**Edgar Allan Poe**

The Tell-Tale Heart is a short story by Edgar Allan Poe that was first published in *The Pioneer* in 1843. It’s an old gothic tale about a man who kills his friend because he feared his eyes which reminded him of a vulture’s eyes. Edgar Allan Poe builds up the elements of suspense through the darkness that is inside his character's mind and heart. He establishes the theme of guilt and its relation to the madness of the narrator. Guilt is present in the heart of the narrator but he is unable to admit his illness or madness and his obsessions are offered through imaginary events.

Edgar Allan is famously known for his poems and tales of mystery and horror that provoked interest among readers. The-Tale Heart is a story about a psycho man who is also the narrator and protagonist of the story. He murders his old friend because he is afraid of his "evil eye" and his “beating heart”. The story deals with a man’s mental disabilities and madness and focuses on the narrator’s obsessions but the narrator does not accept his illness or insanity that leads him to kill his friend (Amir, 2018). For instance, the narrator at one point says, "If still, you think me mad, you will think so no longer when I describe the wise precautions I took for the concealment of the body". Instead of accepting his crime, he describes his abilities to kill the man and tells the skills of hiding the dead body. His paranoia is replaced with superiority when he says in the story that, “no human eye- not even his-could have detected anything wrong”. But his guilt of killing the man puts him into despair and continues to fall deeper and deeper. He believes that the guilt that he is feeling is not because of the murder, rather it’s a disease given to him by the evil eye, an “eye of a vulture”. He is so much afraid of the eyes that he uses words like “hideous, damned, and vultures” while describing the eye.

Thus, this gothic tale silently talks about the illness and guilt of a man who is not ready to accept his crime but at the same time, he is guilty of attempting murder of his close old friend.

The Black Cat is another famous short story with deep psychological elements which was published in 1843. It is a story of a man who has a loving wife and a pet Pluto. The story has a smooth start but as soon as he gets into drinking, his life changes. It is shown that Alcohol is a major reason for disturbance in his life and a reason for his mental breakdown. The narrator is fully aware of his mental illness and understands what he doing with his wife and with his cat. He also notices the changes that are occurring inside him because of drinking alcohol. Alcohol is the foremost reason for his life upheaval (Buday, 2014).

In ‘The Black Cat’, the narrator cannot control his anger after drinking and losing his mental ability to behave properly. Poe gives a detailed description of the narrator's illness before and after drinking alcohol. He not only kills his wife, but his cat also comes under his inhumane behavior. Like in the story, the narrator says, "I grew day by day moodier, more irritable, more regardless of the feelings of others". The narrator behaves nicely with his wife and his cat when he does not drink and once the narrator gets drunk, he commits multiple heinous crimes under the influence of alcohol. Later he takes full responsibility for his deeds at the end of the story.

Poe has successfully portrayed the ill behavior of the narrator and the effects of alcohol in his life. It is important to understand the overuse of drugs as the story suggests to be careful of alcohol because it can not only destroy relationships but also can make a person insane.

**References**

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