

Week 10, Day 1

GROUP DISCUSSION

JOURNEY

Tries to understand what are the milestones in Candide's journey? Teachers? Philosophy evolved? When does he say the most foolish/wisest things?

ELDORADO

Tries to understand what Eldorado symbolizes? Why is it built the way it is? What does it teach us about happiness? Why aren't they allowed to leave?

MARTIN

What is his role in the novel? Characterize his philosophy. Which of his views seem to be the most challenging? When does Martin seem to go too far? What does he teach us? What are we supposed to learn from him? How does he influence others in the novel?

Problem

- How do you maintain happiness?
- How do you reconcile your desires with your circumstances?
- Connection between meaning of suffering and purpose of existence

Solution

- Accept your lot and do your work
- Combine experiences and philosophy to obtain a larger perspective
- Use free will to intervene and give meaning to existence

Candide

- Westphalia
 - Simple and content (19)
 - Teacher: Pangloss
- Pangloss is hanged
 - Starts questioning things
 - "Why did Pangloss die?" (34, 43)
 - Teacher: Old woman
- Kills people (45)
 - Teacher: Old woman
- New world
 - Starts to think for himself
- Sees Slavery
 - Comes up with his own philosophy (85)
- Meets Martin
 - Teacher: Martin
- Back to Europe
 - Tricked and deceived again (104, 112, 113)

- Reunited with Pangloss
 - Teacher: Pangloss
- Meets Venetian Count, Classics
 - People can exercise own judgment
 - Teacher: Count Pococurante
- Has pity for slaves
 - Shows change
- Reunion
 - Cunégande
- Not Optimistic
 - But comes full circle
 - What has happened has caused growth
 - Chain of events
 - Served purpose
 - Deeper meaning
 - Can process events even better
- Notes: Teachers: Looking for someone to rely on, to lean on them

Eldorado

- Microcosm of how society “should” work
- Isolation = Unobtainable in reality
- Society functions due to contentment and modesty
 - Cannot be appreciated by outsiders
- People cannot leave because each person serves a specific purpose
- Value community, wisdom, not possessions
- Most of the world (including Candide) does not fully value equality

Martin

- Role: Present the opposing view of Pangloss’ optimism (pessimism)
 - (92)
- Martin-Old Woman Comparison
 - Both are aware of suffering, but Martin is detached from any kind of intervention
 - “Tend to the garden” (125)
 - Martin’s concept of free will is comparable to Pangloss’ (different cause but same effect) → Challenges Candide (96) → Free Will → Meaning of Suffering → Meaning of Existence and Life