

Comparative Analysis

The essays “Soup” and “The Last Stop” give a good description of the characters in each of them, that is Albert Yeganeh in the Last Soup and Deaver Howard in The Last Stop. The descriptions given are in terms of their personalities and also how they do their business. They can therefore be compared and contrasted in a number of ways to show the differences and similarities brought out by the two authors. This comparison is discussed here below.

In “Soup”, Albert Yeganeh is described as a perfectionist. He is a person who likes to see things being done perfectly. He told the author that, “I am a perfectionist” (72) and that he even gets upset by selling soup which he feels is not perfect. This is where he said that, “people don’t realize why I get upset. It’s because if the soup is not perfect and I’m still selling it, it’s a torture” (72). Also, Yeganeh continued to say that, “I use only the best and the freshest ingredients” (72) to make the soups. He implied that other sellers do not always use the freshest ingredients and this is where he stated that “Every other place uses canned clams.” (72) When it comes to cleanliness he argued that “I don’t believe that ninety-nine percent of restaurants in New York know how to clean a tomato.” (72) This demonstrates a person who is very cautious and almost obsessed with seeing things done in a perfect way.

In the other essay however, the author depicts Howard as an ordinary person with no obsession with perfectionism. He is shown as someone who is happy to see things run smoothly as they should but there is not emphasis on the idea of liking them done perfectly. He is however an organized person and this is shown where the author describes his office. The author stated that “his desk was bone clean, no pencils or paper, nothing – just a telephone. He did all his paperwork at home” (105) This illustrates a person who is somehow easy-going and at the same

time organized in that he does not have to keep piles of papers or pens on his desk to show how serious he is with his work.

In addition, “Soup” shows that Yeganeh is a very strict individual. He is strict to his employees so that they can work in line with his desire of seeing things done perfectly. The author illustrates this strictness in several incidences. For example, there is where he quotes Yeganeh explain that, “I tell my crew to wash the parsley eight times. If they wash it five or six times, I scare them.” (72) He further said that, “I tell them they’ll go to jail if there is sand in the parsley.”(73) Another incidence is where he said that, “One time, I found a mushroom on the floor, and I fired that guy who left it there.” (73) This illustrates a very strict person.

In “The Last Stop” however, Howard is not depicted as being strict to his employees. Actually, the author describes more of how Howard offers services to his clients at Good body Mortuary and no description of his relationship with the employees is given. In giving services to his clients, he does it modestly but he is quick to point out that he does not let the pain of the family distract him from doing what he is supposed to do. This is shown where Howard said that “Some people have the idea that we are bereavement specialists, that we can handle emotional problems which follows death.” (106) He further state that, “We provide services for the dead, not counselling for the living.” (106) This can illustrate being strict in the work to ensure that he only do what he is supposed to do.

In “Soup” the author shows that Yeganeh is a proud person. There are several illustrations given that shows Yeganeh praising his business and making it look better than all the others. This is where he stated that, “And I use only the best, the freshest ingredients....Every other place uses canned clams.” (72) This gives the impression that other places do not take much caution and could be using ingredients that are not fresh. He also said that, “I don’t believe that

ninety-nine percent of the restaurants in New York know how to clean a tomato.” (72) This makes the impression that his restaurant is the only one that does proper cleaning. Another instance is where stated that “This place is the only one like it in the whole earth” (73) and that, “One day, I hope to learn something from other places, but so far I haven’t.” (73) This demonstrates a sense of pride and arrogance which makes him see himself as the best.

The author in *The Last Stop* has not given an illustration of how Howard views other mortuaries. In his description of his business, Howard has not compared himself or his business to others in the region. This shows a humble man whose main focus is concentrating on providing his service with no sense of pride or arrogance that would make him praise his business and at the same time talk bad of others in having mortuaries in that region.

Also, Howard is a sociable and easy-going man. The author actually wrote that he found Howard to be an easy-going man who is also easy to interact with. This is also shown where he his employee explain to the author about his work. Yeganeh is however not easy to socialize with. He is a tough man who did not even let any of his employees talk to the author. Howard is also a team player while Yeganeh is not. This is because Howard explained how they do the paper work with his wife at home and he also let the employee explain to the author about his work. Yeganeh never gave a chance to his employees and all he was saying is how he commands his employees. So he is the type of person who only give orders without taking part in the work.

There is a similarity between Howard and Yeganeh and this is demonstrated on how they treat their customers. The two authors show that they do their best to provide the best services to their customers and make them satisfied. Yeganeh for example, wish to have the soup as perfect and clean as possible with the aim of giving customers the best soup. He ensures that he uses fresh ingredients in the soup because he cares about the health of his customers. Also, he said

that “I am psychologically kind of a health freak” (72) to show how much he cares about his health. He also ensures the customers receive healthy soups from his restaurant by using fresh ingredients and making sure everything is clean. There is also a wide range of recipes which he said that, “I get my recipes from books and theories and my own taste.” (73) From these books, he gets to know the healthy foods such as cabbages and includes them in his recipes. This is all aimed at showing care for his customers.

In the case of Howard, his provision of good services to his clients is also shown. The author first describes how “amiable and easy to talk to” (106) he is. These are good features and which makes him more welcoming and comforting to the mourning relatives of the dead person. They also provide a lobby that is “modestly but comfortably furnished.”(106) They also provide caskets of a wide range so that the mourners have choices on which one they prefer to bury their deceased in. This range of services depicts a person who is keen to make his clients happy and it is the same with Yeganeh as discussed above.

In conclusion, the authors have described the personalities of both Howard and Yeganeh in line with the business each of them does. There are clear differences on how the two people do their business and this is mainly because their businesses are also different. There are however other differences in terms of their personality such as one is shown as a proud man who is also very strict but the other one is shown as kind to others and does not brag about being the best in the business. Their similarities are mainly on how they treat their customers. They like to offer the best services to show the desire to make their customers happy.

Works Cited

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