



Awakening the Moral Imagination through Fairy Tales and Stories with Dr. Vigen Guroian

Seminar 6 with Becky
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Outline:

Parker's Back

- This story is a tribute to her incarnational faith that inspired all of her writing.
- Flannery O'Connor defended icons, particularly in this story.
- She testifies to her incarnational faith and her iconographic fiction that flows from that faith.
- Parker resembles other characters in her stories who do not know that they are in search of God.
- Parker's name is a clue to his destiny. It is only important to Sarah Ruth that his names are biblical.
- Parker is puzzled and ashamed of himself.
- At the fair, Parker saw a man tattooed from head to foot, a vision of paradise. From then on, Parker begins to collect tattoos on his body. This doesn't satisfy him.
- He is in struggle with himself. He can't accomplish the peace on his body or within himself.
- He thinks if he has a picture of God on his back that will enamor her to him, and maybe things will get better.
- He thinks she is marrying him because he has tattoos. He doesn't understand why she doesn't like them.
- The eyes are important, Parker is wanting to be watched, seen, and judged.
- He discovers the real eyes that he was looking for. Although we don't know if he will puzzle it together.
- He is troubled inside, how can there be anything outside that is in harmony. There is something incomplete in the inside and on the outside.
- When he crashes into a tree, she puts a scene in front of us a scene that takes us back to Moses.
- Sarah Ruth insists that he claim is name.
- The accident is a religious experience. If he had known how to cross himself, he would have. He cries out, "God above." He decides he has to have God on his back.



- Parker is carrying the crucified Christ on his back. Sarah Ruth beats the image.
- His destiny is to accept his name. Sarah Ruth does not develop at all. In some sense she is a modern gnostic. Obadiah is the opposite of this.
- Sarah Ruth is asking him to confess the Lord in requesting he say his name, to confess who he is and who he obeys.