

May 2, 2012
ENG 312
Final Essay

Comments Requested Title?

In “Speech to the Troops of Tilbury” and “The Golden Speech,” Queen Elizabeth’s gratitude and reflection create an untraditional and humble image for the leader, where the English people bring her more glory than the crown. To succeed in showing her pride, Queen Elizabeth takes on a maternal position as she uses “my” numerous times to show her claim, but also states her need to protect and care for those who love her so. In both speeches, the importance falls to the people but in the former speech, Queen Elizabeth has a more traditional claim over the people, whereas in the latter she gives them more credit. Rather than declaring herself divinely chosen for the position, she places herself below God as only his “instrument,” where she can use her title for her people. Although she shows great pride in her country, the Queen does not place herself in a superior position and humbles the role and duties of a queen to the hands of people. Unlike the superior monarch attitude that she alludes to, Queen Elizabeth asserts that being caring and loving create a more dutiful leader. Both speeches were meant to discuss the country’s affairs but Queen Elizabeth instead took the time to show her gratitude and the effect her reign and the people’s loyalty has built, in her eyes, the strongest monarch. Making such an untraditional speech twice illustrates the Queen’s prosperous ruling and how by taking the more feminine and maternal position her people become more important than her position.

The intro establishes your topic and argument nicely, but it’s a bit long. Can you be more direct and concise? And, can you also be more clear about how you have an argument beyond, “Elizabeth fashions herself in a maternal role”? Is she refashioning the role of the ruler?

While Queen Elizabeth is the ruler of England, she takes on a maternal role where her claiming of the people seems more loving than profitable?. Her position as monarch creates a

distance between her and the people but rather than embracing the differences, Queen Elizabeth shows interest and concern for their welfare. Instead of using the term “people” multiple times, she reiterates her pride by using terms like “jewel,” “good loves,” and “glory of my crown.”

Clarify – is she using these terms to refer to her people? Each term shows the gratification she gets out of watching and working with her people. Another aspect of this maternal role is her desire to protect her “good loves” and return the love her role as Queen has power to do. She declares twice that she will “preserve [them] from every peril, dishonour, shame, tyranny, and oppression” (Golden, [page](#)). By using the same list of terrors twice – where is the second use?, she shows how fragile the country would be without her and her care. Although “tyranny” and “oppression” are not maternal concerns, the other three are legitimate fears a mother may fear for her children. Would a mother not want to protect her children from tyranny and oppression? Might you also suggest that these are masculine qualities that she suggests her femininity/maternity allows her to oppose? Keep pushing on the text and moving forward in your reading. Like a parent/child relationship, the pride and concern Queen Elizabeth feels for her people build a stronger relationship between them and her, where her main priority becomes their welfare.

The Queen’s claim seems untraditional with her maternal pride and concern but in the first pre-battle speech she maintains her power despite her gratitude, whereas her later speech furthers her untraditional role through her reflection. ← a bit vague. Can you be more precise? Using “my” fifteen times in “Tilbury,” the Queen has great claim over her country but behind each one, her pride and duty fall to the English people. ? Doesn’t the use of “my” depend on what it’s modifying? The heavy claim of her kingdom shows a false traditional sense of power because the queen also gives them more credit for the good of the country rather than her

decision-making, for instance she declares to “lay down [what?] for my God, and for my kingdom, and my people, my honour, and my blood.” Her willingness to “lay down” her own life for the better of the kingdom and people depicts a new idea for a queen, where her own welfare is placed below her people. Good. Although her claim shows the traditional sense of divine power, her gratitude towards her people lessens the distance between her and those willing to fight for her and their own kingdom’s freedom. Perhaps note also where she gives this speech and how she is dressed, for surely that affects the reading of those lines, too!

After winning such a great battle at Tilbury and many more victories in both battle and also within her kingdom’s fate ← vague, the Queen’s growth in her untraditional lack of claim and divine power is shown in her final speech for Parliament. In this speech, she continues to pursue what is best for her kingdom with additions of her reflection on how her people affected her reign and greatness. One reflection shows the true gratitude and again the maternal love as she states, “There is no jewel, be it of never so rich a price, which I set before this jewel: I mean your love.” The untraditional sense that love could overpower wealth? (since it’s not about money, per se?) and power (clarify: how does jewel evoke power?) differs from other monarchs that she alludes to, as it shows her ruling as more loving and parent-like rather than political gain. Does she mention specific monarchs that she defines herself against? Show, rather than tell. With her images of love, she also creates a more equal relationship, where unlike the normal barrier between monarchs and their people, she tells them, “this I count the glory of my Crown, that I have reigned with your loves.” This statement declares the people as both “the glory” and “loves,” but also her use of “with” creates a common ground. As a reflection speech, her use of “with” represents her gratitude for her entire reign and their unique bond, which proves she can trust her kingdom with her people. A bit puzzling: she can trust her kingdom with her people?

