

A short short story by Anke Olivier (29254613)

A clouded judgement

One sunny morning a young girl and her grandfather strolled along a beach.

“Look.”

Said the old man

“That cloud looks like a dragon.”

The girl curiously looked up. Gently determined she replied:

“No, silly, it looks like a bird!”

It soon started raining and they left the beach running.

Explanation:

The law is not absolute. It is relative to the person perceiving it. The old man and the girl both had different views of the same cloud. (Which represents the law)

The old man:

He represents how the law had been observed and dealt with in years as far back as ancient Roman times. Strict and rigid and in a sense something to be feared. The old man also represents how the law was initially something only examined by the male patriarch.

The dragon:

Something unknown and unseen by many people which enhances the fear and “dangers” of the law. In Roman times through to the middle ages and recently, the law was not known to many people and this led to it being a tool for controlling and creating fear among the common man.

The young girl:

Society today. Curious and open-minded. They are inquisitive and question and differ from the strict way in which the law was perceived in the past. She is also female, meaning that the law has changed as far as gender is concerned and is more open to the role that women play in the law. Notice that she is still young, meaning that women have not been in the law arena for such a long time as males have been and that “liberal” law is also a new concept.

The bird:

A symbol of freedom. With the development in Human Rights the law has become a lot more “people friendly” and humanistic-orientated. The bird is not as dangerous as the dragon but is still a bit evasive. This symbolises how the law can still not be reached and completely understood by society as a whole.

From a sunny day to sudden downpour:

This indicates how the law (the clouds) constantly changes shape and matter. It is also symbolic of how the law can be an advantage (sunny) as well as something that influences you in a bad way (the rain.) But whatever the case may be, the law is always present and hovers over each of us. It determines what we do and what we don’t do.

The title:

A play on words, as “judgment” is a word that is mostly used in correlation with the law. The idiom means that a person’s ability to make a decision or to judge in certain situations is influenced by both internal and external factors. This symbolises how the law and development of the law is never objective but is always influenced by external, subjective factors because the law is created and sustained by men (and women) who are subjective beings. The way in which both the old man and the girl perceived the cloud to be was influenced by their core and subjective internal reference.