

TURGENEV ON BAZAROV AND ARKADY: THE THEME OF PRODIGAL SONS AND THE CATALYST FOR CHANGE

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Abstract

This paper centralizes the research study in Turgenev's one of the major themes on the presentation of the reckless sons through the romantic value of love, art and nature as the catalyst for change. The prodigal sons - Arkady and nihilist Bazarov, the two leading characters of Turgenev's Fathers and Sons, often found rebelling against the existing values represented by the old fathers indicate the throw to highlight the theme of the writer. The presentation of the idea is well transparent and comprehensible. This theme of prodigal son continues from Pushkin to Turgenev in his popular novel Fathers and Sons. The purpose of this paper is to discuss Turgenev's bifurcation of the prodigal son motif by which he brings Arkady contentedly back to his father, while leaving Bazarov an inveterate rebel, whose return to the fold is prompted only by his physical demise.

Introduction

The theme of the prodigal son has always appealed to the Russian religious mind with its inherent fascination with kenoticism and monasticism.¹ Purpose of this article is to discuss Turgenev's bifurcation of the prodigal son motif during which he brings

Arkady contentedly again to his father, even as leaving Bazarov an inveterate rebel, whose return to the fold is brought about simplest via his bodily dying.

It isn't stunning that from Pushkin the prodigal son parable passes to Ivan Turgenev, who continues many of his mentor's literary characteristics. What separates Turgenev's *Fathers and Sons* from Pushkin's story and different examples of the prodigal son motif, nonetheless, is that he deals with two prodigal sons (Arkady Kirsanov and Evgeny Bazarov) at the same time, and these sons have not strayed morally however ideologically. They've purposely distanced themselves from their fathers' culture - an international of romanticism heightened with the aid of the worship of such entrenched values of aristocratic lifestyles as poetry, song, and Pushkin himself. In place of these spiritual ideals, the sons have dedicated themselves to progress and usual science as embodied in the idea of reworking nature from a temple of worship to a workshop, the place Russia's innumerable social problems may also be assailed.

Discussion

The sons' ideological betrayal of their fathers is referred to as "nihilism" (and not debauchery as in the original prodigal son motif) for the reason that they've rejected what the earlier generation has permitted on faith and grew to become to extra materialistic values. The truth that Turgenev suggests the reader two prodigal sons without delay is colossal for the reason that there is a comparative value to the exclusive methods they return dwelling to their fathers, as David Lowe persuasively argues in his study of the unconventional: "Children cannot turn their backs on the world of their fathers... Children ultimately do go 'home' again, and willingly or grudgingly, they are reconciled to the family hearth. 7" cause of this article is to discuss Turgenev's bifurcation of the prodigal son motif during which he brings Arkady contentedly again to his father, even as leaving Bazarov an inveterate rebel, whose return to the fold is brought about simplest via his bodily dying.

Like the typical father who has been separated from his son for really a while, Nikolai awaits the looks of his son's carriage with fine anticipation. Arkady's eventual arrival, nonetheless, signals best his bodily return. Unluckily there are lots of other traumatic indicators indicating that his physical presence is overwhelmed by way of an ideological estrangement.

The reason that the son nonetheless stays prodigal even after his bodily return is that he has fallen below the influence of his institution pal Bazarov, an advanced medical pupil who accompanies him dwelling as a guest. Though Bazarov is Arkady's senior by way of only three or four years (he is twenty-six even as Arkady is twenty-two), it turns into right away evident that the maturation hole between them is radically more, and that Arkady is disciple to the mentor Bazarov.

In the novel's beginning, Nikolai bodily receives his son back into the household fold, however in an ideological feel Arkady has long gone off target and in the interim remains misplaced.

Despite the fact that Nikolai, unlike his brother Pavel, is too variety-hearted and soft-spoken to show openly his difficulty over Bazarov's ideological seduction of his son, he does try and reassert in his son's presence the first-class significance he attributes to the father-son relationship. And yet earlier than Nikolai starts to get his son back ideologically, he first contributes further to his alienation with the aid of relinquishing his role of authority within the father-son relationship. In short, he enables Arkady to count on manipulate, which in turn gives Bazarov even larger leverage with his student, who desperately needs a steady model of authority.

This step within the unsuitable course happens the second Nikolai timidly informs his son that he's now living with the servant girl Fenichka outside the sanction of marriage. His embarrassment over this "immoral" behaviour not only exhibits him as weak, but it surely also basically reverses his function together with his son. Arkady, now sensing his father's vulnerability, starts off evolved to treat him like a prodigal son who is attempting to reinstate himself after a moral indiscretion.

This veritable reversal of roles is extra more desirable when Nikolai is unable to inform him directly that a son has been born from the illicit union with Fenichka. Once again more the son takes on the function of a forgiving father, paying a proper name on Fenichka to exhibit that he's above condemning this relationship and even magnanimously accepts this new rival for his father inheritance. Arkady's enchantment with Bazarov's figure reaches its apogee in the course of their first meeting with the appealing widow Odintsova, when he describes his pal to her within the glowing phrases.

Ironically, his scene can also be responsible for Arkady's recognition that Bazarov falls short of that perfection which he has usual for him in his own intellect.



Their emerging divergent views on love and women are then bolstered within the subsequent scene the place Arkady is enchanted by using Odintsova's charm, even as Bazarov can believe only of her exceptional body, which is "perfect for the dissecting-table". After this disagreement, Arkady step by step begins to retreat from his worship of Bazarov and begins to move back toward those romantic values instilled in him via his organic father. However, the seeds for Arkady's development as a prodigal son are sewn even prior, when it turns into obvious that he is unwilling to take delivery of Bazarov's suggestion of nature as a workshop devoid of emotion and religious valued at. Even within the first few chapters, where Arkady absolutely strives to set up an identity break away Nikolai's, he nonetheless finds himself sharing his father's deep-seated admiration for his or her dwelling property's usual beauty.

