

Is Beauty Skin Deep? Unravelling the Truth

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Abstract

The animated movie “Beauty and the Beast” of 1991 depicts the story of a cruel and arrogant prince who transforms into Beast by the spell of an enchantress and a young village girl Belle who is mostly known for her beautiful looks. These two are the main protagonist of the movie. The main antagonist of the movie is Gaston who is a narcissistic hunter and is desired by many women, but he is only obsessed with Belle and is desperate to marry her. Gaston, Belle, and Beast are the three main leads of the movie. This research paper is about unravelling a truth whether beauty is really skin deep or not through the context of 1991 movie “Beauty and the Beast”. The materials of research are mostly collected from various websites of internet which are mentioned in the page of references.

Keywords: beauty, truth, movie, etc

Introduction

All human beings are beautiful in their own way. Each one of us has different looks , body features , personalities etc which makes us unique . Real beauty does not mean who looks beautiful or attractive from outside, it means inner beauty. Love and kindness in heart for everyone makes us truly beautiful. The animated movie “Beauty and the Beast” of 1991 depicts the story of a cruel and arrogant prince who transforms into Beast by the spell of an enchantress and a young village girl Belle who is mostly known for her beautiful looks. These two are the main protagonist of the movie. The main antagonist of the movie is Gaston who is a narcissistic hunter and is desired by many women, but he is only obsessed with Belle and is desperate to marry her. Gaston, Belle, and Beast are the three main leads of the movie. There are also some supporting characters like Maurice who is Belle’s father, Monsieur D’Arque who is the warden of the town’s insane asylum, village ladies who are obsessed with Gaston, Enchantress etc. The main objective of the movie is how Belle and Beast fall in true love with each other without caring about looks, social boundaries etc. In this piece of work , it will be clearly elaborated whether beauty is really skin deep or not by relating and analysing various parts of the 1991 movie “Beauty and the Beast”.



The Fall of Arrogant Prince- In the very beginning of the movie, it is shown that an enchantress disguised herself as a beggar woman and visits the castle of the cruel prince . She offers a rose to him in exchange for shelter from a storm. But the arrogant prince denies and behaves very rudely with her. The prince is very conceited of his handsome looks and hence he judges the beggar woman on her physical appearance as she was hideous. He asks her to leave the castle. After a moment, when the enchantress reveals her identity to the prince, he is shocked("Disney Beauty And The Beast Stained Glass Journal").The prince begs forgiveness to the enchantress but it was too late. She transforms him into a horrendous beast and his events into household objects. The enchantress casts a spell on the rose. She warns the prince if he learns to love and gets love in return , only then the spell will be broken. Otherwise, he will remain a beast forever. From this part of the movie, we can understand arrogance leads to downfall . People should not judge one another on the basis of looks and social class. Kindness makes you the most beautiful person in the world("Beauty And The Beast Books").

Society's Lookout of Beauty- The setting of the movie "Beauty and the Beast" is located in the village of Conques in Southern France where a typical view of the French society of medieval age is shown. Belle, the lead character of movie, lives in the village of Conques who is usually appreciated by a lot of people because of her irresistible beauty.



Gaston, a narcissistic hunter is obsessed with her beauty and is very desperate to marry Belle. From this context, we can understand how good looking people are always loved and favoured

by society whereas in the end of the story it is shown how the people of the village gets manipulated by Gaston to slay the Beast just by hearing about his ugly looks. So it is clear that the people or villagers in the movie has been clearly judgmental about someone on his or her outer beauty("Beauty And The Beast Stained Glass Window Replica Journal | Shopdisney"). In the modern society, those narrow minded opinionated people still exists who do not care about feelings of another person and judge others in a negative way which affects emotionally on minds of the people who are judged , criticised or bullied for no reason. Though some good and educated people is spreading awareness of education which is still lacking especially in our society. But things are coming in form day by day and people should spread love amongst each other.

