

Leslie Jimenez,
Fabiola Gomez,
Jennifer Renteria

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Power Can be Deceiving to the Eyes

Power may take many forms, such as physical power and internal power. The book *The Little Prince*, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry tells the story of a little prince who leaves his home to travel to several different planets and meets different types of people within the universe. He is told to go to the planet Earth and he gets stuck in a desert there. When he is stuck in the desert he meets a pilot and builds a friendship with the pilot. Different forms of power is presented in the work of fiction *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupère, “The Strange Triumph of the Little Prince” an article by Adam Gopnik and the article “The Little Prince” by an unknown author. Chapter 17 explores the universal theme power and how it can take many forms through the translation of the snake’s riddles, the metaphors embedded into the riddles, and the snakes riddles contributing to the little prince’s happiness.

First and foremost, the translation of the snakes riddles show the universal theme of power. In Chapter 17, the little prince is introduced to the snake who speaks complicated riddles. The snake can represent something else than just a snake. According to the author, “In order to return to his planet and his rose,...he cannot take his (shell)”(). When the snake says he can take the little prince farther than a ship he means his mind. This is the idea of body versus mind. Where the body is the shell which cannot travel farther than the mind. Whereas the mind can

travel beyond the body. The snake, in this case, represents death. According to the article the author states, “He is instructed... by a sinister of death, the snake”(Gopnik, The Strange Triumph). Different people who read the book view the snake as an angel of death or death in general. The snake can represents death because he tells the little prince that if he is ready to leave, the snake can take him back home with a single touch. This shows translation because the idea of the snake comparing himself to other forms expresses it’s significant meaning, death.

Secondly, the little prince meets a snake that uses metaphorical riddles to compare himself to other objects that have some form of power. You can compare power with different forms like comparing a king with a snake. When the snake and the little prince talk, they say, “You’re a funny creature,” he said at last, “no thicker than a finger... But I am more powerful than a king’s finger” (Saint-Exupéry, 51). The snake claims that he is more powerful than a king's authority, which gives an idea that even though the king has more commanding power than the snake, the snake still has more physical power than what a king has. Due to the fact that the author uses the metaphors to compare how the little prince thinks that the snake is not that powerful, and how the snake explains how powerful he really is, shows how power can take many forms. Another way power can take a form is through wisdom. In their conversations, the snake explains, “It’s a little lonely in the desert...” “It’s also lonely with people,” said the snake.” (Saint-Exupéry, 51). The snake’s words of wisdom show powerful meaning, which can come powerful to people. The author uses a metaphors to demonstrate the different powers the snake has. The same powers that the little prince underestimated. Those factors contribute to the bigger picture of what the chapter and the whole book in general is about.

To end things off, the snake contributes to the little prince in a way that shows that he has

power. When the snake is talking to the prince, the snake contributes to the little prince's problem that he has. When the snake is conversing with the little prince, he speaks in mystery and the little prince understands exactly what he says. According to Saint-Exupery, he states, "You're not very powerful... You don't even have feet. You couldn't travel very far... "I can take you further than a ship," the snake said. He coiled around the little prince's ankle, like a golden bracelet," (Saint-Exupery p. 51). There is no limit to where the snake can take people. This shows that the snake has much more power than he already has. The way he speaks his riddles, shows that he is hinting something powerful to the prince, which can help him return back to his home. Then, the snake offers the prince help. The snake says, "I can help you, someday, if you grow too homesick for your planet. I can--" "Oh, I understand what you mean," said the little prince..." This is contributing to helping the little prince getting his way home. He is insinuating something very powerful that in the real world its is something dark and gloomy. The snake's different kind of power helps the little prince travel back to his home.

In conclusion, in the book *The Little Prince*, the snake's different kind of powers is mostly portrayed in chapter 17 with the little prince and the snake through the translation of the snake's riddles, the metaphors, and contribution. This is significant because this chapter has a huge meaning other than the snake talking in riddles to the prince. These reasons are a big contribution to the whole idea of this book because it is important to understand how the author is trying to portray the meaning of the story. In this novel, power is taking many forms because power is not just shown through strength or anything physical, it is also shown through mentality and the power from within.

Works Cited

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