

PART-II

Q. 2 Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.

(15+5=20)

In what movie was the villain actually right? Ephialtes from action film 300. He betrays Leonidas and leads the Persian army on a secret path, allowing them to surround and ultimately defeat the Spartan group.

I will not argue that his actions are right or wrong per se, but that they are understandable, do not constitute betrayal and do not make Ephialtes evil. Let's look at the events leading up. It is established in the opening scene that Spartan men are born to be soldiers, and any newborn with a less than perfectly fully abled body is immediately discarded. Not set on a different path, like farming, blacksmithing or whatever, but full on chucked in a ditch.

Ephialtes was supposed to be one of these discarded babies, but his parents, loving their son beyond his twisted body, decided they would rather flee Sparta and live in the shadows than to have him killed. Ephialtes then spends his life in hiding, training with his father, working to become a good soldier, hoping that he may, one day, serve the very people that rejected him.

Finally, when the opportunity comes, Ephialtes follows Leonidas and the 300 and manages to get an audience with the King. He kneels in front of Leonidas, tells him his story and begs him to be allowed to join the fight. He knows the 300 are basically on a suicide mission, but it does not matter to him. He just wants to have a noble death, to be accepted as one of them, and to "earn his father's armor".

And after all that, and in spite of having "a good spear", Leonidas turns him down. Leonidas claims Ephialtes' inability to raise his shield is detrimental to a phalanx, where each soldier defends the one on his left.

Hell, I bet if Leonidas just had given him his blessing to charge the Persian army alone, he would have done it to have a good death and take a few Persians with him. But no, after proving his loyalty and his "good spear" skills, Ephialtes is once again rejected. He is again cast aside.

Only then, completely broken and with nowhere to go, does he go to Xerxes. He is being offered all the riches he desires to join the Persian side, which he accepts, but on top of the generic "wealth and power" he asks for the one thing that he really wanted: a uniform. He was never motivated by greed. And he never committed betrayal, as he was never accepted by Sparta to begin with.

Ephialtes' Betrayal of Leonidas

The author contends that Ephialtes' betrayal of Leonidas does not portray him as a vile. Because he did not betray Leonidas for a selfish cause. Neither the wealth nor the power was a driving force behind his betrayal. In fact, he did so merely to fulfill his desire of being accepted as a soldier. He only wanted the death of a soldier while serving the people, who had marginalized him from other soldiers due to his physical impairment. Despite this weakness, he made rigorous efforts throughout his life believing that he would die as a soldier. But Leonidas did not accept Ephialtes as a soldier due to his physical disability, which compelled Ephialtes to defect against Leonidas. So, Ephialtes led Persian army on a furtive path for achieving recognition as a soldier.

Idea and structure are generally ok.

Word Count
original

Words in ^ Passage: 428

Words in Precise: 146