

PART 3

The Final Chapter



GREGOR 'S WOUND

- ▶ “Gregor's serious wound, from which he suffered for over a month – the apple remained embedded in his flesh as a visible souvenir since no one dared to remove it – seemed to have reminded even his father that Gregor was a member of the family, in spite of his present pathetic and repulsive shape, who could not be treated as an enemy; that, on the contrary, it was the commandment of family duty to swallow their disgust and endure him, endure him and nothing more.”

“FAMILY DUTY”

- ▶ What are the new “jobs” of the family members?
 - Father
 - Mother
 - Grete
- ▶ How does this compare with Gregor’s job?

THE OPEN DOOR

- ▶ “—for this deterioration of his situation he was granted compensation which in his view was entirely satisfactory: every day around dusk the living-room door — which he was in the habit of watching closely for an hour or two beforehand— was opened, so that, lying in the darkness of his room, invisible from the living room, he could see that whole family sitting at the table under the lamp and could listen to their conversation, as it were with general permission; and so it was completely different from before.”

MR. SAMSA

- ▶ “what kind of perverse obstinacy, his father refused to take off his official uniform.”
 - What statement is Mr. Samsa making?
 - What statement is Kafka making about Mr. Samsa?
- ▶ “What a life. So this is the peace of my old age.”

TREATMENT OF GREGOR

- ▶ “who is in this overworked exhausted family had time to worry about Gregor...”
- ▶ How does the family treat Gregor?

GREGOR'S VIEW

- ▶ “Who in this overworked and exhausted family had time to worry about Gregor any more than was absolutely necessary?”
- ▶ Gregor spent the days and nights almost entirely without sleep. Sometimes he thought that the next time the door opened he would take charge of the family’s affairs again, just as he had done in the old days...”

CHANGE IN FAMILY LIFE

- ▶ Cleaning lady replaced with a cheaper “char-woman”
- ▶ Family jewelry sold
- ▶ Desire to give up large apartment
 - Blame Gregor (not able to move him/why such a large apartment?)
- ▶ Take in boarders
- ▶ All members working and still not enough money

THE CHAR-WOMAN

- ▶ How does she treat Gregor?
- ▶ “Look at the old dung beetle.”
- ▶ Gregor tries to “attack” her
 - Her reaction?
 - His health?

THE BOARDERS

- ▶ How are they treated?
 - Compare with Gregor's treatment
- ▶ How do they treat the family?
 - How does Gregor view the roomers?
- ▶ Roomers reaction to Gregor
 - Final statement about roomers (decision to stay after "seeing" Gregor)

GRETE'S ULTIMATE DAGGER

- ▶ “We must try to get rid of it.”
- ▶ “It has to go.”
- ▶ “If it were Gregor, he would have realized long ago that it isn't possible for human beings to live with such a creature, and he would have gone away on his own free will.”

THE FINAL DOOR

- ▶ Gregor returns to his room on his own accord
- ▶ Grete slams the door and locks it behind him.



GREGOR'S LAST THOUGHTS

- ▶ “he thought back to his family with deep emotion and love. His conviction that he would have to disappear was, if possible, even firmer than his sister’s.”
- ▶ “Then, without his consent, his head sank down to the floor, and from his nostrils streamed his last weak breath.”

FAMILY REACTION

▶ Mrs. Samsa

- “Dead?”

▶ Mr. Samsa

- “Well, now we can thank God!”

▶ Grete

- “who never took her eyes off the corpse...Just look at how thin he was. Of course he didn't eat anything for such a long time. The food came out again just as it went in.”

THE FINAL PAGE

- ▶ Look closely at the ending



ALIENATION

- ▶ Is this a story about alienation? What does alienation do to the individual?
- ▶ How is Gregor alienated?
 - From himself
 - From his family
 - From his job
 - From society

IS GREGOR KAFKA?

▶ Health

- Tuberculosis (and symptoms of)

▶ Family

- Father – Kafka's father both mentally and physically abusive
- Mother – Kafka's mother very distant, aloof
- Sister- Kafka's sister Ottla - once very close but Kafka was forced to work for Ottla's company, when Kafka complained the sister told his father.

IS GREGOR KAFKA?

▶ Friends

- Kafka had a friend named Grete.
 - ▶ Grete destroyed Kafka reputation with a pregnancy scandal (it was not true)

▶ Work

- Kafka felt that working killed the soul

▶ Self

- Kafka was highly self critical and always felt like an outsider.

GUILT

- ▶ Who feels guilty in the text?
Who does not?