

Lather and nothing else

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“Lather and nothing else” by Hernando Tellez is a short story about a barber who is also a revolutionary. One day, a man came to his barber shop and was the barber’s enemy. The barber had a chance to kill the man, but he was hesitant in her heart and did not kill him in the end. In the story, there are two characters, the barber and Captain Torres. In this essay, I will discuss the barber and his three character traits, which are discretion, hesitation, and responsibility.

The first character trait of the barber that I would like to focus on is discretion. This is because the barber will think twice before acting. In the story, it says “Because there I definitely needed to handle the blade well, since the hair, though not so tough, was tangled up in little whirls”. This shows that the barber carefully thought about every move and decided whether to do it or not after confirming the risks. Also, the story says “ I don’t want to stain myself with blood. Just lather, and nothing else. You are an executioner; I’m just a barber. ” This shows that the barber also considered his honor and career, and finally decided not to kill captain torres.

Another character trait of the barber that I think is hesitation. This is because the barber spent a long time thinking about whether to kill Captain Torres or not. In the story, it says “And it would have been so easy to kill him. And he deserves it. Does he deserve it? No, hell no! No one deserves to be the sacrifice that turns other people into murderers.” and “ I could tilt my hand a little more, leaning in the razor a little bit more, and plunge it in. But I don’t want to be a murderer.” This shows that the

barber couldn't make a decision. He keeps thinking it over again and again. Every time he wants to kill him, he immediately changes his mind.

The final character trait of the barber is responsibility. This is because the barber wants to do his job well. In the story, it says "And I'm doing the job honorably... I don't want to stain myself with blood. Just lather, and nothing else. You are an executioner; I'm just a barber." and " Yes. I was a secret revolutionary, but I was still a barber of conscience, proud of the cleanliness of my profession." This shows that the barber takes his responsibilities seriously. He doesn't want to tarnish his work, or his honor. In the barber shop, he is a barber and Captain Torress is a customer, just do what a barber has to do.

In short, I think the barber is discretion. He will think carefully before he acts and will consider multiple aspects. Also, I think the barber is hesitant. He thinks too much, He keeps changing his mind, so he can't decide whether to kill Captain Torres or not. Finally, I think the barber is responsible. He takes his responsibilities seriously and doesn't want to destroy the profession. He wants to do his job well. This is what I think his three character traits are.

