

An Analysis of the Characters in the "invitation to a beheading"

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Abstract: "Invitation to a Beheading" is a novel written by Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov in the early stage. It is a novel of Nabokov that has much controversy and is worth exploring in depth. In this novel, Nabokov portrayed an absurd world by describing the hero Cincinnati in waiting for beheaded prison life, and depicts the living state of the opposing individual and group image in this world. Through the text analysis, this paper analyzes the image of Cincinnati and Pierre and others, and explores the living conditions of the images of the individual and the group described by Nabokov in the "Invitation to a Beheading".

Key words: "Invitation to a Beheading", Cincinnati, group, close reading

1. INTRODUCTION

"Invitation to a Beheading" was written in Russian when Nabokov was exiled to Berlin in 1930s. Originally published in the Russian Journal of contemporary chronicles in Paris, it was published in the book House press of Paris in 1938, and was translated into English in 1959 by his son and his son. This is the first of his novels translated into English works.

Apart from the aspects of novel writing style and artistic structure, Nabokov depicts two contradictory images in the novel, in which the group of imprisoned individuals and the benighted. By reading the novel we can find to Cincinnati as the representative is imprisoned by the individual and by Pierre, Rodion and Ma Si as the representative of the group image is two forms all of our human beings. Waiting for the beheading of imprisonment is actually the two different kinds of people's survival condition, it reflects the survival of the whole human state, but also we live in a way of self reflection. This text carries on the text analysis to " Invitation to a Beheading ", carries on the inquisition and analysis to these two kinds of images written by Nabokov.

2. CINCINNATI: THE LONELY ALIENATED MAN

"Invitation to a Beheading" with the twenty chapters of the story of Cincinnati in prison, waiting for the

beheading sentence before the arrival of life in prison. In the long period of waiting for death and no determination, Nabokov depicts an absurd and hypocritical world for us, a lonely and alienated Cincinnati. A judge in everyone's interest to Cincinnati announced his death after the verdict, they entered the Cincinnati only he a prisoner without time, suffers from the confines of the prison. Here, Cincinnati waiting for death, was forced to accept all kinds of people from harm or ridicule, ultimately seeking spiritual liberation, adhere to their own independent thinking.

Cincinnati in this absurd, hypocritical world is a unique existence of the world, he is different from ordinary people. Because he has his own ideas, and have their own independent personality, rather than blindly, lost himself in society . In the novel Cincinnati repeatedly mentioned that he was an independent man, he was an special existence: "But I was a painstakingly molded out of a person", "I am not an ordinaryI am one of you still alive....." "For three decades, I have been living in a group of ghosts that seem to have their bodies, and let them know that I am living and a real man." Cincinnati knows his own uniqueness and knows that he is not the same as the others, and in his eyes he is the real, independent one who is created by God, and in the prison and in this world the other people are ghosts, wolves, clumsy, these people like a pencil on the table: six shiny ebony luster, as long as any person's life. These lives are long, no self, no features, living in a unified standard mask under the "transparent" existence, this transparency is not because of the exchange of ideas without secret and privacy, but not their own ideas. So the Cincinnati living in these people is not the same, as he himself said, he is an opaque presence, in the people's souls each other transparent world. Opaque Cincinnati is a lonely black obstacle and a threat to them. Therefore, he wants to hide his own opaque, that is, to hide their own ideas, in this transparent world pretend to be translucent in order to survive. "In addition to Cincinnati, all the city people think that exhibits are limited and transparent, as they are mutual views between each other. No name of the things that do not exist. Unfortunately, everything is

the name" In a group of unknown existence, the intangible material in the presence of Cincinnati is the eyes of the alternative, he must not with the surrounding ignorant, ignorant groups coexist in such an environment, he must suffer beheaded.

The decapitated Cincinnati was not a man who was about to lose his life in the eyes of the crowd, but a plaything for public pleasure and recreation. The judge sentenced the death of Cincinnati, but did not tell him the specific date of execution; the watch in the prison was painted by the jailer, and the right of Cincinnati was known to have been taken away; the prison minister, Pierre in order to meet their own mind in a variety of ways to Cincinnati as an entertainment tool, and even Cincinnati's wife, mother and father and other relatives in prison to see him, the Cincinnati the head of the beheaded penalty is not the slightest sadness and worry, they are not concerned about his right and wrong, even his life and death, but whether it affects their own life in such an environment. Cincinnati is destined to be a lonely existence, he and his own society is out of tune. For Cincinnati, he is a stranger in this world, is a stranger, so, waiting for the death of Cincinnati choose to return to knowledge, return to books. The book represents Cincinnati's desire for knowledge and spirit, and he rejects the food in prison. The only requirement is reading. Cincinnati believes that the author eventually die, only death itself, only the author of the inevitable physical death is true and credible, no doubt things. It can be said that decapitation in the eyes of Cincinnati is only the end of the body, beheaded both transparent and transparent on the Cincinnati of a sentencing, but also Cincinnati thirst for spiritual relief of a way. "Invitation to a Beheading" contains Cincinnati's insistence on his independent thinking, the pursuit of spiritual freedom, such an invitation can be seen as Nabokov on spiritual freedom, self-reliance of a sustenance.

