

My Tailor

By : Stephen Leacock

❖ What is humor?

- Humor is a literary tool that makes audiences laugh, or that intends to induce **amusement or laughter**.
- Its purpose is to break the monotony, boredom, and tedium, and make the audience's nerves relax.
- The writer uses different techniques, tools, words, and even full sentences in order to bring to light new and **funny sides of life**.

❖ What is pathos ?

- Pathos is a quality of an experience in life, or a work of art, that stirs up emotions of pity, **sympathy**, and sorrow.
- Pathos can be expressed through **words**, pictures, or even with gestures of the body.

Introduction

❖ Introduction of the Writer

- Stephen Butler Leacock (December 1869 – March 1944) was born in England and moved to Canada when he was six years old.
- He became a **Canadian teacher, political scientist, writer and humorist.**
- Between 1911 and 1925 he was so well-known as the worlds' greatest humorist , that it was said **more people had heard of Stephen Leacock than had heard of Canada.**
- Stephen Leacock is a great comic writer. He has written many humorous essays and stories. **His humor is light, harmless and free from bitterness.**

❖ Introduction of the essay

- This essay is taken from a collection of humorous pieces called “**Further Foolishness**”.
- In this essay Leacock mingles humour with pathos and leaves a lasting impression on the reader’s mind.
- It is about the life of a professional man who looks like a machine during his work and keeps his real life and personality hidden under the cover of his professional life.

❖ **Characters of the essay**

- The Tailor
- The writer
- Mr.Jennings

Important Points:

1. It is a **humorous essay** in which Leacock sketches his tailor
2. He is in contact with his tailor for the past 30 years, he considers him as an immortal object.
3. For the past thirty year, there is **not even a slight change** in the postures of his tailor.
4. He welcomes the writer with his usual smile and ends his discussion with the weather.
5. He has always only two kinds of cloth **Tweed and Serge** in his shop.
6. He shows the cloth to the writer on his **bended leg** standing on the other.
7. His **measuring tape** is always hanging in his neck and he always measures the writer only from his **chest**.
8. He asks his assistant to **add half an inch** in the measurements, just to **flatter** the writer.
9. One day, tailor is not in his shop, on asking, he is informed that **tailor has died**.
10. The writer is not ready to believe in this news as he thought the tailor an immortal object.
11. He further knows that his **business** was not going well which became the cause of his death.
12. The tailor was **a religious person**, and a good **flute player**, he had a wife and a daughter.

❖ Character sketch of the Tailor

- He always stood at the back part of his shop.
- His **tape** was always woven about his neck.
- He always had a **smile** of welcome on his face.
- He lifted one knee and drapes the cloth over it, standing upon one leg.
- He measured the writer , **round the chest;** nowhere else.
- In order to **flatter** the writer he always asked Mr. Jennings to **add half an inch** in the chest measurement.
- He always ended his conversation with the **weather report.**

❖ **Writers relations with the tailor**

- He was his tailor for the **past thirty years**.
- They had good time with each other.
- Their relationship was based on **professional needs**.
- The writer visited tailor frequently but had no personal relations or talks.
- Their talks were same all the time, as if they have rehearsed the same things round the years.

❖ Immortal

- The writer calls his tailor to be immortal because he has always acted like a **machine**.
- He has rehearsed the **same dialogue** and preceding always.
- ❖ They never had a talk about **the religion or family**.
- ❖ Both of them has always kept a **boundary line of professionalism** between themselves during their dealings and talks.

conclusion

- Today the life has become so busy that human beings have taken the shape of isolated Islands that lie scattered in the deep and wide ocean of the world completely oblivious of each other.
- Today a man dies even without expressing his agonies because nobody can spare a moment to talk about his life and its troubles.
- The **message** of the story is that **materialism destroys the relations**. This is a materialistic world and we only know others only to the extent of our needs.

Moral of the essay

- We should try to understand our fellow beings and try to share the worries of our fellow beings specially the common professionals around us.
- So that this world may become a better place to live.

Thank you