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### **Overview of the Image of Dance of Death**

The *Dance of Death* arouses anyone's inquisitiveness making one want to know more about what it really entails and what it is intended to convey. The *Dance of Death* can be explained as an exceptional and distinguishable reminder that life is short-lived, and no one is assured of living forever. The poetic and dramatic phrases have captured the imaginations of many people for many centuries. Nevertheless, the history of Dance of Death can be traced back to the illustrations that were featured in books and the classic Dance of Death format exhibited people from parts of the society experiencing death where those who were considered to be the highest ranked in the society being the ones who dies first while the other who were lower in the society died last. Even though there are numerous artists who created their respective versions of *The Dance of Death*, one of the most prominent artist entailed Hans Holbein (Sophie and Stephanie, 17).

As far as the initial origins of *The Dance of Death* IS concerned, it can be explained that the origins are not very clear mainly due to the fact that there are historical uncertainties pertaining to the issue. In from a review of various explanations that have been given by the experts, it can be explained that there seems to be differing views on the issue since on one hand, there are those who seem to concur that it emanated from

religion while others are not of that view. Nevertheless, despite the different views and opinions about the origins of *The Dance of Death*, it can be noted that one of the aspects that the opposing sides seems to concur is that religion played a significant role in the development of *The Dance of Death*. Indeed, there are some who are convinced that the source of *The Dance of Death* lies in an ancient pageant or religious farce that was put in place by the clergy most likely for pleasure and likely to act as a reminder of the link between ethics and humanity since irrespective of the position of a person in the society, everyone will end up dying.

Therefore, it can be explained that *The Dance of the Death* image might have been aimed at sending the message that all is vanity since once has fulfilled whatever his/her role on planet earth was supposed to be, the person will have to die irrespective of whether one is poor or rich in the society.

### **Kurt Jooss used Death in his ballet 'The Green Table'**

Prior to discussing how Kurt Jooss used death in his ballet, 'The Green Table', it is ideal to briefly discuss dance in general as well as the style that Kurt Jooss uses.

Dance can be expounded on as a visual art that comprises of aspects of design that can be acknowledged. Moreover, dance connects to music since it exists over time, and even at times when music is absent, dance is capable of having its own rhythmic patterns. On the other hand, there are different types of dance that requires different volumes of energy. Moreover, when one happens to be watching dance specifically in a live event, the viewer is going to experience the functioning of muscle groups similar to those of the actual dancer, despite the fact that in real sense, the individuals comprising of the

audience never gets to move physically and is not actually aware of any response that is taking place (Marcia, 16).

Even though dance might be considered as to exist solely for the sake of it, it can be noted that dance can also be expressive and can be used to express different messages that the dance might be having plans to express. Indeed, from a review of various pieces by Kurt Jooss, it can be explained that the artist has developed his work in such a manner that he is able to connect and convey his emotions with the viewer. Indeed, even for those who are not familiar with the work of Kurt Jooss, when they see his work, they will be able to realize that the artist communicates to them through emotion (Marcia,18).

### **Politicians**

In *The Green Table*, the dance commences with politicians who are seen debating very intensely. On the other hand, the sound that is coming from the piano can be said to be light-hearted and to a certain extent comedic. The reason for that is to depict how the politicians who are all men are detached from the war that is taking place. In the succeeding scene, the impacts that the war is having are shown and the melody changes to what can be explained to be a sad melody. By doing that, Jooss is able to effectively communicate with the audience about the needless cruelty and death that emanates from the war and that the politicians do not always have understand about the devastating impacts of the war as they are not personally affected by the war.

### **Farewells**

The Farewells can be explained as the section that brings the characters in the scene and gives on what to expect from the character. This specific scene is compelled by "Death's" persistent "calling" which stays in place even after the music changes. The "Standard Bearer" who has worn white clothes signifies pureness of purpose. On the other hand, the sound of the flag contributes to the richer sound making one to believe that it is cold and windy outside. The young soldiers due to their inexperience are not aware of death while the older soldier is more careful and cautious with death. As the soldiers get to the gateway made for them by death, their bodies become weak. A woman dressed in red goes away through the gate with the soldiers showing that she will also be actively involved in war. The "Profiteer," who happens to be the other dancer, besides "The Gentlemen in Black" who has protective gloves on says hi to death but declines to get through the gates of death showing that even though he is not involved with the war, he will be happy to benefit from it (Holder, 3)

### **Battle**

In the battle, an ABA form is shown. There are a couple of soldiers happen to be fighting and at the same time taking part in a dance. That can be said to depict the never-seizing battles. The flag, that was initially white has turned red and is covered with blood and that makes the bearer angry even though he is later on seen being in jubilation. As the soldiers savor their triumph, "Death" emerges from nowhere and takes the soldiers one by one. The lighting set up is in a way such that it conceals "Death" to the ideal time that he is supposed to emerge. At the end, the "Profiteer" openly steals from the dead bodies.

## **The refugees**

"The Refugees" features a group of women who happen to be sent into a world that they are not familiar with. The manner in which the women are grouped as well as how they move can be said to symbolize people being sent out into the sea that they are not familiar with in a boat. The aged woman walks on her toes and dashes in fear sending the message that she might be having an idea that she is no longer a tenant of planet earth. Indeed, even though the lady appears to be afraid, she seems to be welcoming death and embraces death which comforts her with a gentle strength. Once the old woman dies, the "Young Girl" who was taking care of the woman is insecure, and as it has become the norm, "Profiteer" is trying to benefit from the situation (Holder, 4).

## **Partisans**

"The Partisan" comprises of "The Woman" who plays major role in the events. The woman is strong and determined and is part of an underground movement and believes in her cause strongly enough to consider killing another human being. The red dress she wears could signify her passion to kill while the white scarf could be said to signify the pure ideal with which she must kill. Once she has been killed by the firing squad, "Death" looks down at her as if it is asking whether she believes it was worth (Rachel, 2).

## **Brothel**

The Brothel is what delivers the "Young Girl" into the hands of "The Profiteer" who operates the brothel for the purposes of entertaining the soldiers. The hair of the

"Young Girl's" is seen to be down for the very first time which can be said to indicate the lack of control that the young girl has when it comes to her movements. She falls in love with a soldier that makes one believe that the soldier might save her when death come calling. Nevertheless, the soldier is not able to save her and she ends up dying from the sexual relationships that she has been involved with in the Brothel (Rachel, 3).

### **Aftermath**

The Aftermath can be explained to make use of the same device that was used in the "danse macabre" of the Middle Ages. "Death" leads all his fatalities in a march, where each of the victims is clothed in his or her way of life. The Standard Bearer tried to contain himself but is overwhelmed by "Death" and all his victims. At the end of "The Aftermath, "Death" repeats his solo and "The Profiteer" is finally caught up in his relentless rhythms. "Death" barely notices "The Profiteer" as he simply sweeps him away. "Death" seems to take as little regard for "The Profiteer" as "The Profiteer" took for him.

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