

11 From the Parable of the Prodigal Son

FROM THE KING JAMES BIBLE LUKE 15: 11-32

Vocabulary

prodigal (präd' i gəl) *adj.*
recklessly wasteful

12 World LITERATURE CONNECTION

Parables Around the World

The oral traditions of Zen Buddhists, Islamic Sufis and Jewish Hassidim all use parables to teach ideas about morality, philosophy and religion.

A Sufi story tells of a man who is chased by a hungry tiger. Finally the man turns around and cries to the tiger, "Why don't you leave me alone?" "Why don't you stop being so appetizing?" responds the tiger. This parable points out that there is always more than one way to see a situation.

Connect to the Literature

In what way does The Parable of the Prodigal Son challenge long-standing attitudes?

11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain¹ have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

1. **fain** *adv.* gladly.

13 ► **Critical Viewing** Which verses from the selection are best illustrated by this painting? Explain. **INTERPRET**

Vocabulary

entreated (en trēt' id) v. begged; pleaded with

transgressed (trans grēst') v. overstepped or broke (a law or commandment)

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing.

26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.

27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and **entreated** him.

29 And he answering said to *his* father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither **transgressed** I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:

30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

31 And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.

32 It was meet² that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

2. meet *adj.* fitting.

Critical Reading



Cite textual evidence to support your responses.

1. **Key Ideas and Details (a)** What causes the younger son to return home? **(b) Compare and Contrast:** Contrast the father's and the older son's responses to the younger son's return.
2. **Key Ideas and Details (a)** What specific complaint does the older son make? **(b) Assess:** How effectively does the father address his concerns?
3. **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas (a) Interpret:** Why does the father say that the younger son is "alive again"? **(b) Apply:** In what circumstances might the lesson of the parable apply today?
4. **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas** What made the King James Bible so influential? In your response, use at least two of the following Essential Question words: *majestic, clarity, solemn, preach*. [Connecting to the Essential Question: How does literature shape or reflect society?]



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