

The Beggar

About the Author: Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860-1904), a pioneer of modern short story and drama, was born in the city of Taganrog in southern Russia. Chekhov had humble beginnings-his father was a grocer and his grandfather was a serf. He studied medicine at Moscow University and wrote stories and sketches to support his family financially. His first collection, *Motley Stories* (1886), was well received and it was followed by two more collections, *At Twilight* (1887) and *Stories* (1888). Beginning with *The Seagull* in 1898, Chekhov established himself as a dramatist through his association with the Moscow Art Theatre. Later, *Uncle Vanya* (1899), *The Three Sisters* (1901) and *The Cherry Orchard* (1904) had a great impact on modern European drama. Chekhov wrote nearly 800 short stories that illustrate his gift as a writer of short fiction, and the present selection is one such story.

About the Text: Completed in 1887, this story explores themes of struggle, kindness, compassion and alcoholism. Chekhov presents the story of a beggar who lies about his identity in order to extract money from a lawyer, but ends up confessing to him instead? It follows the turn his life takes as he comes to work for the lawyer, comes in contact with his cook Olga and finally learns to take charge of his life and becomes a gentleman.

Major characters: Lushkov: He is the beggar of the title of the story. He is poor and drinks too much. He lies to get money or food. Finally, he changes into a gentleman. Skvortsov: He is a lawyer, kind hearted man and have compassion for the poor. When Lushkov begs to him the lawyer does not give alms but tells him to work for him and get money. Olga: She is the cook of the lawyer. Olga is strict by her nature but full of kindness she scolds the beggar for drinking - but she does his work and causes a change in him.

Summary: One day a beggar asked Skvortsov to help him. He was poor and hungry. He said that he was a schoolmaster but was discontinued because of false witness. Skvortsov felt that he had seen the man earlier. He soon remembered that he had met him earlier. He had told him that he was a student who was expelled from the college. But the beggar said that he did not meet him earlier. He repeated that he was a dismissed schoolmaster. He would also show the documents to prove

his point. The lawyer called the beggar a liar and moved with anger. The beggar again asked for help. But the lawyer did not like him to tell lies. So, he said that he would call police and give him to them. The beggar admitted that he was really lying. He worked in the Russian choir. But they dismissed him because of his habit of drinking. He added that if he told the truth, nobody would give him anything. The lawyer advised the beggar to work somewhere. But the beggar said that he was not liable to work anywhere. Finally, he became ready to chop wood for the Lawyer. The lawyer called the cook. Her name was Olga. He told her to take the beggar into the shed and get some wood chopped by him. The cook took him to the shed. The beggar could not chop woods properly. The lawyer felt pity for the beggar for giving him hard work. But he did it for the beggar's goodness. After an hour, Olga came to his study room and informed him that the wood was chopped. The lawyer gave her money. He told her to give half a rouble to the beggar. He should be told to come every month to chop wood. He would get money for it. The beggar visited every month and did the work. He also did some other small things in the house. One day the van came and took the chopped Wood. After the departure of the van, the lawyer called the beggar. He gave him one rouble for his work. He added that he did not need to do that hard work. He told him to go to his friend with the note given by him. He would give him the work of copying. He advised him not to drink but work. The beggar started to go. The lawyer felt pleased thinking that he had put a man on the right path. The beggar took the letter (note) and left the lawyer's house. Two years later, the lawyer was buying a ticket for a film at the window of a theatre. Soon a little man with a cap came near the window. He asked for the ticket of the balcony. He was none but Lushkov, the beggar. He told the lawyer that he worked in a notary's office and got 35roubles per month. The lawyer became glad. He said that he was his godson. It was he who had put him on the right way. He had scolded him harshly. He thanked the man for following his advice. Lushkov too thanked the lawyer. He felt grateful to him and also to his cook, Olga. He added that Olga was a noble - hearted woman. It was really Olga who had saved him. The lawyer could not understand anything. He asked him what she did for him. The man told the lawyer the reality. He could not chop wood because of this drunken condition. So, it was Olga who chopped the wood for him. She scolded him for drinking. She cried for his poor condition. Looking at her concern for him, he gave up drinking. Thus, her words and her behavior brought change in the beggar's life and life style. The beggar confesses

the favors of Olga the cook, and gives thanks to her as well as the lawyer and went for the movie. This is how the beggar becomes a gentleman.

