

Patrick Baker-Evens

Amal Giknis

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The Road Lit Log #2



“The Boy”

During one of our fishbowl discussions, there was some discussion on the idea of the Boy carrying a torch. Aiden spoke about how he was the last vestige of hope in the world, the last truly good person. There was consensus that this boy is a bastion of morality. He wants to help

everyone who The Man and him come across; he is constantly terrified of the idea that they may be forced to resort to cannibalism; and is constantly asking if they are “good guys.”

The symbolism of the torch was very interesting to me. While others immediately jumped to the Christian allegories that show up throughout the book, I first thought of the myth of Prometheus. In the case of the boy, the fire of the gods would be empathy and morality. His punishment is an uncaring world. Despite his best efforts, the world proves to be more and more horrifying as the story progresses.

I personally find the boy admirable, by this time in the world of the Road I would have probably have been forced to bend some aspects of my moral code so I could survive. You would think the boy would have been the most immoral of them all, having been born into the darkness of it all. But he is the most moral of them all. The Man sees him as almost God-like because of this.

In my piece I sought to show both the ties with Prometheus and his Godliness. His torch doubles as a halo and Prometheus giving fire to primordial man. In the case of The Boy, the fire he’s giving is morality and empathy, two qualities it seems that most have discarded out of desperation.