



Characteristics of the Hero

WRITTEN NOTES

The Classical Hero

Only the well-born can be thought of as virtuous. Slaves, artisans and ordinary plebes have no business studying ethics and cannot be successful at turning themselves into heroic types.

The Medieval Hero

The commoner can be heroic if he adopts the knightly code of ethics. He may have to sacrifice the innocent in order to preserve the greater good. Individuality gives way to concerns of the state.

The Romantic Hero

The romantic hero is a rebel, an anti-hero. He has discounted a formal moral code to follow a code of conduct to which only a few may swear allegiance. The battle is internal, and passions are outside of his control.

The Modern Hero

His battle is against meaninglessness. His internal struggle is with addiction and his external struggle is with corruption in institutions. There is no sense of community, and he has a few trusted friends.

<http://www.fellowshipofreason.com/archives/4heroes.htm>