PROSE: MUHAMMAD YUNUS: AN ECONOMICS FOR PEACE

Summary : Muhammad Yunus is the first Economist to win a Nobel peace prize. He belongs to Bangladesh and is the pioneer of microcredit. He got the prize for the way his Grameen bank worked for women empowerment.

The Yunus-Grameen story is indeed unique. Muhammad Yunus did his doctorate in economics from Middle Tennessee State University in the United States. Then he returned to Bangladesh. Yunus had been guided by Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen. He was a unique thinker who created 'evolutionary economics' and influenced Yunus in the ways that would help him develop the ideas behind Grameen. He made Yunus understand that without the human side, 'economics is just as hard and dry as stone.'

Yunus returned to Bangladesh in 1972 when it became a newly independent country. He began teaching at Chittagong University. Bangladesh faced a famine in 1974 and he saw people dying from hunger. He was very troubled by the difference between academic economics and the reality of people. He came across Sufia Khatun, a local woman, who took money from the local money lender to purchase raw material and made a profit of a penny on each stool. He lent money to Sufia and forty-one others for their business projects. She finally earned a profit of twenty-five dollars. Tears roll down her face. She has never seen so much money in her life.

This led to the establishment of an innovative group-lending system where short-term, interestfree loans were given to group members who were collectively responsible for repayment. The Grameen Bank was formally founded in 1976 and is owned by its borrowers. The bank was very successful and the unusual thing about it was its customers, who were ninety per cent woman.

Now, women formed a group to get loan from Grameen Bank. It empowered women and their children got education and they started acquiring property or money. This was objected by the males and village power-mongers. The aim of

Grameen Bank was not limited just to financial empowerment. It wanted to bring social consciousness. It helped to build a relationship of trust among the rural women and the bankers.

The success of Grameen was replicated by rural Arkansas when Bill Clinton was governor. Today every developing country has microcredit as a measure to get rid of poverty. The World Bank experimented this method of poverty alleviation and now it funds many schemes of microcredit all over the world. Professor Yunus has spread the idea of microcredit and advocated the concept that credit is a human right. Grameen Bank has explored various fields and become successful. Muhammed Yunus's knack of finding and applying the right business idea for rural Bangladesh is what makes him a remarkable development economist. His work for alleviating poverty could have won him the 2006 Nobel Prize in economics. The microcredit, NGOs and the peacemakers will have to make sure that the violence of starvation and poverty should not be continued due to the strict banking credit System.

The Nightingale and the Rose

“The Nightingale and the Rose” is a children’s story by Irish writer Oscar Wilde, included in his 1888 fairy tale collection, *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*. Like many of the other stories in the collection, “The Nightingale and the Rose” is a fable examining the nature of love and self-sacrifice. “The Nightingale and the Rose” conforms to the simplistic story structure of traditional fairy tales while subverting many of the genre’s norms.

Summary:

The story begins with a young student who is lamenting in his garden because the love of his life will dance with him in the ball only if he brings her a red rose but there is no red rose in his garden. The Nightingale, living in the oak-tree of his garden, hears the young man crying over his helplessness and lamenting the fact that all his learning is useless since it cannot win him a girl’s love. The nightingale comes to know that the young man is weeping for a red rose. She feels the pain of that boy and wants to help him.

The bird flies and goes to the various bushes but cannot find a red rose. Finally she comes to know about a way of getting a red rose by a tree. She performs a suicidal act while singing with his heart on the thorn, giving her heart’s blood to a white rose which turns it in to a beautiful red rose. In this process the Nightingale dies.

When the student wakes up, he sees the red rose under his window, plucks it joyously and brings it to his love. The girl rejects the rose by saying that it will not match her blue dress and someone else has brought her jewels that are worth more than a rose. The boy throws the rose in the gutter and a cart runs over it.

At the end he decides that logic is better than love and love is unrealistic. He goes back to his home and starts reading a book.

THEMES IN THE NIGHTINGALE AND THE ROSE

THEME OF SACRIFICE:

The theme of sacrifice is explored through Nightingale’s self sacrifice in the name of true love and for the sake of helping others.

When the Nightingale sees the student crying for his sweetheart, her whole hearted believe in love compels her to help the boy. So she decides to help him and goes out of her house in search of a red rose. After searching for it everywhere she comes to know about a way of getting the rose. She has to give her heart's blood to a white flower and make it red. She believes that it is worth giving her life for the sake of true love.

