteria in order to prove to himself that is that is very hubristic believed that he had in his mind his sorrow his grief it is about, so special but it has not moved on that it is incapable of moving on it is someone you know it is something that it kind of move on from the kind and it is so special and so you need to him right and that is something that we wanted to feel that is something that he wants improve to himself over and over again that's reasonable like this particular short story gets really complex because it translates the different gender dynamics over here.

So it obviously manly over here you just do not have to be rational it does not have to be unemotional inoculums manly aware they must also be able to perform this area now I use was performed quite industry because that cases back to remember to original reading of performance and performativity how you're trying to produce an effect he said it produced a spectacular effect in the case of the balsa way of the spectacle is something that he wants to consume in other words he wants to consume his own hysterics tells he wants to produce exterior he wants to perform this area and thereby in the process he will tell himself over and over again that I am still capable of grieving the loss of my son I am still capable of mourning loss of my son in a rash that special way right.

In a way which is very unique to me because my loss is so unique the case of you at the point to the point where is boss is trying to get asterisk in order to be manly and it is sort of paradox aware but that is exactly what is happening in this particular sorcery the boss in order to feel manly is trying to be hysteric because you know if it manages two biggest areas and manages to try it can manages to relive the original moment of laws he proved himself a manly kind of a way that I have not moved on in other words I have defied the healing effect of time.

So I am to the strongman I am such a manly man but I have defied the healing effect of time so four years apart years apart but then that has had no effect of me that has a no in a healing effect of me I am still capable of reliving I am still capable of feeling the original moment of loss which was among the dead for the from that original moment of the news came to me my son is dead I am so capable of feeling and refueling and reliving that moment and no amount of time no quantity of time no floor plan was capable of healing me no flow of time is capable of changing me.

So I am unchangeable in other words my grief is unchangeable my morning is unchangeable remap to discover morning a very manly kind of the morning and I'm someone who defies time completely, so on a time without have no effect on me other men would live the lock down other men might move on other men might forget but I will never forget right the dis entire effort to defy time this entire effort to divide forgetfulness this entire effort to you know the speech time the defeat forgetfulness defeat memory is something that the boss want to do as part of his manly program okay.

So we can see the mapcommunity the bottle area it spills over from financial problems and whiskey into memory and in a performativity and this area okay, so he wants to relive the mode of regional trauma he wants to relive and revisit do it again and again and again and ad infinitum if you want to perform masculine on hysteria he wanted ape formative necessary in order to be manly at this point of time so this is the way you have seen conundrum very quickly paradox which Mansfield brilliantly described in this particular short story and that is reason why such a complex short story it is not political so cultural at the same time it is so psychologically dens in short story and it is reason why is when the final short stories ever written and history of English literature perhaps of any literature for that matter okay.

So this is the condition that I bought fine comes those in this is a condition that our boss is trying to relive he was what to shut the door shut off from everything and cry again then relive the original of the trauma but of course when try subscribe and cannot cry very clearly it is revealed to us the boss cannot cry he tries again he says my son drone the boss but no tears came yet so you know this is the beginning of the end of the boss if we are beginning the end of this hubris in

a way so he has very few Briscoe declared to himself to the world that he can never live with loss down he can never move on from his loss but here is trying to cry.

But realizing that he has to whether he wanted to want to or not he has to been forcefully and I have been forced to move on my time the time to has healed him in a way time to has made him forget the original moment of trauma, so he just is very puzzled he distance there is very little help less and does not know what to do he is trying again and again to perform this area he is trying again and again to relive the moment of original trauma in order to make him feel free very special but it cannot do it.

So this ponder short story we have what is called the flight episode in the short story you know instantly the name of the short story the flight again it's a real psychological episode where we see the boss are doing some Israeli psychological and rate complex so the entire episode of flight restored is an example of what because sadomasochism it is a combination of sadism and masochism of course as you know it dysplasia someone derive by torturing other you know instead of it torture someone verbally physically in whatever form and derive a pleasure out of it.

So it is really complex you know almost a sickly condition of imagination whereby you get a satisfaction by seeing someone suffer that sadism masochism is more complex masochism is a bit rate you know a perverse pleasure principle whereby you get a sense of pleasure by you know suffering yourself right so you suffer yourself you know physically or emotionally or verbally is additionally any form that you desire and that suffering that we go through in a very perversely produces pleasure it produces a pleasure principle in you so sadomasochism is a combination of these two pleasure principles it is not absolute masochism.

