

By  
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# Equal Footing of friendship?: The Relationship of Jim and Dain Waris in *Lord Jim*

# Introduction

- Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim* (1900) is set in colonial era.
- Friendship between two races: one from the East, the other from the West.
- In Marlow's focalization: Jim says, "And Dain Waris –their son –is the best friend (barring you) I ever had. What Mr Stein would call a good 'war-comrade'. I was in luck. Jove!..." (p.163)

- Again, Marlow's focalization shows: '...theirs was one of those strange, profound, rare friendship between brown and white, in which the very difference of race seems to draw two human beings by some mystic element of sympathy.' (p.164).

# Characterization

- First Reading

Jim	Dain Waris
Fearless	Fearless
Proud	Proud
Intelligent	Intelligent
High sense of duty	High sense of duty
Romantic	Practical
Self-conscious	

- Nevertheless...

- Does Marlow's focalization really show equal footing between the two best friends from the two races?

# Postcolonial Perspective

- Orientalism: a Western style for dominating, restructuring, and having authority over the Orient (Said, 1995:3)
- On Native representation: European account on 'authentic' natives is deeply rooted in captivity narrative (Bradford, 2007), or in this case, friendship narrative.
- The exploitation of the natives as animals: incapability of reasons and imagination. (Khrisnan, 2004)

# Text Analysis

- Jim's disposition:
  - 'In the midst of these **dark-faced men**, his stalwart figure in white apparel, the gleaming clusters of his fair hair, seemed to catch all the sunshine that trickle through the cracks in the closed shutters of that dim hall.... **He appeared like a creature not only of another kind, but of another essence**'. (p. 143)
  - 'He was like a figure set up on the pedestal, to **represent in his persistent youth the power, perhaps the virtues, of races that never grow old...**' (p.164)



Godly Construction

# Text Analysis:

- Compare to Dain's disposition:
  - '...he knew how to fight like a white man'.
  - 'he had that sort of courage – the courage in the open, I may say – but he had also a European mind'.
  - 'He was of a silent disposition; a firm glance, an ironic smile, a courteous deliberation of manner seemed to hint at great reserves of intelligence and power'

• (p.164)



# Text Analysis:

- Jim is described as a powerful, determined, and intelligent person, which is only natural since he is European.
- Dain Waris, even though he is more or less of the same disposition, is seen as a surprise discovery for he is 'not one of *us*', i.e. he is the Other.

# Text Analysis:

- Of Jim and Dain Waris' friendship:
  - '...(Dain Waris) was the first to believe in him (*Jim*)'
  - 'If Jim took the lead, the other had captivated his leader.'
  - 'Dain Waris was lying flattened by his side. "We looked at each other," Jim said, resting a gentle hand on his friend's shoulder...'
  - '(Dain Waris) wished to settle business off-hand, but his people were too much for him....Beloved, trusted, and admired as he was, he was still one of *them*, while Jim was one of *us*.'

# Text Analysis:

- Despite the camaraderie, Jim is always portrayed in a more active, full initiative, and resourceful. → The capacity of human beings: to have reason and therefore, able to represent the incapable natives (Khrisnan, 2004)
- On the other hand, Dain Waris is passive, follower, though 'had a European mind'. → A foil character, 'featuring Indigenous –white friendships that contribute to the maturation of non- Indigenous figures' (Bradford, 2007)

# Conclusion

- Marlow's account disregards equal status between Jim and Dain Waris, in which Jim is more superior than Dain Waris.
- Critical reading shows that the friendship is portrayed as typical postcolonial narrative.

**Thank you..**

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