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The Everlasting Fight: Ode to Friar Pedro de Zaldivia

by Kari Zapletal

(Honors Humanities 1101)

Everlasting Fight

s the year draws to a close
And the frigid times come close
I dwell on the several months have passed
And long for the sun to own the sky.
It is the nights that make me weary,
And the rising of the faux sun at dawn
The sun that wishes to own what it is his
And bring warmth back to his earth so dreary.

As the year draws to a close
And the frigid times come close
She cries to him for his love
"free me from their frigid arms,
Free me from their wicked charms
I wish to be, to be bright, to be light
Free me from them"

As the year draws to a close
And the frigid times come close
He responds, the sun, to his companion
To his friend, he assures
"free you from them?
Free you from what they have done?
Their icy hands grasp and engulf you,
But this is not the end"

As the year draws to a close
And the frigid times come close
I sit here and witness a battle
I fight between two, for what I long
The sun has gone although it is not night
This everlasting fight

Ode to Friar Pedro de Zaldivia

How bleak the outcomes look, Of this surprise for the worse. Betrayal here is evident, Of this feeble and desperate friar.
The bandit who has escaped, evaded and outran
Comes now to this holy and sacred land

The fight, the battle, the overall struggle That rages on for justice What attempt the villain makes In search of the riches that he seeks The vanquisher breaks In overall defeat

But the righteous are kind And forgiveness is easy But to what extent should a villain be spared? And whose to say that he'll repent? Though this friar took a vow To be fair and easy hearted On those who stray off their path

Analysis:

The first poem, *Everlasting Fight*, is essentially about the winter, and how I, the writer as well as nature or the Earth, are longing for summer to return. During the Romantic period, many poems had nature as a subject matter, so along with using that as my subject matter I also attempted to use imagery as well as emotion in order to be able to categorize this poem as a true Romantic poem. I used repetition of the first two lines of each stanza in order to have some creative and uniform elements as opposed to a simple freestyle. There are occasional rhyming words throughout the poem, however the poem does not follow a specific rhyming pattern.

The intended mood of this poem was a dark, yet hopeful one. The battle between the warmth and cold that is unavoidable and everlasting, however there is hope seen when the sun reassures the earth. This poem is a very direct poem and means what it means. The only symbolism is the reference to the "icy hands" that engulf the earth. This meaning that winter's icy hands are holding the earth and leaving the earth in a cold, frigid state. The battle can be understood by the readers, especially considering the time of year in which it is being written. The time of year and season that we are currently in was my direct inspiration for writing this poem.

The second poem, *Ode to Friar Pedro de Zaldivia*, is a poem with reference to the series of painting by Franciso Jose de Goya. My inspiration for this poem was a poem we read in class, *Ode to a Grecian Urn*. As the poem goes on, it tells the story of the Friar Pedro de Zaldivia who captured the infamous bandit El Maragato when he tried to take the friar as well as other innocent people.

The poem reflects the series of events and the mood shown in the paintings. In this poem I did not use any repetition or rhyme, but instead took a more direct approach that would express the painting appropriately. I tried to evoke the same emotions in my poem as the viewers of the painting would have experienced.

When I first began this project I looked through our study guides and took notes on various poetic styles and the different aspects and themes of poems. I re-read several poems that we read in class to get ideas. I decided that writing a poem on nature or death would be appropriate since that was a common subject matter. I ended up choosing nature because I had much more inspiration for a poem on nature than death.

I also decided to do a poem based off of one poem we read in class, *Ode to a Grecian Urn*. I looked through the book with the intentions of finding a sculpture to write about, however I did not find anything that really inspired to me write about it, so I then decided to write about one of the paintings I saw at the Art Institute of Chicago. The series of paintings I chose by Franciso Jose de Goya really caught my attention, but also evoked emotions that I was sure I'd be able to translate into my poem.

Writing poetry is not something that comes very easily to me, and writing these two basic poems took a lot of time. I have always done well in writing papers and stories, but poetry is not something that I ever really exceeded in. However, I am very happy with the way these poems turned out and I really am proud of them. This is something that I normally would not choose to do, but I am happy that I was able to create something that I truly find interesting.