

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the theme of the three poems of Ella Wheeler Wilcox's through diction, I would like to draw some conclusions in this chapter. The topic of the three poems is about death and the afterlife. The author uses her positive point of view to depict death not as something scary or worrisome, but as a beautiful thing. Each persona in these three poems believes or perceives the afterlife as a final goal of human being. The author also believes the after life is more beautiful than the life in the world.

The theme of the first poem, "The Summon" is "One might wish to die strong, young, and happy to experience immortal youth's life in the afterlife." The words that show strong, young and happy are "strength," "light and happy," "bright," and "my youth's glad morning." While, the words which show the afterlife is "endless June above" and "To the noon of Immortal Love." The words "a green leaf," "a full-blown flower" and "glad morning" also have a positive meaning to emphasize that the persona wants to die young, strong and happy.

The theme of the second poem, "The Land of the Gone-Away Souls" is "One believes that the afterlife is one's final goal, a place that is pleasant and

better than the earth.” The words that show the afterlife are “The land of the Gone-Away Souls” and “a lovelier region.” Whereas, the words which show the afterlife as one’s final goal are “the goodliest goal” and “the last brief journey ends.” The words also help the reader to see that the persona wants to go to the afterlife because the afterlife is a beautiful and even better place than the earth.

The theme of the third poem “Now I Lay Me” is “One does not have to fear death, because God will protect and keep one's soul after one goes to the afterlife.” The words “trust and truth” reveal that the persona does not have to fear death. Besides, the words “my soul to keep,” “sheltered in the Great to be,” and “my soul its beauty keep” show that God will keep the persona’s soul once he or she passes away.

From the themes of the three poems above, I find two significant similarities. First, the persona knows that the afterlife is a good place to experience immortal love and life; it is a beautiful land and the goal of life; and it is also the place for God to keep the soul. Second, the persona talks about death itself. In the first poem, the persona prefers to die young, strong and happy because he or she wants to live and die happily. In the second poem, the persona wants to die to know the truth of the afterlife. In the third poem, the persona surrenders to God to take his or her life because God will protect the persona’s soul.

The persona talks about his or her wish to die, because the personas in these three poems realize that through death, they can experience the afterlife. Moreover, the persona in each poem also realizes that the time will come for the persona to die, sooner or later. Then, after analyzing and comparing the three

poems, I come up with a theme as a whole. The theme is “One believes that one will experience immortal life and be protected in the afterlife after one dies.”

In my opinion, Wilcox is successful in showing her positive point of view about death and the afterlife by using beautiful words and expresses the positive thoughts in her three poems that I have analyzed. Her beautiful words in the three poems romanticize death and life after death itself. By saying so, Wilcox wants to suggest that the readers should not perceive a scary thing, but as a goal to achieve the afterlife. Through her three poems, Wilcox depicts that in the afterlife, one will experience the immortal love and happiness, a better life, and feels secured and protected.

After reading and analyzing the three poems, my view about death is changed. I once thought that death is the end of our life. Wilcox’s positive ideas about death convince me to think that death is not the end, but rather the beginning of one’s new life where one will experience the immortal happiness in the afterlife. So, death is no longer a scary thing for me but a good goal.