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What Is Here Today, Can Disappear Tomorrow

Flowers are not immortal, neither are we, and this notion is in Chapter 15 of *The Little Prince*. *The Little Prince* is a story written by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry about a young boy who travels to different planets, each of which portray adult lives as mundane, because of their inability to think or see outside the box. In this fictional novel the young boy called The Little Prince, he meets a pilot who crash landed in a desert far from civilization and the book chronicles their journey and time together. The universal theme and generalization is that relationships change over time is explored in Chapter 15 through The Little Prince's relationship with the flower, the exploration of Ephemeral versus Eternal, and the geographer's relationship with explorers.

To begin, the relationship with the flower is stronger than any other relationship The Little Prince had made throughout the whole book. The New Yorker states, "The rose has made him so miserable that, in torment, he has taken advantage of a flock of birds to convey him to other planets. " The Little Prince left the flower from the beginning of the book and after visiting one specific planet, he comes to the realization that he wants to go back to it, with his volcanoes on his small asteroid. The planet that helps him realize this is the sixth planet he visits. On this planet, he meets a geographer that

presents him with a book in which he only writes eternal things and not ephemeral. Since The Little Prince doesn't know what ephemeral means, the geographer tells him, "It means, 'which is threatened by imminent disappearance. (Saint-Exupéry 47).'" The Little Prince is reminiscent of his flower and realizes that it is in danger because it is incapable of protecting itself with only four thorns. This makes The Little Prince feel bad for leaving his planet because he now knows his flower will not be there waiting for him forever. In the end, The Little Prince's relationship to his flower led him to his final and only objective, which was to try and go back home to his flower and protect it. This showed his deep love towards the flower even after all the time they had been apart. Besides helping The Little Prince realize his flower is ephemeral, the geographer also describes ephemeral and eternal in his own way in which he makes The Little Prince perceive the world more realistically.

Accordingly, ephemeral v. eternal is viewed in chapter 15, as time passes the leaves and roots of the Prince's rose will fall apart. People like use human beings are eternal one day our time will be up and we will leave without nothing. The Little Prince believes he will be able to serve and protect his rose forever. In chapter 15 the Geographer states that flowers last a short period of time. the prince thought his flower was eternal which therefore sooner or later his flower will die. Chapter 15 states that, It is rarely that a mountain changes its position, also that it's uncommon that an ocean empties itself. This relates to how the mountains and oceans are eternal because as time passes by we will still find them the same way they were. All relates to how the relationship between the geographer writing eternal things and not unfashioned things.

Finally, the geographer's relation with explorers leads to a relation with time. The geographer needs explorers to explore unknown lands so that the geographer can record the findings. The geographer only writes of certain things and in this chapter, he says, " 'It is very rarely that a mountain

changes its position. It is very rarely that an ocean empties itself of its waters. We write about eternal things' (Saint-Exupéry 46) ” This means that in order for something to have relevance for the geographer to write down it has to be eternal or lasting a very long time. To be able to write these down these things also can't change over time, they must stay the same. The geographer needs explorers to assist him in finding things that can be written down. As the geographer puts it, “ ‘It is not the geographer who goes out to count the towns, the rivers, the mountains, the seas, the oceans, and the deserts. The geographer is much too important to go loafing about. He does not leave his desk. But he receives the explorers in his study. He asks them questions, and he notes down what they recall of their travels. And if the recollections of any one among them seem interesting to him, the geographer orders an inquiry into that explorer's moral character' (Saint-Exupéry 45). ” Since explorers are the one's that tell the geographer of their findings, the geographer must be able to trust them, meaning they might have a good or close relationship. That relationship would most likely get closer over time as trust builds between the explorer and geographer.

To conclude, relationships like the one seen between The Little Prince and his Rose, change over time. It is through The Little Prince's relationship with the flower, the exploration of the ephemeral versus the eternal, and the geographer's relationship with explorers, that the universal theme, relationships, and its generalization change over time is explored in this chapter of the book. This understanding of how relationships change over time and this chapter helps to forward a person's understanding on the reasoning behind the decision that The Little Prince made at the end of the story, it was to protect his rose, because he realizes it can die, his rose is ephemeral.

Works Cited

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