Under the description of Nabokov, compared with other characters, Cincinnati is different. Cincinnati is simply a lonely person who insists on self, and pursues the spiritual freedom alone, is to adhere to the self will of the stranger. He is waiting for the death of the flesh to survive this, which is meaningless to him, and the world for him also makes no sense. He was imprisoned in this world, and the double imprisonment of the flesh and the spirit was the greatest imprisonment for him. In this strange, absurd world waiting for beheading, waiting is to get rid of this vulgar world of relief, this wait is also a yearning for spiritual freedom and liberation.

3.A GROUP OF VULGAR IGNORANT PEOPLE

In the "Invitation to a beheading" ,the people opposing with Cincinnati is a group of vulgar, ignorant and cruel groups. This group has to Pierre, Rodin as the representative of the temptation to

promote the thought of those who have to Ma Si, Amy as the representative of the practice of the temptation of group blindness. These people constitute this cold, brutal and hypocritical world, in this world control the trajectory of social operation, with their own way to hurt with Cincinnati as the representative of the self owned individuals.

The layman of the novel, Pierre, the chief of the prison, is undoubtedly the thought of the cold, hypocritical world to preach the temptation. For those of Pierre and Rodin, capturing Cincinnati, sending Cincinnati to the head of the table is only to eliminate those who have independent ideas of the heterogeneous. They promote the absolute obedience of the masses, eliminate the individual's independent thinking, for them the unity of the material is more important than the spirit of thinking for them is meaningless thing. So, Rodin is concerned about the attitude of Cincinnati on the food, the cell of all the things without life; Pierre and Cincinnati to discuss sexual pleasure, the desire of food. In their eyes, Cincinnati is a toy with a spider in prison only, he does not have or should not have their own ideas: they do not tell Cincinnati specific sentence; in order to fun and dig authentic to give Cincinnati escape expectations; casually change the time of Cincinnati and Ma Si see, even because everyone did not sleep enough to change the decapitation plan for Cincinnati, the executioner Pierre Disguised as a prison friend close to Cincinnati, the warden and lawyers are also Pierre's assistant disguised, all wearing a false mask for Cincinnati played a play, the play and Not Pierre's mouth in order to cultivate feelings with Cincinnati better beheaded, but these rights to use their own privileges on the Cincinnati physical and mental damage: not only will Cincinnati was imprisoned only in his own prison, controlled his behavior, and even developed a prisoner's code, even the right to dream should be deprived.

As a representative of the ruler in the world, Pierre and others all act only to meet their own deprivation of the spirit of others, in order to in the final absurd play entertainment all the people, to achieve universal carnival. Nabokov said that "the only real world is, of course, the reality that looks abnormal, and once the creation of the individual has lost the subjective understanding of the texture, ordinary reality begins to rot and smelly." This group of cold, crazy power is deprived of independence Individual subjective understanding of the initiator, they imprisoned independent people, independent thinking, and ultimately lead a group of blinds to create a start to rot the smelly real world.

Camus said: "In a sudden loss of fantasy and bright world, a person will feel that they are strangers, is a stranger." "Invitation to a beheading" is to write such a no fantasy and bright world, imprisoned Cincinnati prison is the epitome of this world, where only the material and spiritual double imprisonment, and

Cincinnati Is living in this absurd world in the stranger, stranger. Cincinnati is lonely here, because he has a self-thinking, self-will, he is a group of ignorant and ruthless mediocrity imprisonment, he can only wait for death in this prisoner, waiting to escape in order to leave this hypocrisy The dark world. Nabokov painted these two opposing images at this point is the reality of our society in these two kinds of gestures of human life: trapped in the community under the pursuit of self-will of the individual and ignorant, no pursuit of the ignorant of the masses. At the end of the novel, Cincinnati adheres to his own self-reliance, and the acceptance of death is the pursuit of the spirit of the despair and absurd world.

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