

Quarterly Journal of Ideology

A Critique of Conventional Wisdom

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Newton, Leon. ***The Village Poet and Collection of Writings.***

Bloomington, IN: 1st Books Library, 1984, 2002. ISBN: 0-7596-6685-7
(Paperback) \$21.15. 136pp.

Clearly, *The Village Poet and Collection of Writing* movingly and outstandingly teaches readers to love existence amidst tragedy. Author, Leon Newton wrote to maintain his thoughts about himself because as the great Aristotle observed in doing so is therapeutic. Artists and writers produce world beauty. Leon wants other people to know tranquility and beauty.

Leon Newton states his writings *The Villiage Poet* are to create graciousness in readers. *The Villiage Poet* shares that the village poet is a creator of poems cherished by all. The village poet leaves the village to discover magnificent creativity and enlighten villagers with it. The village poet assists others in finding happiness using power and kindness. The villagers are taught how to gather food. The village poet stresses to constantly seek tranquility and splendor.

The second story is *The Tragic Death of Emperor Titus A Play in Two Acts*. Creon grabs the ring of King Titus' son Damaus and lets Damaus seem the murderer by placing the ring around the attempted murder victim King Titus. Creon finds the ring after Titus exclaims he was almost killed. Titus asks Damaus, a seeming murderer, to drink poison because of Titus' belief in assassinating murderers. Damaus as a substitute uses the knife of King Titus to die honorably.

Veritas , a renegade passing through, turns to stone for protection when approached. Creon tells King Titus to kill Veritas who argues with Titus about running kingdoms. Veritas says people are important not the government. The government is valuable because government aids people. Veritas tells Creon the laws are making the poor pay when they cannot. Veritas thinks there is one God. Creon and Titus think there are many gods. Titus strangles Creon because Creon made Damaus, Titus' son, look like a murderer.

The third story is *Stolen Childhood A One Act Play in Four Scenes*. Zina wants to harm Mr. Church who killed her father in a duel over gambling. Zina's Aunt Gin tells Zina not to hate the Churches but to work to earn a living and obtain happiness. Zina starts a duel between Paul and Bolk by telling Bolk Paul tried to kiss her. Bolk asks Paul to duel. Paul would rather not. Zina told Bolk she would marry him. Zina had been involved

with Quentin. Bolk shoots Quentin with a gun but misses. Their father Mr. Church interferes.

Quentin who does not want to duel explains his appreciation for being alive. Quentin tells Bolk he should appreciate life. Frank warns Bolk fish are killed when fish use their mouths and Bolk should not complain constantly and want to murder Quentin. Mr. Church and Quentin discuss Quentin not wanting a duel and future laws prohibiting duels. Bolk kills Paul. Mr. Church kills himself because Mr. Church could not stop Bolk.

Fiona, Frank, and Quentin speak of demons causing dislike and problems in the world. The discussion is to look for positive in people on earth and pray. At the duel, Zina tells Aunt Gin Paul is the one she was fond of alone. Aunt Gin asks Zina to stop the duel but Zina says the boys are the Churches who killed her father. Reverend Job and Aunt Gin say it is not the boys' problem because they are Churches. Bolk and Quentin argue before the duel on why Paul was killed. Paul was not interested in life after Zina rejected him. Reverend Job is the referee for the duel. Zina moves between the duelists Bolk and Quentin. Zina is killed.

The fourth story is *The Newspaper Boy*. Eric is selling newspapers. A father on the sidewalk is kind to Eric. The father's son questions why. The father says the newspaper boy may be important in the future. Eric ponders at the newspaper stand about people needing to work for money. Eric's

brother Pat does not say the supper prayer because Pat is feeling poor and disadvantaged. Pat, Eric's brother, and other teenagers steal from a jewelry store. A policeman is killed. Eric is a witness. The teenagers try to shoot Eric. Eric lives and attends Yale University.

Eric marries Gretchen, graduates from law school, and his mother lives with him. Eric defends blacks. A brick is thrown at his house. Gretchen loses her life while bringing a child into the world. Eric's mother dies. At the end of the tragedy, Eric becomes a judge as prophesied by the father on the sidewalk who told his son the newspaper boy, Eric, may be an invaluable judge in the future.

Without a doubt, in the thought-provoking and captivating four stories comprising *The Village Poet and Collection of Writings*, Leon Newton exceedingly achieves his goal to inspire humans to treasure being.

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