The Manciple

The manciple is one of the many pilgrims on a journey to Canterbury. His job as the manciple is to procure food for the other pilgrims. The manciple was very unique character and like many of the pilgrims he had many qualities that we wanted represent. To best represent him in an autobiography our group decided to use Linked-in and or his reaction to the miller tale we decided to use Instagram as a digital commonplace.

        Not much is said about the manciple in the general prologue, but based on the reading a Linked-in profile made the most sense in trying to represent this character. When creating the profile the text gave us a good amount of information about the manciple, “A gentil maunciple was ther of a temple, /Of which achatours myghte take exemple/for to be wise in byynge of vitaille” (569-571). From that we could tell that the manciple worked at a temple and that he handles the food there as well. At this temple he served men, “That weren of lawe expert and curious,” (579).  However, just because he has a job in charge of food amongst lawyers does not mean he is an entirely honest man.

        In the Linked-in we added a trait very unique for this pilgrim, being deceptive. This is not without reason of course because the general prologue implies very interesting ideas about the manciple. Something was immediately off about the manciple when it states that he purchases food through either cash or credit, yet later it says, “That he was ay biforn, and in good staat” (574).  Being ahead of your accounts is not exactly possible unless of course the manciple was playing with the numbers in some way. Because of all of this it seemed very fitting that we would put in the fact that he is a deceptive character on his profile.

        As intelligent as the manciple seems in his portrait in the general prologue, he is actually illiterate. That helped create the decision of creating multiple typos in the autobiography and commonplace to create a more believable project. Still his portrait likes to point out the fact, “that swich a lewd mannes wit shal pace/ The wisdom of an hepp of lerned men” (576-577). Even though he is illiterate he can swindle money from lawyers very easily, which means he has more street smarts instead and must be a very charismatic man. Another example of how the manciple is clever in handling people is his argument with the drunken cook. When the cook threatens to tell others about the manciple’s shady dealings he simply gives the cook more wine. That easily shut the mouth of the cook and kept the manciple out of trouble

        Since the manciple is a charismatic man who is illiterate and works with food it only seemed fitting that he would use instagram in our modern day. The manciple would use instagram as a way to brag about him and of course, since he is a vulgar man, he would insult others and be inappropriate. We used the instagram to emphasize the manciple’s exaggerated personality and his loving for all things embellished. What are filters but embellishments to exaggerate your photos?

It was also the perfect form for creating a reaction to hearing the miller’s tale. As stated before he is illiterate so he would not use something like twitter or writing a blog. Instead he would use a simple app that required little effort to use. When reading the miller’s tale, or rather hearing for the manciple, it is very easy to see how the manciple would actually enjoy most of the tale.

For one reason he would enjoy hearing the miller’s tale is the vulgar jokes created throughout the tale. The manciple is not very well educated so it would be easy to assume that he would enjoy simple jokes like a guy kissing the woman’s ass or a man being called crazy. Not only that but there would be plenty of sexual references that manciple would love considering he is described as a crude man. Judging by the actions of some of the characters in the story, the manciple would have certainly enjoyed them. In fact he would find them relatable because of what they do.

The manciple would greatly enjoy the deceit that occurs through out the story because he himself loves to deceive others as we can see how he treats his master. He would find the characters in the tale relatable and would be rooting for the man who is trying to have an affair with the carpenter’s young wife. Our pilgrim would also find it hilarious to hear about how gullible the carpenter is to fall for such an insane lie about a how great storm was coming.

However, as much as the manciple would enjoy the miller’s tale it felt like he would be unsatisfied with the ending ultimately. The manciple would feel like not enough happened in the ending for him to feel satisfied. Sure the carpenter was made a fool of and the two people having an affair got away with it, but the story just kind of ended. There was nothing big or extravagant that happened to make the manciple feel like he had his breath taken away. But, besides that the manciple really would have enjoyed the miller’s tale, especially since his own tale was vulgar and sexual like the tale of the miller.

        In the general prologue the manciple is described in what he does and how he is smarter than the masters that he works for. He is also a very charismatic man and can also take control of situation so as to turn it into his favor. So since he is a businessman with many qualities a linkedin was the perfect fit for him. The instagram also suited the manciple for his reaction to the miller’s tale since he is illiterate and it would be easier for him to just post pictures.

Work Cited

Abrams, M. H. "General Prologue." *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1968. N. pag. Print.