As we know that Nightingale has an unshakeable believe in love because of which she sacrifices her life but at the end of the story nobody appreciates her sacrifice and it is wasted when the student throws the red rose in the gutter where it is destroyed.

THEME OF LOVE:

In the story "The Nightingale and the rose" is about the nature of love. In the beginning of the story, the student claims to be in love with his professor's daughter and is crying for a red rose because he will dance with her in the balls if he will give her a red rose.

Moreover, the Nightingale sacrifices her life for the sake of love. She thinks that it is worth sacrificing her life for true love. This sacrifice shows that true love does exist but at the end no one appreciates it.

Wilde is trying to convey that true love does exist but people make it shallow and selfish. The student who thinks that he is in love does not truly know the meaning of love. When the girl rejects him and his red rose, he calls her ungrateful and says that love is silly and unpractical which shows him more as a materialistic person rather than a true lover.

MATERIALISM:

The theme of materialism is explored by the human characters. The young student, Professor's daughter and Chamberlain's nephew are materialistic in some sense.

The student who claims to be in love is not really in love rather he evokes rational side of materialism. For him a red rose is worth more than Nightingale's life and true love. When the Nightingale sings a song, he says that her voice is beautiful but

shallow and lacks any emotion which shows that he is a materialistic person who is unable to feel deep emotions.

On the other hand, his love, the professor's daughter also shows materialism by rejecting the red rose. She thinks that precious jewels are more worthy than a red rose. In the end of the story the sacrifice of Nightingale goes wasted when the girl rejects the rose and the boy destroys it.

Furthermore, Chamberlain's nephew is also materialistic because he brings precious jewels for the girl to show his love for her. Love is shown as a material pursuit rather than a true emotion by these characters.

"Up-Hill"

"Up-Hill" is the final poem in Christina Rossetti's classic 1862 collection *Goblin Market and Other Poems*. Structured as a question-and-answer [dialogue](#), it presents a simple, yet haunting [allegory](#) comparing life to a "journey" and death to a "resting-place" after that journey.

Summary

Over the course of a journey, the narrator asks her guide eight questions about the road ahead. The narrator asks if the roads are all up-hill and if the journey will take all day. The guide replies in the affirmative. Next, the narrator asks if there is a place to rest for the night and if the darkness will obscure said resting-place from their view. The guide assures the narrator that there is an inn and they will not be able to miss it. The narrator's fifth question is about which other travelers will be on the road. At the inn, the narrator asks if the other travelers would prefer for her to knock or call out. The guide tells the narrator that someone will open the door. Lastly, the narrator asks if there will be a bed for her. The guide tells her that there are beds for everyone.

Stay Calm

Stay Calm - Grenville Kleiser 'Stay Calm ' this philosophical poem composed by Grenville Kleiser. The speaker of the poem tells How to remain calm while facing many challenges in life. The poem consists of three Stanzas and each stanza contains eight lines. Poem opens when the speaker suggests valuable habitat for those who are unable to remain calm in the difficult situation. When we are angry at someone then we are unable to control our anger without thinking clearly or saying bad things to others or may insult them . Later we regret our strange behaviour , feel insulted , find it difficult to forget our mistake. On such situations one needs to maintain a mental balance, peace and try to curb resentment in that time. It helps to get tranquility to mind and stop I'll thoughts which entered our mind. If we are able to control our mind then we handle any difficult situation and make solution without delay. The second stanza explains that it is very easy to become angry when someone one defraud us or defies your order. If our wishes are denied by others then we become irritated and disappointed from such situations. We need to understand that our wishes in life are not possible to complete by others. The speaker again tells us that we must learn to keep strict silence though we are right because we want to win a worthwhile battle in life to overcome selfishness and spite. Speaker explained that we need to keep our mental balance when opposed by a foe (enemy). If someone disagrees with you then you feel insulted. You may tell bad words to others and hurt them. At that time you feel relaxed but you already damage your relationship with others. Your enemy becomes very happy and makes traps for you so you can easily make such mistakes. We need to master to control our mind , emotions and restrict thoughts from entering our mind. If we win our anger it is the most vital thing in our life. Throughout the poem the speaker tries to give advice to the reader if they are able to control their mind then the approach becomes more optimistic. If we are able to manage anger, I'll have feelings in our mind then we easily avoid dangerous situations in front of us in life. The poem gives a very beneficial message to all readers that we need to remain calm when we are in chaos.