

Wednesday class Notes – *Gilgamesh* 46-50

Absent: Phil, Egzon...

After we discussed how this story, the oldest written down story we have, is about loss and about the universality of death, we read the section aloud and considered the following questions:

What is the tone of this section?

How does the figurative language influence the tone (help create the tone?)

Jessica – Why did E and G feel that they never had to make gestures?

Alex – how can we define innocent in the story? What does E mean when saying “innocent” – why does he believe Shamash calls him innocent? Page 47

Robert – on page 50 E saying G has never cried – why has G never cried before?

Arielle – building off of Robert’s question – right before E’s death how is he able to notice G is crying?

Jack – answer Arielle’s question – fictional account – a literal body function – not like you can be 2/3 god – E is so strong – able to convey his feelings right up until death

Andy – why Shamash call Enkidu innocent when E killed Bull of heaven?

Miles – answer Andy’s – E is innocent – G’s idea in the first place to go on the journey to kill H – G’s fault that Ishtar sent the BOH and G’s fault that BOH E stepped in front and protected G from BOH – why would E not think to blame G for his death?

Anya – why did gods get so mad at Shamash when she called E innocent?

Kanon – why did E curse Shamash after cursing prostitute and gate – G’s responsibility?

Spencer – does G blame himself for E’s death?

Dan – what is the point of making G feel worse? Why did gods get so angry that BOH gets killed – expectation these two would kill the bull – they are that powerful

Jack – Spencer’s question – he might eventually – blame himself for E’s death – a really good way to motivate himself to bring E back to life – so caught up in saying – I am really sorry that you are dying – console him rather than his own thoughts

Miles – respectful disagreement – and going back to the text! Page 48 – he is sort of blaming himself for E’s death – he went with me – he was leading him into his death – because they went into the forest – and then because he killed the BOH the gods are going to make him die

Arielle – on p 48 – why is Gilgamesh appealing to his mother and elders?

Josh – agree with Jack and respectfully disagree with Miles – a matter of interpretation – you can see that – I can't believe we did this all together in such a short period of time...

Yuyi – why am I to die, asked Enkidu – curses Shamash for calling him innocent – defending E – he wants to die it would seem and then why did I die – did his mind change?

Beth – he never cried before? Guilty – anger?

Lillian – Robert asked – why is he crying – he hasn't felt any loss before – feel like

Robert – if you didn't cry for your entire life – don't know their ages – can't say for sure how many years he had gone without crying – may not understand what it is – knows why he is crying...a really new feeling – scare him...

Julia – why do you think he asked for the elders – what is he asking the elders for?

Jessica – Yuyi's question – curses Shamash for having an upsetting and painful death – he would not have known he was going to die

Andy – why kill E – not innocent – but why not Gilgamesh – he mainly caused the deaths – 2/3 god

Anya – why need to avenge the deaths of Humbaba and BOH – monster - evil intent?

Ryan- brought up another question – why not both of them die? Both took part in it – G suggested they go and kill H...equally as guilty...

Dan – we should kill both – but then 2/3 god we can't...

Alex – answer Ryan's question and propose my own question – want to teach G a lesson...a bad person in the beginning – he has enormous power – weird birthright – people probably resent him a little bit – just to teach him a lesson – to kill his friend so he knows to be humble...considering that Ishtar just sent the BOH – will Ishtar continue to be Uruk's patron goddess.

Tamara – how did G never experience death – king – ruled over people – not good relationship – was he not aware of the fact people were dying around him?

Arielle – I think that G is aware that people were dying – no emotional connection to them – he did not feel their pain – they were dying but he did not know them – actually has a friend in E and realizes just how painful death can be – he knew it was happening before but he could not connect or did not want to

Dan – teaching him a lesson terrible person? If G and E became friends they would not have been killed – E killed because they killed two monsters

Jack – build on Alex's question – still city's goddess? Greeted her with a foul mood – no great love for her even as she came down

Cassie – what was the point of killing either G and E?

Yuyi – does G have a father?

Cassie – Priest could have been half or third god – Ninsun goddess and prophetess – dreams...

Dan – maybe he went to Ninsun because of goddess qualities...

Josh – confuse me – is fate stronger than the gods?

Andy – starving dog – wincing in pain – top 49 – tone is angry...

Miles – dismal “maimed” “contorted” “wincing” “death” – bringing your mood down – depressing...

Tamara – answer Cassie – why death punishment – eye for eye – Hammurabi link – make sense if you killed somebody – even a monster...still a living creature...