

ANGELO LOUKAKIS – FOR THE PATRIARCH

1. *Assess the value of the text "For the Patriarch" as part of your study of the Area of Study – JOURNEY [Physical]*

A journey possesses a physical, imaginative and inner nature and involves the physical movement from one place to another, encountering different obstacles along the way. These obstacles may challenge the travellers' way of thinking and hence broaden their understanding of themselves and the world around them.

The text, 'For the Patriarch' by Angelo Loukakis is valued as a text for the Area of Study – JOURNEYS because the text follows the journey of a young Greek priest who has undertaken a physical journey from Greece to Australia and is waiting to be appointed to a church. As he waits, his experiences and discoveries of Australian culture and society, as well as the happenings within the Greek community are expressed through letters the young priest, Dimitris writes to his parents in Greece.

'For the Patriarch' is suitable as a text for Journeys as it contains many links to journeys. To begin with, Loukakis focuses his short story on an intermediate stop within the young priest's journey to becoming appointed to a Greek church in an Australian community. The reader is introduced to the priest, Dimitris soon after his arrival to Australia from Greece, hence, the text can be seen as conveying 'the immigrant experience from a non-Anglosaxon origin' as quoted from the newspaper article, 'The Migrant Experience, Boldly Honest' (Courier Mail- 19/12/1981). This certain quality of the text provides a direct link to Skrzynecki's poems, which also tell of the immigrant experience as the Polish migrants travel to Australia, and attempt to settle into Australian society. Since Skrzynecki's poems are listed as the prescribed texts for the Area of Study – Journey [Physical], it follows that Angelo Loukakis' 'For the Patriarch' is also very suitable for use as a text for journeys as it is similar to the poems in Skrzynecki's 'Immigrant Chronicles' and so provides many opportunities to compare and contrast elements of the short story with the prescribed texts for the Area of Study, for example, techniques and issues raised.

Another reason Angelo Loukakis' text, 'For the Patriarch' is valued as a text for the Area of Study – Journeys, is that it contains many ideas and elements associated with journeys. In terms of a physical journey, Dimitris firstly travels to Australia from Greece, and then, through his letters to his parents, the readers find out that he journeys around Sydney 'like any tourist' before venturing five hundred kilometres to a country town called Marralin for three months. Along the way, Dimitris encounters obstacles such as language barriers which leads him to learn English; and problems with adapting to the Australian culture- 'I suppose I must be an unusual sight in my black costume and beard, very different to the fair-haired and fair-skinned locals... People would stare... and the children were sometimes very bad to me, singing at me, or laughing, or throwing things', 'I have so little in common with the Greeks in Australia, they view me with such suspicion'; finally, a major obstacle that occurs in Dimitris' journey is the conflict between the Greek Church and the Western Latins, which holds up his appointment to the community of Jenowla- the destination of the priest's journey.

Within the text, Dimitris also undergoes an inner journey of change. In the beginning, Dimitris is seen to have a passionate yet naïve faith in the Archdiocese – 'they are men of God, all to be admired'. However, when they are challenged by the Pope and his supporters, the true natures of the men in the Archdiocese are revealed and Dimitris comes to dislike, even hate the authorities – 'I have changed my opinion of these people... They are not servants of God at all' and he realises that these 'weak, vacillating men' were 'bowing to the wishes of the enemy... only to retain their own positions and to win concessions from the agents of the Pope'. Through this journey, we see that Dimitris has lost his faith in men- in particular, the men of God, but his faith in God continues to grow stronger, as seen by his unwavering determination to defend his Faith and uphold the life of his Church, which compels him to undertake another journey to Constantinople. This demonstrates the impacts of such inner and physical journeys.

2. Explain how your research/investigation has further enhanced your understanding of the ideas expressed in the text "For the Patriarch" AND in the Area of Study - JOURNEY [Physical]

Additional research on the text "For the Patriarch" has further enhanced my understanding of the ideas expressed in the text and in the Area of Study as it has helped me to gain an insight into the context in which the short story is written.

Through visiting the Greek Australian Society website, I was made aware of the importance and the need of the Greek Orthodox Church within the Greek community. As mentioned in the text, 'these expatriate Greeks are very disheartened people, leaving their homeland has hurt them very much'. From my research, I found that the Greek Orthodox Church fills this homesickness and the need to be surrounded by Greek culture since the Church is closely involved with the Greek national, social and cultural life, as supported by the quote: 'The Greek Orthodox Church has traditionally played a major role in the life of most Greeks. It not only provides spiritual instruction and guidance to its followers but it is also involved with major events in the Greek community'. This research has helped me to understand the Greek community's inner need for a priest such as Dimitris, to maintain their culture, and to bring some sort of recreation of their homeland. This shows that a person may go on a journey for inner reasons, e.g. to provide comfort to a community

Also, through research, I was able to make an educated guess as to the original reason why Dimitris would journey to Australia. After World War II, Australia gradually began to adopt a more accepting attitude to multiculturalism, allowing more and more foreigners of different ethnicities across the Australian border. As shown by Australia's post war immigration trends, the number of Greek people migrating to Australia after WWII increased, which inevitably lead to increases in the number of churches built. For example, there was only one Greek Orthodox Church in the 1950s situated in Melbourne. By 1972, there were already 25 Churches. It follows that more churches would need more priests to pastor that community. This may be the reason behind Dimitris leaving Greece to be a priest in Australia. Here, we see that a person may journey for practical reasons, e.g. to work

In the text, the last two letters written by Dimitris mention a conflict between the Greek Church and the Western Latins, which threatens the existence and survival of the Greek Church. In investigating this matter, I found out that this conflict occurred eight centuries ago in 1054 over the differing practices followed by the different churches. In 1054, the centuries old differences lead to a final separation of the two Churches when the then Patriarch of Constantinople, Cerularius refused to adopt western church practices. This caused the legates from Pope Leo IX to excommunicate, or officially exclude Cerularius, and Cerularius to excommunicate the legates. In knowing this, I was able to work out the last few lines of the text, in that Dimitris is most likely journeying to the Patriarch of Constantinople, the leader of the true Church, since the Empire of Constantinople had collapsed centuries ago. This knowledge served to confuse me however, because Dimitris wrote of Pope Leo IX, of the Byzantine Emperor, Constantine IX and of Cerularius as if they and the clash of the Greek Church and Western Latins were a current issue at the time of writing the letter- 1978, although these personalities existed many centuries earlier, in 1054.

Additional research on Angelo Loukakis' 'For the Patriarch' enhanced my understanding of the ideas expressed in the text and in the Area of Study as it allowed me to gain knowledge of the context in which the short story was set. Research into the Greek community has provided the reasons to why Dimitris undertook the journey from Greece to Australia to be appointed to a church. An investigation into the references made and the events he describes in the last two letters provide insights into the historic clash between the Greek Orthodox and the Roman Catholic, which compels the young priest to join the battle for the true Church- the Greek Orthodox, embarking on a new journey with its own challenges and lessons to be learnt. This enhances my understanding of the Area of Study - Journeys as this research shows that there are many reasons why travellers set off on journeys, and that these reasons may be influenced by many factors, including history, inner needs, and physical or practical demands.