So what happens in apply episode is this the boss since they are very puzzled boss today unable to know and know what to do at this point assigned because he tried to cry by the cannot cry and it is realizing with increasing you know defeat that is maybe time has moved on I am a good forgotten and he's trying to cry friends best to remember re -members regional first rehash and live his original self does the region moment a trauma but it cannot so since there is very puzzles where is notices to fly and saw the import.

So there is a hint bomb in front of them and noticing the fly inside the import and somehow its focus shifts to the fly inside the import and for some reason it brings out of ten and helps to fly

come out of the imports it takes to fly Altima import and puts it on a blotting paper right this is the first condition it takes a fly out and puts it in the blotter paper up and then it seems of life begins dry itself so the fly and it begins to drive stir by in the fluttering this rings sort of bringing in the air to the rings and in the process instead of shedding of the ink the block of English's on his body and in the process is making itself more and more light and preparing for flight.

So you want to go away and want to flyaway after the glider self now that upon a time the boss has a very perverse idea they brought to the race of men you know we had strange got an idea so what does it do they put some you know the pen inside the ink port makes outputs out just a blob of ink and dropped the blob of ink on the fly again so the person student could help the flight to martyr the ink bro now install it you know you know how it was trying to make itself light trying to make yourself free trying to get rid of the ink in the process you somehow something happened to drain and he decides that maybe he should torture the flight to see how they candles it okay.

So he drops his pen back he dips has been back in the inkpot push it again and drops the blot of ink on the flight to see what the fly does sort of like obviously it is very cold the fly is on very shocked and it comes to it in a very heavy kind of array and a drop of ink blotter think for the fly has a very heavy thing so there is a moment of stillness in the moment of silence and then a second later a few seconds later the flight begins the process again the process of drying ourselves off the ink right and the boss again observes it the box absorb he so he begins the field observation to a supply begin to really admire the fly its effort to move on its effort in a deal with shock deal with trauma deal with loss and that becomes an event anyway a reflection of his own manic afterwards the deal with loss his own manly effect today we will defeat.

So the product the fly is from the deal with defeat deal with loss in a way which Israeli manually he come to the board so the bottle all admiration for the slight okay so it drops a lot of in front of like and in a Caesar slice drive serve again and apply magnitude right, so it is almost free in so much free and so much dry and it is prepare for fly when the boss does it again he puts them back into the import pulls out over the pen fill the thing and drops another blob of ink on the flight yet again to see other fly handle set and the flight you know is obviously getting weaker with time because you know the process of drying is a very heavy process very mysterious and it's taking a toll on his ability of checking at all honest in the physicality.

So the fly is getting weaker the boss then notices so the process began again but this time more weaker than last time to some weaker than last time so the flight begins again bring the bow asleep in a drying itself and the images we have in this particular section of a looking image is the image of the sky going under a stone right. So we have the stone the sky symbolism but the process of it someone is trying to pull is thrown up a very heavy stone up and about pushing us right into it and this particular image disguising a stone image obviously reminds us of the synthesized image in the middle suspicious SI SY PHUS. Sisyphus.

So the myth of Sisyphus is a very important metaphor which was made famous on occasion originally a Greek myth but was made famous traitor the other camel weight off the ball the sisters being a metaphor for the perfect likeness of man the pointlessness of man so the successive image of the image of someone doomed to purchase torn up a hill with the knowledge that with summer you know rolled back again down the hill and have to push it up again and then that process will continue ad infinitum.

So again the sufficient image is an image of futility as an image of purpose there is an image of pointlessness of image of defeat so since I - stone image that man would bring sin very skillfully at this point in the short story as a reminder of the significant image this life is trying his best to lean on drives of to recover from the chakra code from the Lord but the boss is giving it and then you know it is trying very hard we find more weaker than the first time because getting weaker physically to move on and to deal with the pain to deal with trauma the needed lost okay.

So the boss again looks at the flight and he is again his aberration grows I mean reaction says we also a little bastard right and the word away is very interesting he does not say the word document absolutely B which obviously represents or the word you want to say is that but the point is a very manly way to admire someone but it is not it is not something which is very affectionate they got something it is very emotional it is very manly which kind of away not I used with which in very manly mastery studies confer it's like a strongman admiring another strong man because it is something muscular that is happening because of something really mattered and such happening at that point of time.

