Kanafani's Returning to Haifa and Anne Holm's I am David - Comparative Study

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Abstract

Life is created for a reason. Hence, everything in this life has its reason for existence, because nothing can come out of nothing. There must be a basis and a root for any obtainable subject matter. To do, to make or to write signifies there must be some further reason, which lies behind it. Authors just like any scientists, workers and experts believe that they should become innovators. To write any sort of literary writings one should add or innovate or at least something meaningful and useful to reflect the raison d'être that pushes them forward to do such a thing.

This paper tries to study two authors' works, Ghassan Kanafani (1936-1972) in his novella Returning to Haifa (1970), and Anne Holm in her novella I am David (1963). Accordingly their works, life and what has been written about them is going to be surveyed so that this work will try to figure out the raison d'être to know the thing that gives meaning or purpose to their works, or the justification for their existence. This work also tries to figure out the parallel and the paradox raison d'état and the overriding concern, the interests of the country concerned, and that will justify a political or a diplomatic action which might, otherwise, be considered reprehensible.
This thesis is a comparative study of three short story writers: Ghassan Kanafani, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, and Alice Walker. It will therefore focus on studying certain short stories of Kanafani’s four published collections: Death of Bed 12 (1961), Land of Sad Oranges (1963), A World Not for Us (1965), and Of Men and Rifles (1968). Ngugi wa Thiong’o was born in 1938. The short stories I am looking at intersect with some points about the genre highlighted by Edgar Allan Poe, who elevated the short story form above all other fiction because it is a “concentrated form, wrought out of an intensification of thought and feeling and demanding an equivalent stylistic intensity” (See Hanson 1985: 3). The modern tendency to marginalize the short story genre. Review of Middle East Studies. Article. Article. COPYRIGHT: © Middle East Studies Association of North America 2001. Recommend this journal. Email your librarian or administrator to recommend adding this journal to your organisation’s collection. 4. The Author *Ghassan kanafani, the famous Palestinian journalist, novelist and short story writer, was born in Acre in the north of Palestine on April and lived in Jaffa until May 1948. *When the Arab – Israeli war started, Kanafani fled with his family first to Lebanon and then to Syria, when they settled as refugees. *After finishing his secondary education, he studied Arabic literature at the University of Damascus, during which time he joined the Arab Nationalist Party. *He died in 1972 when his tapped car exploded, killing him and his niece in Beirut. 5. Short Summary of the Play Ghassan Kanafani’s novella, Returning to Haifa (1969), tells the story of Sa’id and Safeyya, who fled their home in Haifa during the 1948 Nakba.