

Courage and Enchantment in Concert: A Thematic Study of C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia*

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Abstract— C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia* underlines moral growth by means of courage and temptation. This paper investigates how Lewis employs these motifs to provide moral and spiritual direction across the seven volumes of the series. Through Aslan, the Pevensie siblings, and Prince Caspian, Lewis reveals courage, selflessness, and tenacity. The temptations of Edmund, Eustace, and Digory reveal the hazards of greed, power, and moral uncertainty. Each book's bravery and temptation are investigated to see how they shape the journeys and narrative of the protagonists. Edmund's lies and atonement in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* show how courage and pardon transform lives. Prince Caspian and *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* stress moral perseverance through internal and external struggles. Jill and Eustace's struggle to rescue Prince Rilian in *The Silver Chair* shows their resilience as well as the attraction of suffering and luxury. Lewis writes engaging stories with timeless human nature ideas, contrasting courage and temptation. Using *The Chronicles of Narnia* to highlight bravery and temptation, the paper next examines how these topics remain pertinent in contemporary literature and life.

Keywords— Bravery, temptation, character development, ethical guidance, moral integrity.

I. INTRODUCTION

Throughout the years, readers of C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia* have been captivated by its intricate narrative, imaginative universe, and substantial moral messages. Lewis skillfully incorporates the themes of bravery and temptation into the framework of each novel, ultimately serving to guide the narrative. These topics not only serve as the driving force behind the narrative but also play an essential role in the growth of characters and the dissemination of the series' most important moral and spiritual lessons. By utilizing the heroic deeds of leaders like Aslan, the Pevensie siblings, and Prince Caspian, Lewis demonstrates the qualities of bravery, selflessness, and resiliency in the face of challenges. On the other hand, the temptations that characters such as Edmund, Eustace, and Digory experience bring to light the perils of wealth, power, and moral weakness.

This paper investigates how C.S. Lewis uses the themes of bravery and temptation throughout the seven volumes of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, paying particular attention to specific incidents and their impact on character development. We are able to acquire a greater awareness of the moral and spiritual teachings that Lewis delivers in his stories through the study of these issues, and we are also able to appreciate the continuous significance of these concerns in modern literature and life. *The Chronicles of Narnia* encourages readers to reflect on their own lives, which in turn motivates them to resist temptations that have the potential to change their course of action and to demonstrate bravery when confronted with challenging circumstances. It is abundantly clear that these topics continue to be relevant, as evidenced by the series' enduring popularity, which has enthralled readers of all ages and has remained a cherished classic in the field of children's literature. In addition to offering a

timeless analysis of the human spirit and the moral decisions that determine our identities, *The Chronicles of Narnia* is a testament to the virtues of bravery and the perils of falling into temptation.

This paper argues that Lewis uses the dialectical tension between courage and temptation across the series to construct a comprehensive moral framework that illustrates the necessity of virtue, the reality of moral choice, and the transformative power of redemption. Through the progression of characters across the seven volumes, Lewis demonstrates that courage is not the absence of fear but the triumph over self-interest, while temptation functions as the crucible in which character is forged and moral identity is revealed.

II. THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

2.1 Courage: Aslan's Sacrifice and the Pevensies' Bravery

Through the bravery of the Pevensie children and the selflessness of Aslan, the story of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* presents a significant examination of the concept of bravery. These events, which reflect the Christian metaphors common in C.S. Lewis's work, show how moral strength, compassion, and acts of heroism are all connected.

In light of Edmund's treachery, Aslan's willingness to sacrifice his life is the most courageous act he ever performs. Because he is innocent, Aslan freely observes the rules of Deep Magic in order to make up for Edmund's treachery, which ultimately prevents Edmund from being executed. The self-sacrifice that Aslan made exemplifies his extraordinary bravery, his profound compassion, and his unwavering dedication to doing what is right. According to Aslan, "the Table would crack and Death itself would start working backwards" (Lewis 1950, p. 159) in the event that a voluntary victim who had not committed any acts of treason was executed in place of a traitor. Lewis's detailed depiction of the degradation and suffering that Aslan endures at the hands of the White Witch and her henchmen makes it clear that his bravery is accompanied by suffering. It is through this act of sacrifice that the concepts of atonement and ultimate victory over evil are captured.

