

Freedom To do so

After the reading of this section there was a lot to break down. My first impressions were just straight to the music aspect of the reading. I wondered what were the implications of the lyrics and singing to the overall story as a whole. The singing seemed to be very special to Offred but as a whole in the Gilead singing was forbidden at least for someone of her stature. I do find it very interesting how the very first thing I think of is the singing aspect. To me as I am very skeptical I see things like this too be way too obvious. I feel as though there is an underlying theme behind the whole lyrical aspect of this. But I feel like the answer is interwoven between the vocab used in this very section. The author uses words such as timeless, wordless, former, free, mournful, amputated, and unfathomable. Words such as these look to be describing the relationship music has with society as a whole. That is what these words lead to in my brain too. All to try to at least get a hint toward what the author's purpose might be. At the very last paragraph of the read a few characters like Rita and Serena are mentioned. It is said that Rita hums a tuneless and unfathomable melody. And Occasionally it is said there is a faint sound of a record of one of Serena's songs playing in the other room. But by the way the author talks about it makes it seem like music is something, a privilege that has been lost in the creation of Gilead. There are only remnants of what once was. It is something that is shown with the words that are used to describe it such as tuneless and timeless. These words are in a way describing something that once was. It is describing the humming in contrast to singing like it was something stolen from society as a whole. Something that they as a whole once had but now lost. There is a theme of loss that is shown throughout the section, well its a theme of loss combined with a theme of yearning for freedom. And what I mean by this is that what is represented with the humming and faint sound of music playing is that I feel as though the author is trying to communicate that these specific characters as well as our main character yearns to sing, yearns for freedom. The freedom to do so. "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound. Could save a wretch like me." This is the first lyric that Offred sings to herself. I feel as though that these lyrics are referring to how the sound or "music" could save someone like her. Well not save but bestow freedom in a way. How she yearns for the freedom to do as she pleases. The freedom to be able to sing, to be able to express herself in music. In a society such as Gilead it should be known that the people that reside there don't have any freedom to do what they please. Their freedom was taken from them by the government, by the higher powers in the society. Which is what I think the use of the words outlawed refers to. "Who was once lost , but now am found, Was bound, but now am free." This part of the lyrics I believe refer to the fact that Offred feels lost. She has lost what once made her feel found or free. To be lost you have to have first been found. But then the lyrics and singing seem to be what brings Offred back. She finds herself once again. The lyrics refer to how society takes your identity. Just to create soulless shells of the people that once were. People that have tasted the freedom of the old times are lost. They lost themselves. Without tradition and agriculture what are we. I believe that Offred is missing the old times. The author was trying to communicate that the society of Gilead isn't just a dystopian society, its a society that despises freedom. That will take the joy out of life for the sake of taking out the harm. That will rather be safe than sorry. A society that will strip the flawed human soul out of its residence because the less human the people are the less errors or mistakes or anything sinful will occur.