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Comment [1]: This is a bit awkward throughout because on what are we basing our understanding of “normal”? It sort of suggests that we need to do research OR be able to point to another text we’ve studied.

Don't we usually trust people? Or trust things to people? The speech's reflection illustrates the queen's maternal role over the people through her undying gratitude and the glory she receives by reigning with them. ← an interesting word choice. You say she reigns "with them" rather than that she reigns over them. Can you explain how you see her co-ruling with her people? And does that diminish her power and increase theirs? Is that a positive thing?

Need a transition to help bridge paragraphs. By taking on a more maternal role with her kingdom, Queen Elizabeth creates a common figure, for what? where her title and duties are humbled. In both speeches, she uses numerous phrases that create much more humble image of a monarch that build another bridge between the people and the Queen. She states in "The Golden Speech," "To be a king and wear a crown is a thing more glorious to them that see it than it is pleasant to that bear it." Calling herself "king" creates the greatest title but by breaking it down to a burden, she plummets a position that even she can never truly obtain to one that even the common people would not desire. ? By "bearing" the crown, she receives all the glory but for her and her unique relationship to the people, it is burden without their "love." ? Clarify what you mean here. With allusions to the crown not being worth all its title, Queen Elizabeth also creates an equal ground with the people, as she states inferiority to God. Instead of maintaining her title and duties, her job becomes the work of God as she states, "God hath made me his instrument to maintain his truth and glory" (Golden). Her glory and kingdom become his, whereas she has the more common role as a servant for the realm. With her earlier recognition of the people as her "glory," the phrase also shows that she works to maintain them so they may prosper rather than she in the eyes of God. The humbleness she places on her title as Queen creates even less of a difference between her people and herself. By creating such a humble image, she also builds up the superiority of her form of monarchy, wherein "God had made [her]

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Comment [2]: WC. Is this actually an allusion in the literary sense?

to be Queen” yet she can remain grounded enough to remember her people and their prosperity.

While she declares her title as weak compared to God, she also places her duties as what is best for her people. ← Vary this a little. It sounds a lot like a claim above. Show how your paragraphs are moving your ideas forward to more specific and complex understandings, not just more examples of the same thing. Her relationship with the people is so strong that her goals as monarch focus on them until she is willing to “live and die amongst [them] all” (Tilbury). Her grounded way of ruling takes away many barriers between the monarch and those common folk willing to work for the better of the kingdom. Her willingness to be “amongst” them all takes away her divine image, as they must rise and fight as one, they appear more like a family rather than a monarchy. Her duties as monarch expand more for the good of the kingdom, as she states, “I myself will take up arms, I myself will be your general, judge, and rewarder” (Tilbury). While she has great claim in this pre-battle speech, Queen Elizabeth declares her equality with her willingness to join them in fighting, but also that she will show great pride and fortune for those that enter with her. The use of “general” and “judge” illustrate two common practices but with her role, she can use her title to reward those she fights alongside. Useful. Her gratitude for her people shows its effect on her reign as she claims in both speeches that her chief reason for living is to be among them and work alongside them. Unlike the history of the monarchy, Queen Elizabeth desires her people’s “prosperity” (Golden) over her own, which shows that her humble nature in her title as Queen also transfers to her duties and desires.

Although the speeches are thirteen years apart, Queen Elizabeth’s gratitude and humbleness remain intact throughout both, showing her as an equal figure among her people. By changing the topics in the last minute, Queen Elizabeth’s feeling of pride and concern for her people’s welfare become apparent more than the expected politics. She uses humbleness and

concern to show a maternal instinct towards her people that breaks down many barriers between monarch and the English common people. The speeches illustrate her gratitude and reflection as she thanks them for the pride and glory they have brought her. Both speeches are unusual because they defer from the traditional divine right and build up her title and duties towards the good of the people. Queen Elizabeth declares that “there will never Queen sit in my seat with more zeal to my country, care to my subjects and that will sooner with willingness venture her life for your good and safety than myself” (Golden). ← avoid introducing new ideas in the conclusion; use the conclusion to drive home the importance and originality of your ideas. Her declaration shows the multiple aspects to her ruling as monarch, where it appears more maternal and humble and her life becomes less important than those she rules. Known as the “Golden Era,” Queen Elizabeth’s ruling proved successful through her assertion of more love than fear and more equality than power. Do you think this is how she “really felt” or do you see signs of constructing a public persona? And if the latter, how is that useful or how does it demonstrate her savvy as a ruler? Keep pressing to complicate your ideas.

Overall, as always, your ideas are useful in unpacking the text, and you analyze the words and constructions. My advice is that you continue to press on the text and look for ways to complicate your readings – that is, show how each paragraph makes a new contribution, not just shows more instances of something you’ve already noted. And keep focusing on how your observations are important – what is the effect of these observations you’ve noticed?

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