So to fly away a represent reflection about his own entire nastiness principles of dealing with trauma dealing with loss dealing with defeat okay so a second time to the flight manages to dry

itself and the broad sense idea that may be introduce one more time one last time and involved if suspending the in thought takes out and drops another blogger things on the flight and this time the sliders of news the fly is dead. Now in the previous section in a previous episode with the fly with dryness of a second time the boss was actually breathed on it you know tell the drying process so that is the reason why I mean what I mean when I said it is a sadomasochistic process.

So in away the boss I am getting pleasure but he was fine stuff table is getting pleasure by seeing the flight and are really being tortured but on the other hand he wants to fly to win so he is actually helping the flies in the drying process is breathing on to it in order to help the drying process at the same time he was dropping the blot of ink on the fly in order to make it tougher so instead of masochism, so the fly is voting other as well as the self for the boss so the flight is what the fly for the boss as well as his own reflection of his own self his own effort to move on his own effort to reconcile with own efforts to deal with trauma violence and loss.

So the effort of the fly away ax is a very urgent reminder at the rate we're not nice reflection for the boss a very complex equation for the boss and a reflection of his own effort to deal with the feed we would lost deal with morning to deal with violence okay, so the first time you drops the ink on the blotter ring on the fly the fighters will move anymore so the boss keeps eating it the boss keeps saying come on look sharp look sharp and again this phrase look sharp like new artful little boxer again these are very manly phrases these are phrases spoken by very manly men were successful men who are big muscular social successful etc these are the men we say these kind of phrases - come on look sharp it was the egg on the flight the flight is not mesh and the fly and the Dauntless lost that the fly is not finally dead okay.

So he takes to fly now the cops to the flight it is interesting how the fly is increasingly humanized and the process is almost like it is magnified and some of the human being so if I become serving a humanized version of the bosses for an effort to deal with defeated in the trauma to deal with loss okay. So in the end of slides of slides they are dead and it does not move and boss and it takes it out for this pen and through it is a waste of the basket but the director tells us very clearly the wretched sense of emptiness consumes right and feels positively frightens now.

Because the fly had survived the fly had the fly had managed to move on the fly had managed to drive through the last time that would have been a symbol of hope for the boss a symbol of

regeneration for the boss the fact that applied did not survive the fact that other fly could not survive the fly was deadly and that was something was really scared the boss so anyway it is a very complex psychological episode and it's an episode which brings to the boss originally it lays there in front of them they own defeats its own defeat of its masculine principle of survival or preservation of perpetuation an entire masculine's project of preservation or survival is not coming to an end and the fly became an extension of its manly self the felt that is struggling to survive the sub that is actually struggling to move on to control the peace to control here violator to control loss you know but that selfness is now dead.

So with the flight that self is not also gone so he looked at a fly he thinks of it as grinding cleaning of wretchedness seized him and itself cause to be frightened the neurotic daughter is so frightened now no longer is man we thought no longer diseases manly person and control and the flooring ends with the boss summoning the secretary making and asking disturbance fresh blotting paper and trying again to the very manly saying look sharp about it okay do it very quickly look sharp about it bring me some fresh water paper the deep inside the letter chocolate and final sentence to the glory exist you know and inside down there trying to remember what he was thinking about before but for the life of him within the final sentence for the life of him he could not remember in this reminiscent of what happened to woody for the beginning the destroy a giant wolf in and the muffler who could not remember what had come to tell the boss isn't it exactly when about end to it.

So it is listen of conflation of the two extremes the story had opened you know a bit like boss and if you would you feel has to complete contrast to each other in an opportunity map the bosses solid rubber is healthy and ridiculously feedback inoculated infantilized but the story ends with the conflation of these three opposite so the both ends up being woody feels the broad sense of being completely emasculated to both ends up being completely elevated exhausted and it does not quite know how to deal with things anymore for the life of them he could not remember.

So you cannot remember what happened to him he can remember what she was thinking of they cannot remember what he had in his mind before the fly episode so with the fly episode was a dead life what also died is the boss's manly rational control himself did that get its final defeat that is actually finally killed in this particular processes entire civil masochistic episode which

the which is paradoxically altered by the boss himself right he is the author of this particular episode.

