

THE SHAKESPEARE MYTH – BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT?

In view of the flooding abundance of information that is available today – in the era of the internet, television and other media –, it is very strange for us to come across a topic we do not have a lot of information about. This is the case with the English poet and playwright William Shakespeare. In this context, the question arises if it would be useful for the readers today to have more information about his person and his life.

On the one hand, many people would claim that the lack of information is nothing positive in reference to Shakespeare and his readers. More information would make him and his works more interesting and fascinating, which means that it would encourage more people to read his works and make him more attractive.

In addition, more information would make a better understanding of his plays possible. For instance, background information of a play could answer an amount of questions which arise while reading or watching it and create an elaborate understanding in the consumer's mind this way.

On the contrary, it also appears to be useful not to know too much about a writer like Shakespeare.

First of all, it is out of question that you are less prejudiced while reading his plays or poems with less knowledge about his life, his actions and relationships. Resultantly, you are able to create your own opinion only based on his works.

Furthermore, since we do not know about all his actions and deeds, there is a possibility that the information we do not have contains disappointing facts about his life, for example how he treated other people or maybe even acted against his ideology as conveyed in his plays etc. This could deter people from reading his works, which would mean an enormous decrease in popularity.

Moreover, Shakespeare as an almost mythical person is very interesting to people since the mystery of his character and life creates a lot of room for speculation and, above all, room for interpretation of his works. Consequently, people reading or watching Shakespeare are able to draw conclusions from his works to learn more about him, his life and his era. How attractive this is to people becomes visible in the actual topical reception of him and the fact that he is very famous – even called the most famous exponent of English literature worldwide.

Based on these arguments, it can be said that although it might be interesting and to some extent helpful to know more about William Shakespeare, it still appears to be right and meaningful as it is today, above all considering the reception by people and the popularity of him and his literature in general.

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