**Man Friday**

Daniel Defoe

**Robinson Crusoe (1719)**

Chapter 14, A Dream Realized

*This extract deals with the description of the native Robinson has rescued from a group of cannibals who came to the island to perform their rites.*

 He was a comely, handsome fellow, perfectly well made, with straight, strong limbs, not too large; tall, and well-shaped; and, as I reckon, about twenty-six years of age. He had a very good countenance, not a fierce and surly aspect, but seemed to have something very manly in his face; and yet he had all the sweetness and softness of a European in his countenance, too, especially when he smiled. His hair was long and black, not curled like wool; his forehead very high and large; and a great vivacity and sparkling sharpness in his eyes. The colour of his skin was not quite black, but very tawny; and yet not an ugly, yellow, nauseous tawny, as the Brazilians and Virginians, and other natives of America are, but of a bright kind of a dun olive-colour, that had in it something very agreeable, though not very easy to describe. His face was round and plump; his nose small, not flat, like the negroes; a very good mouth, thin lips, and his fine teeth well set, and as white as ivory.

    After he had slumbered, rather than slept, about half-an-hour, he awoke again, and came out of the cave to me: for I had been milking my goats which I had in the enclosure just by: when he espied me he came running to me, laying himself down again upon the ground, with all the possible signs of an humble, thankful disposition, making a great many antic gestures to show it. At last he lays his head flat upon the ground, close to my foot, and sets my other foot upon his head, as he had done before; and after this made all the signs to me of subjection, servitude, and submission imaginable, to let me know how he would serve me so long as he lived. I understood him in many things, and let him know I was very well pleased with him. In a little time I began to speak to him; and teach him to speak to me: and first, I let him know his name should be Friday, which was the day I saved his life: I called him so for the memory of the time. I likewise taught him to say Master; and then let him know that was to be my name: I likewise taught him to say Yes and No and to know the meaning of them. I gave him some milk in an earthen pot, and let him see me drink it before him, and sop my bread in it; and gave him a cake of bread to do the like, which he quickly complied with, and made signs that it was very good for him. I kept there with him all that night; but as soon as it was day I beckoned to him to come with me, and let him know I would give him some clothes; at which he seemed very glad, for he was stark naked. As we went by the place where he had buried the two men, he pointed exactly to the place, and showed me the marks that he had made to find them again, making signs to me that we should dig them up again and eat them. At this I appeared very angry, expressed my abhorrence of it, made as if I would vomit at the thoughts of it, and beckoned with my hand to him to come away, which he did immediately, with great submission.

**2- Write a caption summarizing each section of the extract.**

Section 1 (lines 1-14): Robinson describes Friday while he is sleeping

Section 2 (lines 14-22): Man Friday shows gratitude and submission to Robinson

Section 3 lines 22-40): Robinson becomes man Friday’s master

**3- Read the extract and answer the questions.**

1. What was Robinson doing while the young savage was sleeping?

Robinson was milking his goats while Friday was sleeping.

1. What did the young man do when he saw Robinson?

When the young man saw Robinson, he laid himself upon the ground, next to Robinson’s foot, and put his other foot on his head, in sign of subjection.

1. How did Robinson react? What name did he call him? Why?

Robinson makes him know he is very pleased with him. He calls him man Friday, because it is the day in which he saved the young man’s life.

1. What English words did Robinson teach him?

Robinson taught him some English words, such as “Friday”, “Master”, “yes” and “no”.

1. What did he give him?

He gave him some milk, some bread to sop in it and some clothes.

1. Did he let the man live according to his traditions and customs? Why or why not?

Robinson didn’t let man Friday live according to his people’s traditions. Indeed, he ordered him not to eat the two cannibals’ meat, because cannibalism is wrong and disgusting according to European culture.

**4- Fill in the table with the details of Friday’s description.**

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| Build | Straight strong limbs, not too large; tall and well-shaped |
| Face | Very good countenance, all the sweetness and softness of an European |
| Hair | Long and black, not curled like wool |
| Forehead | Very high and large |
| Eyes | A great vivacity and sparkling sharpness |
| Skin | Tawny, of a bright kind of a dun olive colour |
| Nose | Small, not flat like the negroes |
| Teeth | Well set and white as ivory |

**5- Decide. Are the details stressed by Robinson mainly positive or negative?**

Robinson’s description of Friday seems to be very positive.

**7- List the other native peoples mentioned as terms of comparison in the description of Friday.**

The Brasilians, the Virginians, the negroes.

**8- Focus on Friday’s behavior. How would you define it? What will his relationship with Robinson be like?**

Friday’s behavior is one of great submission, subjection and gratitude to Robinson, who will become his master.

**9- Say what the theme of the passage is.**

The passage tells about the birth and the development of the relationship between Robinson Crusoe and Friday.

**10- Explain why Robinson could be regarded as the prototype of the English colonizer.**

Robinson could be regarded as the prototype of the English colonizer because of his attitude with man Friday: he considers himself a master and wants to teach the young man about the European customs, which he considers superior to the boy’s tribal traditions and culture.

**11- Explain how Robinson’s approach to his new condition reflects the ideology of the 18th century.**

In this passage Robinson considers himself as man Friday’s master. This is mostly connected to the English mentality of that time: he views the native peoples as barbarians and considers European culture superior.