No longer notably, Arkady's contradictory stance toward nature is also eventually resolved in favour of his father's romanticism. The first evidence of this sort of alternate occurs in that polemical angle which Arkady adopts with reference to Bazarov's radical views. In an uncharacteristically corporation response to his mentor's rivalry that the only foremost thing is "that two and two make four, and the rest is all nonsense", Arkady asks "And is nature nonsense?" And as if to answer this question alongside the lines of Arkady's romantic heritage, the narrator depicts him admiring "the bright coloured fields in the distance, in the beautiful soft light of the sun, which was no longer high in the sky".

Besides, love and nature, art also undermines Bazarov's impact over Arkady. The elder Kirsanov, as we all know, lives via Pushkin's verse, to which he attributes a wisdom of just about biblical force.

This declamation, interrupted by means of Bazarov's mundane request for a suit with which to mild his pipe, no longer only suggests the elder generation's exceptional reverence for Pushkin, but in addition alludes-albeit indirectly-to love and nature, these two other romantic values that in conjunction with artwork will finally spell Bazarov's doom and sign Arkady's repatriation together with his fathers. At the same time the Kirsanovs see the poet as a logo for all that's aesthetically moving in existence, Bazarov equates him with art with no reason, and as a consequence invaluable of being rendered obsolete. Finding Nikolai studying Pushkin at his leisure, Bazarov encourages Arkady to confront his father with this useless pursuit of romanticism.



Arkady's return to his father's appreciation of artwork is usually recommended by using more than in simple terms his defence of Pushkin; he also gradually liberates his severe feeling for tune, which had long been suppressed by way of his strict adherence to Bazarov's philosophy. In his conversation with Madam Odintsova, Arkady clearly prefers launching right into a discourse upon the value of country wide melodies as a substitute than talking about those subjects-remedy, homeopathy, and botany - which can be of interest to Bazarov. Additionally, one among Arkady's first silent polemics together with his mentor is associated together with his father's love for tune.

What is primary about Arkady's position as a prodigal son is that it demonstrates that he is not the static dull determine that N. Strakhov has steered: "What could be weaker or more significant than Bazarov's friend Arkady. He apparently submits to every passing influence; he is the most ordinary of mortals". On the opposite, he evolves from a naive boy, hypnotized by way of the unconventional philosophy of Bazarov, to a prodigal son who as soon as again gravitates closer to the reformist ways of his father Nikolai. As discussed here, the romantic value of love, nature, and artwork comprise the catalyst for the alternate, despite the fact that Arkady is inclined toward them from the first.

Arkady's position as a prodigal son just isn't handiest meaningful in isolation; it is also designed to be in comparison with Bazarov's an identical function. At the same time Arkady comes residence willingly, Bazarov returns to his father and mother grudgingly and simplest as a last lodge following the failure of his philosophy. His first flight to his mother and father happens when he realizes that his love for Odintsova would negate his possess denial of human sentiments and could additionally lead to her viable rejection of him - a idea entirely unacceptable to his boundless vainness. His second retreat results from the disappointing loss of his disciple Arkady to the very romanticism which he berates.

Like the elder Kirsanov, Bazarov's parents belong to the old new release of romantics and adores the values of affection, nature and artwork. Arina Vlashevna, his mother, is so enamoured of her son that she are not able to take her eyes (or fingers) off him. His father Vassily Ivanovich, alternatively, figuring out that such an emotional scene is disagreeable for their son and runs counter to his philosophy, tries to excuse it. But it is soon revealed that he himself has suppressed a identical emotional response. He was once definitely trying to manage himself and appear close to indifferent.

Unlike Arkady, who has come dwelling for excellent and regularly starts to fit in, Bazarov is restless at home and in a position to leave after only a couple of days.

Conclusion

The one consolation the parents can take from such news is that their prodigal son guarantees to return to them on his method again to St. Petersburg: "We shall soon see each other again, father, really". After Bazarov's departure his mother can justify the painful nature of their relationship with their son most effectively by means of tremendously emotive language: "There is no help for it, Vasya! A son is a piece cut off. He is like the falcon that flies home and flies away at his pleasure; while you and I are like mushrooms in the hollow of a tree, we sit side by side, and don't move from our place. Only I remain unchanged for you, forever, as you for me".

Despite the fact that Bazarov's second visit with his parents is scheduled to last for six weeks, it is dubious he would have stayed see you later if he had now not come to be deathly in poor health after slicing himself on a contaminated instrument as he performed an autopsy on a typhus victim. In many methods his ensuing demise used to be much less of a tragedy for his parents than to start with one might think. In the end, handiest in demise had been they ready to keep this rebellious and restless soul of their midst. Simplest buried within the country graveyard was this prodigal son back to them for good.

As we've seen right here, Turgenev's *Fathers and Sons* is a novel about two prodigal sons, one in all whom is again to his family in lifestyles at the same time the other is reconciled best in demise. Using this foremost biblical archetype suggests that the author's ties with Christianity deserve to be re-examined. Classified with the aid of Dostoevsky as an atheist and by others (together with himself) as an agnostic, Turgenev has long been regarded as possessing at quality a tenuous reference to religion. But there may be every indication in his works and letters that he by no means utterly rejected Christianity however as a substitute discovered himself perpetually suspended between belief and disbelief.

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