

Radio Transcript

Host: Kent Brockman
Guests: William Shakespeare
Victor Kelleher
The Wachowski Brothers
R.E.M.

Kent Brockman: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to another instalment of 'Literature Tonight.' Tonight we welcome William Shakespeare, composer of the classic play, *The Tempest* along with Victor Kelleher, author of the novel, *The Ivory Trail*, the Wachowski brothers, co-directors and writers of *The Matrix* and the band R.E.M, writers of the song, *Leaving New York*. All these composers through their clever use of language and filmic techniques have allowed the rainbow to become the focus of a journey and not the 'pot of gold' at the end. Mr Shakespeare, how do you feel your text fits this statement?

Shakespeare: Thankyou Kent. If we analyse the overall plot of the text it becomes apparent that for the majority of characters the end of the play brings with it neither physical incentives nor rich rewards. Instead the characters become richer mentally as a result of the entire journey itself. It is their experiences from the journey that they take away with them. So if there is no 'pot of gold' at the end of a journey, then it becomes clear that the focus of that journey must be the rainbow itself. Even the characters who are guilty of attempted murder or usurpation are not necessarily heavily punished crimes but are merely told to look inside themselves and judge their own conscience. A journey without consequences is one that invites the reader to question the purpose of that journey; in this case, the journey itself becomes the purpose and not the end result. Prospero is a particular character that fills this trait. At the end of the play he asks the audience to "release" him by applauding with their "good hands." He also asks to be "pardoned" from his crimes that he has committed. In the play, Prospero is the one who decides upon guilt or innocence and punishment or lack their-of, but when it comes to his own 'trial' he invites the audience to decide his fate. From this attitude it is apparent that the journey is the object that matters, not the end result.

Kent: Very well said. Mr Kelleher, do you also feel that the cover of your novel fills the concept that the rainbow is what's important in a journey and not the reward at the end?

Kelleher: Yes I do Kent. The first clue on the cover that hints that the journey is the thing that matters is the written text. The phrase "Not all journeys have an ending" is a theme from the novel that is conveyed on the cover. If we think about a journey without an end, it strikes us that there can be no 'pot of gold.' If we undertake a journey along a rainbow and never get to the end, or the rainbow never ends, how can we say that there is a 'pot of gold?' Evidently, if there is no reward at the end of a journey then the only focus for that journey is the rainbow itself. Also worth mentioning is the fact that the cover does not contain any visual images of rewards from the journey, but merely spectacular sights, self-enlightenment and a rainbow of colours from the journey itself. The cover shows where the journey will take you, but not where it will finish. The image of the main character staring upwards with his eyes open in a pose of enlightenment also shows that as a direct result of the journey he has undertaken, he has found something worthwhile for himself. This self-discovery didn't come from a reward at the end of the journey, but from the experiences and events contained in the journey itself. As all of these features from the novel cover shows, my text certainly fulfils the statement that the journey is what's important in a journey and not the 'pot of gold' at the end.

Kent: Thankyou Mr Kelleher. Another text that shows enlightenment as a reward resulting directly from the journey itself is the Wachowski brother's film, *The Matrix*. Do you two both agree?

Wachowski: Yes we do Kent. Whilst there is a reward at the end of the film for Neo, this is minute for him when compared to what he has learnt and achieved throughout the journey itself. As a direct result of the journey Neo finds self-enlightenment and realises that he is meant to be 'The One.' His new found belief comes before the journey ends, before the 'pot of gold' has been struck. So if a reward is found before the conclusion of a journey, then the journey itself must be responsible for it. In fact, it is only as a result of the experience Neo gains during the journey that lets him get to the end of it.

If he hadn't discovered the self-belief in himself that he was indeed 'The One,' then he would have wandered the rainbow forever without ever glimpsing gold.

As Morpheus puts to him, reality is an "illusion" so any reward that he seems to gain is put in perspective as unreal or worthless in comparison to the knowledge, experience and self-discovery gained from the journey itself.

Kent: Thankyou for your thoughts. And finally tonight, we have R.E.M, writers of the song *Leaving New York*. Now many may feel that your song is more about the rewards than the journey but you feel that's not necessarily true.

R.E.M. Yes we do Kent. We feel that the most obvious feature that shows how our song is more about the journey than the reward is the title itself.

The title, *Leaving New York*, is about the physical action of leaving, the beginning of a journey, not the end. The title is not about having 'left' New York, or about going to leave, but actually about leaving, about the journey itself, not the cause or effect of it.

It is true, the song reflects the events of September 11 2001, but the lyrics focus on the pain of leaving the city, the pain of leaving some behind and the overall difficulty with which many people had to deal with to continue on their lifelong journeys.

In short, the focus is on the actual action of leaving the pain behind and resuming journeys from where they left-off.

Overall, we feel that the song is definitely more about the journey itself than the reward or consequences of the end result.

Kent: Thankyou R.E.M. So, as you have all heard tonight, the rainbow most certainly is the focus of a journey and not the pot of gold at the end. A big thankyou to all our guests and until next time, this is Kent Brockman saying 'Goodnight.'