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Response to literature: Harry Potter and the holy bible

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Harry Potter, the boy who lived, is the titular character in a series which captured the hearts and minds of literally millions of young readers (and even many who are young at heart). Yet, for its unrivalled success, it has not been without controversy. Some groups, many Roman Catholic, go so far as to identify the texts as promotions of paganism and wokeness. In contrast, there is much evidence to support that the Harry Potter series is essentially the story of the New Testament written for children.

There are several implicit references to the new testament of the Holy Bible in the final instalment of the Harry Potter franchise: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. For instance, Harry travels with his two best friends Ron and Hermione. In this sense, the three of them together represent the holy trinity in Christianity. That is, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. This point may seem superficial at first and is present from the first book. However, it is only in the seventh book that the trio encounters the Deathly Hallows of which there are, perhaps not so coincidentally, three. The first Hallow is the Elder Wand, a magical device which affords the bearer god-like power; this Hallow represents the Father. The second Hallow is the resurrection stone which gives the ability to come back from the dead much like Jesus Christ, the Son. Next, the invisibility cloak allows the wearer to become invisible much like a ghost; this is almost directly a representation of the Holy Ghost. In their travels, the three friends attempt to obtain the Deathly Hallows. In doing so, each of the three would embody a place in the holy trinity. All of this is in an effort to combat the Dark Lord Voldemort. The devil from the New Testament can colloquially be referred to as the Dark Lord. Therefore, the seventh book is implicitly outlining a battle between god in the form of the holy trinity and the devil in the form of the Dark Lord. Lastly, a religious analysis of Harry Potter would not be complete without reference to the fact

that, in the final pages of the Deathly Hallows, Harry Potter dies. However, after he dies, he meets his deceased mentor and father-figure Albus Dumbledore. Other than the fact that Harry seems to meet him in heaven, the expired professor sports a long white beard characteristic of human illustrations of god. In this sense, Dumbledore is god and, since he is a father figure to Harry, his student is Jesus. To emphasize the point that Harry Potter is Jesus, after speaking with Dumbledore he resurrects from death. As such, there can be no question that Harry Potter embodies Jesus Christ.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows relates closely to my own experience. While the text may be an implicit representation of a battle between god and satan, both the Bible and Harry Potter are addressing a universal theme which all peoples can relate two (perhaps this is why both books have been best-sellers). The underlying message is of a battle between good and evil. Arguably, in both texts good prevails over evil but not without tremendous struggle and at least one instance of death experienced by the protagonist. In this capacity, I can relate to the text on a personal level as I have also battled evil inside me. For many years I struggled with anger. While I am not religious, my angry side is the closest I have come to experiencing the return of satan to earth. Just as Harry Potter fought Voldemort and resurrected before he could defeat him, I too fought an anger inside of me and experienced a type of rebirth or resurrection. While I cannot say that I have defeated my anger, I can say that I am able to keep it in check. In this case, my story is closer to that of Jesus than that of Harry Potter. Now, I am not trying to claim that I am Jesus (that will be in a different part of my portfolio). However, I am saying that just as Jesus is up in heaven keeping satan at bay down in hell, the face I present to the world rises to the surface and keeps my angry side down in the pits of my being.

## Reference

Rowling, J. K., & GrandPré, M. (2007). Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. New York, NY: Arthur A. Levine Books.