So he in a way and highlights his own Mandy self right so as prior to that we have seen how this man results had desperately tried to cry tried to be hysterics in order to prove to itself but it is still fresh the wound that he has in mind of the son's death is still forever fresh it remains forever fresh and that too was defeated he could not cry as we bring it tried many times to cry he was trying to perform hysteria he looked at the photograph several times try to evoke but to generate tears but tears will not come.

So and then we moved on to his flight episode he went to the flight to sufferable same time he went to the flight to win by dropping lots of ink on it and in the end the flight team could not manage it anymore and it lay dead in front of him so a death of the flight again it is a really grim reminder of the death of his own project is entire preservation project that he had in his mind so the story ends with a screening of emptiness the feeling of nothingness the boss sits down with right.

So he sits down the defending of nothing that which you know retrofitting of nothingness which please convince him completely and if it was positively frightened it says in our he foods really frightened durian does not know what to do he could not future ahead of him he cannot remember anything so in a way he become quite literally a timeless man and he was what time is layup and not in a positive sense but in a very realistic sense he becomes something which is completely and highlighted by times it is the revenge of time as you can see because you know for a long period of time the boss that defies time the boss that said I am not going to be affected by time I am not only affected by the healing power of time and some honors you know beyond the power of time.

I am the unaffected completely by any effort of time I am going to have my own experience of loss and it is going to be forever fresh in my mind that is never going to change in my mind but now we see time has come back and arranged itself on the boss to anyway he cannot remember what he was thinking of the floor it did have a future in front of him because the son is dead so he becomes quite literally a timeless person in someone who is quote unquote liquidated by time emptied of time right.

So he becomes the time description and back then to the world and that reason wide so it becomes so grim and dark in the end so as you can see the entire story can be read gravely its reflow tile text for gender studies and literature how one particular construct an opportunity is coming to an end the sins I exhibited maps to do supports once anybody is coming to an end and we find the woman in the particular short story they get more agency they have more power they have more mobility they have more financial agency they move the travel the clinic on graves come back until the they read the old fathers who were able psychologically or medically unable to travel to the site of loss another one to in control and if the father decided to simply patriarch who are actually dying in this particular short story.

So symbolically the boss is dead by the time the story ends- in the third day unable to remember anything so again the shift has been from solid into the fragility as I mentioned instance on there like a fragile figure right someone unable to think unable to remember unable to envision any future so he represents that particular scheme that particular ending represents a bit of a debt all that valid eccentric principles that the boss had desperately tried to embody truly social success to his professional success truly some truths emotional control but now that particular construct is not clinically died like that of a fly.

So fly is dead and so is a boss even the idea and I am manly image of the boss that he wanted to project to the world a dream so it is not finally dead, so this concludes a reading of the flight so again as you can see it is a very complex short story it is very historical it is raised authentically reflective of the gender conditions of the time immediately after the first world war but more important for the purpose of our course you find how the entire dynamic of gender is dramatically reconfigured in flight how one particular kind of maps individuals are gym nix the wide calaboose centric mask unity is coming to an end in this particular short story an entire short story can be read as a feminist critique of that kind of mask unity.

So we find this very strong female presence of the author outside the shop three who is critiquing this particular kind of map community and that of the boss is very welcome yet in a way because that is the kind of map content which is abhorred by the woman by the feminists remember the patriarchal fallible centric all-controlling rational masculinity which is desperate to win which is desperate to you know listen area which is desperate to survive as a figure of authority that carry mask unity is coming to an end in this particular short story.

So this short story historically ideologically culturally is very interesting point doc to the dynamic of gender change which happened after the first world war of the dynamics of gender change how the no gender locations change how we the agency the relation the agency and gender was dramatically reconfigured officers were a lot we get all that leaders come to all that in this particular short three which again is deepest Oracle but also purely as a literary takes a level of crops it is a really sophisticated text is the text which really you know foreground a moment of psychological intensity it is only ten it brings together sadism masochism combines those two together and really makes a psychologically complex.

And it is so crystallized at the moment so beautifully and that the reason that the shorter is regarded so highly regarded as a fine work of fiction and level of craft it is so rich the level of craft and it is regarded to be wrong the best short story ever written. So this concludes a reading of life I hope you enjoyed this particular lecture and also previous one so do read the short story doing in great details you have covered most of it from the lens of gender studies but in other things that we can take up the more things we can find if you read it more carefully in more details. So this concludes our reading of fly thank you for attention and next lecture we move on to our next text for this particular course, thank you very much.

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