

imagination has a great power; the same fake can cause something positive in somebody and something negative in other person. The mere imagination drives the carpenter to a tragic ending.

There is once that the miller says that “people die of mere imagination” (pag.92, line 4 –Oxford World’s Classics), that is, that imagination, fantasy can carry someone to death. Sometimes you can not control your mind, you can not avoid certain images being inside of you, and that can drives you mad. If you have bad images in your mind that you do not like, that they make you suffer, it can even led you to the suicide because you can not stand such suffering. What the miller wants to express with that sentence is that imagination has such power that you can not control –because you are afraid, because you are suffering, it does not care the reason- that it can drives you to death.

However, there is another kind of fantasy that shows its presence all over the story: sexual fantasy, with Alison as the main object. In this story we can observe that the sexual fantasy is not eternal but temporal when, Absolon instead of kissing Alison’s mouth kisses her ash, he immediately loses all the sexual desire he had towards her (“This Absolon gan wype his mouth ful drie. Derk was the nyght as pich, or as the cole, And at the window out she putte hir hole, And Absolon, hym fil no bet ne wers, But with his mouth he kiste hir naked ers Ful savourly, er he were war of this. Abak he stirte, and thoughte it was amys, For wel he wiste a womman hath no berd. He felte a thyng al rough and long yherd, And seyde, "Fy! allas! what have I do?"). This is a sign that it is just sexual fantasy, but not love at all.

Imagination and fantasy have the capacity of making you imagine and see want you want, good things, what you desire and enjoy them. But, on the other hand, it can make you see bad and ugly things you do not like, that they frighten you and even your are terrible afraid of; that things you do not want to happen even in your mind, but sometimes is really difficult, or even impossible, to control your mind and close it to imagination. Fantasy is free and imagination flies freely in our minds; it is not easy at all to control the mind and sometimes it can drives you mad.

Chaucer did not use imagination for his own, but to write and make all of us enjoy it. And imagination plays an important role in *The Miller’s Tale*. It shows us that imagination can have both good and positive endings as well as negative ones.

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