

## **The Grief: Heart Striking Tale**

*By: Prakash Poudyal*

Grief with its basic simplicity and minuteness, is a typical example of Chekov's Craftsmanship. The author's sense of sorrow at man's inhumanity to man, and his composition for the lonely and the downtrodden is reflected in his disturbing tale. It is twilight and seems there is snow that is covering the roofs, people's shoulders and hats. Iona Potapov is looking for a person to talk to him about his grief. He drives a cab for his living. He is white and seemed to be a phantom. He also looks like a hunched-backed man who is seated on his horse without making any movement. Iona and his horse look similar because both of them are covered by snow and they both remain motionless. Even for the snow drift falling on him, he would not find it necessary to shake it off. He has not got any fare even in the time of the twilight when evening mist is descending over the town and the white lights of the lamps are replacing brighter rays and the hubbub of the street is getting louder.

His first passenger is an officer in a gray coat who wants to go to the village. The officer seats himself in the cab and Iona smacks his lips to encourage his horse. The officer

shouts at him because he is not going in the proper direction. Iona wants to tell the officer about his son Barin's death. Being hospitalized for 3 days, his only son was died of high fever. After dropping the officer at his destination, he stops by the roadside and doubles himself up on his seat and again remains motionless, while the snow once begins to cover him and his horse.

His second passenger are three young-boys, and they want to go to the Police Station at the rate of two grivens. Only two passengers can sit in his cab. They are drunk and do not treat him in a sympathetic manner. They quarrel and abuse each other. They insult him for his lazy driving. After hearing his story, the humpback says that all must die. They talk about wine and girls and call him old man, old serpent. They talk that being a tiny insect a louse does not cough. He forgets his loneliness with these young men because they are laughing, joking and talkative. Iona hears rather than feels the young men's blows because he listens to the insult hurled at him with the light feeling. He blesses them because he thinks that he will be free from his grief by telling them the story of his son's death.

Iona says that death had gone to the wrong door because his son was not to die in his young age instead of his old age.

Iona's grief hurts him when he is alone because he finds it useless talking to the people as he finds no one to listen to the story. Also the hall porter does not give him a chance to tell such grief. After returning his room, he repents having returned so early to another cab-driver to whom he offers a drink and hopes that he will hear the story. But the cab-driver does not care him. And he thinks considering women to be better to tell them because they could feel hurt and one or two words are enough to make them sob.

His wants to relief his grief by telling about the son's death's to someone became neglect because he finds no one to hear his story. The people are very busy in their work and they have no time to listen his story even living in a society where man wants to share his joys and sorrows with others to get rid of his grief. In the end, he decides to go to the stable and he tells the complete story to his horse because he fine no one to listen to the story. He tells the horse that he has no more Kuzma Ionitch, at all. He has left them going off pop. He also explain giving

and example to the horse his horse listens to him sympathetically that is why, man has been going to forget his humanity.