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The Loving Friendship of Gilgamesh and Enkidu

The one major theme of this epic poem is love. “Love of all kinds” (LitCharts). A loving friendship between Gilgamesh and Enkidu that bond together over destroying others. Each are unbreakable to be damaged by another creature. Gilgamesh is a hero, king, and noble bearing man that is also selfish and prideful. He is also “perfect in strength” (The Epic of Gilgamesh 100). Enkidu is brave and courageous, he is an wild man raised by animals and clueless of finer things. Though of the many different characteristics the two are brought together by their differences.

Through the similarity and dissimilarity, the cultures Gilgamesh and Enkidu shared were like two brothers brought together. “The love that comes with friendship is seen as both more powerful and more positive than romantic love in the *Epic*” (LitCharts). Gilgamesh did not struggle with finding a person he could not destroy because of his strong capabilities. Enkidu on the other hand thought differently about his toughness and wanted to show Gilgamesh he was not the strongest of the strong. Besides the miscommunication in the beginning the characters have their own weakness to overcome. Such as the king Gilgamesh being arrogant and cocky. He knew he was a fierce man with all intentions of being in charge of the town of Uruk. Enkidu thinking, he was the brave man he thought he was until now meeting his worst enemy. These two were unstoppable and they were brought together by one fight. Brought together as friends or more than friends as “They kissed each other and made friends” (The Epic of Gilgamesh 109).

“How shall the likes of us go the forest of cedars, my friend?” (The Epic of Gilgamesh 110). Enkidu captured his feelings by reassurance of their bond by asking Gilgamesh a question on their journey by calling him his friend. The two bonded together on planning to go kill a Humbaba. They were the type of people who had one another’s back in the good and bad of situations. Though the battle between the monster resulted in a bigger problem. Gilgamesh was afraid to kill the monster because he was begging for his mercy yelling to him “You were once a child, Gilgamesh, you had a mother who bore you” (The Epic of Gilgamesh 122). Enkidu showed no sympathy with his remarks telling Gilgamesh to just kill him already. This is an example of how a friend can pressure you into anything you are not wanting to do. It is important to hear the suggested help but sometimes the doing is up to yourself. Even though this shows that their bond between one another is long lasting.

The two characters face a bigger problem with their next journey they faced. Enkidu dreams a wild dream where he is to die. One of the friends must be killed because of their wrong doings to Humbaba’s forest and to the bull. Enkidu is thrown to the wolves being the one that must be killed out of the two. Enkidu’s dream will become reality and he suddenly falls ill. Gilgamesh is a wreck when he sees that his friend is dead, it is not until the worm crawls out of Enkidu’s nose. \*\*\*\*Look up tablets 7 &8\*\*\*\* This is when he realizes that his friend is really gone for good. The heartache of losing his best friend means he wants to do something in memory of him. A statue made of out gold that being even better than the cedar gate. The love the two men shared between one another made Gilgamesh scared of death. This is a perfect example of how others should always treat their friend with love and kindness. Tomorrow is never promised and I think that Gilgamesh was not ready for his friend to die. They still had a lot of journeys left for each other and it is sad to see Gilgamesh brokenhearted and frightened of death.

Gilgamesh in the end is a broken hearted man suffering from the loss of his best friend. A person he did everything with from talking, killing, and thinking to. They were the bond of an everlasting friendship. Each would go to the ends of the earth for one another. The struggles of love and many differences that brought these two friends together at last. Gilgamesh and Enkidu were a great example of love and friendship.

Work Citied

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