Gaston's Obsession For Belle- Gaston is the main antagonist in the movie "Beauty and the Beast". He is a narcissistic hunter and is desired by many women of his surroundings. He is mainly famous for his good looks and physical strength .From the very beginning of the movie, we can see that Gaston is obsessed with Belle's beauty and he whenever he meets Belle , he always demands to marry her. But Belle's refusal to Gaston's proposal triggers Gaston to some other extent. He becomes more furious to get her as his wife. When Maurice returns to the village and tries to convince the townsfolk about Belle's predicament, Gaston hatches a plan. He bribes Monsieur D'Arque who is the warden of the town's insane asylum to lock Maurice as a lunatic. Gaston knew if Maurice gets locked in the asylum as a lunatic, then Belle will have no one to support her and she will have to marry him without no choice.



Further in the story, when Belle comes to rescue her father and proves her father's sanity to townsfolk by showing the Beast in the magical mirror, jealous Gaston who is obsessed with Belle cannot digest the fact that Belle loves the Beast("Beauty And The Beast Story Fairy Tale ~ Bedtime Story For Children"). His obsession leads him to lock Belle and her father in the basement and he rallies the villagers to follow him to the castle to slay the Beast. In the final war with Beast , Gaston fatally stabs the Beast with a knife due to jealousy. Gaston , however becomes the reason for his own death by falling from the ledge. From this, it is understood that

with obsessive state of mind, a person forgets about his own concern and can cross any extent to fulfil his needs . Therefore, obsessive love is dangerous and it affects a person mentally.

The Saga of True Love and its Victory- Love is a magical feeling. It has no conditions. True love is beyond the boundaries of physical appearances, cast, creed, religion etc. Well, true love happens when you meet and fall in love with your soulmate. In the movie, it can be said that Belle and Beast are soulmates ("Beauty And The Beast Books | Disney Books | Disney Publishing Worldwide"). They fall in love with each other without caring about physical appearances and social boundaries. The moment when Belle comes to rescue her father, Beast somewhere deep inside likes her. He tries to make her comfortable by giving her a room to stay .He also arranges dinner for Belle. Belle slowly gets comfortable with him and is liking all the gestures which Beast is doing for her. After sharing a romantic dance with Beast, Belle sees in Beast's magical mirror that her father is collapsed in the woods.



Here, Beast unconditionally releases Belle to save Maurice despite knowing the fact if she goes, she might choose not to come back and hence the spell will be unbroken . Still, he did this sacrifice which shows he truly loves Belle. Further in the movie, when Gaston along with the villagers comes to slay the Beast, Belle comes to protect him which also shows her love for Beast. In the climax scene of movie, when Gaston stabs Beast with a knife before he dies , Beast dies in Bella's arms before the last petal falls from the rose. At this moment, Belle tearfully professes her love to the Beast, and hence the spell is undone, and the Beast restores his human form and becomes Prince again("Beauty And The Beast Spiral Notebooks | Redbubble"). Therefore, in the end , they both host a ball for the kingdom where they dance and live happily ever after which indicates victory of true love . From the movie, we can understand, no matter how much difficulties comes in the way, at the end true love always wins over all miseries.

Analysis and Discussion

The movie "Beauty and the Beast" depicts a true love story between the two lead characters Belle and Beast. It shows how they both fell in love with each other despite all odds. Gaston, the antagonist claimed that he loves Belle , but it is clearly understood that he is only obsessed

with her beauty and want to trap her in a marriage with him. Beast, on the other hand, releases Belle just after hearing about her father's predicament. He knew Belle might not come back and he might have lost the last chance to restore himself back into human form. Still, he did this sacrifice for himself and his gesture clearly shows that he truly loves Belle. Further, when Belle comes to protect Beast from Gaston, and professes her love to Beast after he dies, it is understood that she too truly fell in love with Beast. Therefore, the moral of the story is that people should see and love the inner beauty of each other rather than judging someone on their outer appearances.

Conclusion

The entire research paper is based on the comparison of the different aspects from the movie "Beauty and the Beast" with real life. Though the movie is based on a fantasy story, still a view of the French society of medieval period is shown which in the research work is compared with the modern society to figure out the title question whether beauty is skin deep or not. The answer is clearly understandable by the end scene where Belle professes her love to the Beast without caring about his looks. Therefore, from the movie, it is concluded that real meaning of beauty is actually inner beauty and beauty is absolutely not skin deep. A pure heart with love, humbleness and kindness for everyone makes a person beautiful in true sense.

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