ALADDIN AS AN IMMORAL ETHICIST IN ALADDIN AND THE MAGIC LAMP

Jan Gresil de los Santos Kahambing, Anne Dominique Duque

Abstract

This study delves into the tale Aladdin and the Magic Lamp as the excerpt of the Middle Eastern folk tales collection One Thousand and One Nights rather than the popular Disney version. It problematizes the figure of Aladdin and rebrands him as an immoral ethicist as opposed to Disney hero who seeks strength within himself and the other text versions of him as a ‘changed’ man. This problematizing essentially entails a critique of the Westernized moral figure and its basic ‘universal lesson’ in the text to argue his being immoral. To do this, the methodology of the paper follows from a philosophical reading that subjectivizes the protagonist into the question of ethics. Specifically, it takes from Žižek’s elaboration of the Nietzschean version of an immoral ethics that remains consistent with the fidelity to one’s desire. The paper shows how the plot reveals Aladdin’s immoral ethics that is founded on strength and constant activity but presupposing the voluntary knowledge and cleverness of his existential choice. To back this, the study finds three distinct features, namely: 1) disregard to authority, 2) love beyond good and evil, and 3) negative will to power.

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Keywords

Aladdin, Immoral Ethics, Nietzsche, Žižek

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This study delves into the tale Aladdin and the Magic Lamp as the excerpt of the Middle Eastern folk tales collection One Thousand and One Nights rather than the popular Disney version. It problematizes the figure of Aladdin and rebrands him as an immoral ethicist as opposed to Disney hero who seeks strength within himself and the other text versions of him as a “changed” man. This problematizing essentially entails a critique of the Westernized moral figure and its basic ‘universal lesson’ in... CONTINUE READING. e-journal.usd.ac.id. Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp is a two-reel animated cartoon short subject in the Popeye Color Specials series, produced in Technicolor and released to theaters on April 7, 1939, by Paramount Pictures. It was produced by Max Fleischer, and directed by Dave Fleischer for Fleischer Studios, Inc., with David Tendlar serving as head animator, and music being supervised by Sammy Timberg. The voice of Popeye is performed by Jack Mercer, with additional voices by Margie Hines as Olive Oyl and Carl Meyer as Aladdin rubbed the magic lamp and asked the genie if he could build a palace for him. Genie agreed and in some minutes he made a beautiful palace for his master. Aladdin was now able to marry the princess. However, the magician was still unhappy. He felt that the magic lamp should have been his and that Aladdin had stolen it from him. One day, the magician came to visit Aladdin’s palace when Aladdin himself was out hunting. He disguised himself as a merchant and wound a turban around his head. “I buy old lamps! I can exchange an old lamp with the new one”, the magician said. The princess exchanged the old lamp for the new one. Aladdin, as that was the young man’s name, took his father’s place in running the family store with his mother. One day, a stranger walked into the store. “I am your uncle,” said the stranger to Aladdin. Aladdin came to the large flat stone, and on it was a lighted lamp, just as his uncle had said. He poured out the oil and took it back to the opening of the cave. Thanks to Iona, 11, Scotland. Aladdin called out, “Here I am, Uncle!” The magician called out in a great hurry, “Give me the lamp!” “Just as soon as I’m up,” said Aladdin, wondering why the magician seemed in such a hurry. “No, give me the lamp NOW!” cried the old man, reaching down his hand. For you see, the only way the lamp could come out of the cave was as a gift, from one person to another. Time passed. Aladdin married the Sultan’s daughter and was very happy. It so happened that the evil magician got to know of Aladdin’s good fortune. He came by Aladdin’s palace pretending to exchange old lamps for new. The princes, Aladdin’s wife, not knowing the value of the lamp to Aladdin called out to the magician to wait. As soon as the magician saw the lamp he grabbed it from the princess’ hand and rubbed it. He found his lamp lying on a table next to the magician. Before the magician could react, Aladdin jumped for the lamp and got hold of it. As soon as he had the lamp, Aladdin rubbed it. The genie appeared again and said, “My master, Aladdin, it is indeed good to serve you again. What is it that you wish?”