The Nobel Prize in Literature 1907

Rudyard Kipling

SUMMARY

In the following text I am going to summarize the Presentation Speech of 1907’s Nobel Prize in Literature, given to the British Rudyard Kipling.

Firstly, Kipling’s style is compared to Alfred Tennyson’s in order to highlight the way Kipling shares principles of idealism similar to Tennyson.

Secondly, the Academy gives a short biography about him. Kipling was born in Bombay in 1865. At the age of six he moved to England in the care of some relatives and he lived there for many years. Around his seventeenth year of age, he oved back to India where he worked as a journalist. His great capacity and skills in his job made him travel throughout India. Thank to his experiences as a traveller made him get closer to the different cultures there were among the Indian territory and his European background exploited in a collection of 40 short stories called “Plain Tales From the Hills”, Soldiers Three and Barrack Room Ballads, in which he draws common soldier portraits. Nobody had never done it before him, and that is another reason why he was awarded with the Prize. In 1894 appeared his Jungle Book. Furthermore in the cycle entitled The Seven Seas (1896) Kipling reveals himself as an imperialist, which helped building bounds between Britain and her colonies. One of the accusations which had been made against him is that his language was vulgar because of the way he used to report soldiers’ slang in his ballads. Although the accusations which may be true, the style choices he made such as the ones who were criticized, helped conveying the directness of his works. He has won immense popularity both in the Anglo-Indian world and far beyond the limits of the British Empire.

Kipling is told to have a great power of imagination because he puts his personal inner consciousness in what he sees and describes. His landscapes and the stories he writes make the reader feel part of the entire scenario, as he or she is a character of the story. Kipling learned something from other important writers who preceded him. Indeed he adopted the sympathy with those who belonged to the lowest degrees in the community from Dickens and the exactness of phrases and terms from Defoe. Other than this, his style is really personal and expressive because he would rather suggest than simply describe.