Additionally, the Pevensie children exhibit bravery throughout their voyage, particularly at the pivotal encounter with the army of the White Witch. Despite their initial reluctance, Lucy and Susan demonstrate their unwavering dedication by assisting Aslan throughout the most challenging time of his life and then by providing emotional support to those who were injured after the battle. Unusually embracing a leadership role, Peter shows bravery in his confrontation with Maugrim, the wolf: "Peter felt he was going to be sick; he did not feel particularly brave. Still, that had no bearing on what he had to accomplish" (Lewis 1950, p. 126). Edmund's transformation is similarly remarkable; he charges into battle to destroy the witch's wand, thereby redeeming himself with bravery. Through the use of these illustrations, it is demonstrated that bravery in Narnia is not the absence of fear but rather the determination to do justly in the presence of dread.

2.2 Temptation: Edmund and the White Witch's Allure

C.S. Lewis addresses the moral failings of human nature and the consequences of giving in to temptation through Edmund's struggle with ambition and avarice in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. The underlying theme of temptation is best illustrated by Edmund's attraction to the White Witch.

The first conversation that Edmund has with the White Witch highlights the sly and cunning nature of temptation. The Witch uses Turkish Delight, which is a symbol of luxury and unbridled desire, to ensnare Edmund. "The more he ate, the more he longed... In addition, he was unaware that this was an enchanted Turkish treat, so anyone who tried it wanted more" (Lewis 1950, p. 38). Consequently, Edmund is even more captivated by her influence as a result of the fascinating essence of Turkish Delight, which encapsulates the overpowering appeal of material desires. Through the use of his anxieties and the competition he has with his siblings, the Witch entices Edmund with the promise of power. She praises him with the possibility of kingship and elevates him beyond his siblings by saying, "You are the most beautiful and the most intelligent young man I have ever met. I would like to have a beautiful young man whom I could raise as Prince and who would become King of Narnia once I am gone" (Lewis 1950, p. 39). Edmund's perception of the witch's true nature and goals is obscured as a result of this appeal to his ego, which underscores the fact that temptation frequently masquerades as good behavior.

Nevertheless, as Edmund's voyage progresses, the consequences of succumbing to temptation become increasingly apparent. His early drive for wealth and dominance, while leading to treachery and pain, also establishes the foundation for future atonement. In the process of coming to terms with the witch's wickedness and the hollowness of her promises, Edmund realizes that giving in to temptation only causes harm to himself and others. By examining moral fallibility and salvation through

Edmund's temptation, Lewis brings to the attention of readers the importance of resisting the allure of impulses that lead to self-serving behavior.

III. PRINCE CASPIAN

3.1 Courage: Caspian's Valiant Struggle to Reclaim His Throne

Throughout the course of *Prince Caspian*, bravery emerges as a primary driving force behind the protagonist's efforts to reclaim his rightful realm and restore Narnia to the glory it once possessed. It is a testament to Prince Caspian's bravery and his commitment to justice that he is willing to lead the Old Narnians in their fight against King Miraz, despite the fact that the odds are stacked against him.

The moment Caspian discovers the true history of Narnia, which his uncle Miraz has kept hidden from him his entire life, his bravery becomes evident. As a result of being influenced by tales of Aslan and the Old Narnians, Caspian begins to question his upbringing and begins to rebel against his allegiance to the leader of Telmarine. Despite their fractured state and long history of failing, he bravely takes on the task of uniting the Old Narnians: "We have lived too long in secret, and the hour has struck. If Narnia is to be free again, we have to be audacious and act" (Lewis 1951, p. 89). Caspian's ability to inspire loyalty among several factions, including dwarfs, centaurs, and intelligent animals, demonstrates his moral strength and leadership.

Caspian's bravery is demonstrated by his decision to engage King Miraz in close quarters fighting. Caspian admits, despite his youth and inexperience in comparison to Miraz and his veteran army, the conflict is necessary to restore justice in Narnia. When faced with uncertainty, he finds strength from the legacy of the Pevensies and Aslan's guidance. He says, "I will not watch Narnia suffer under tyranny. If it is necessary for me to gamble everything, then so be it" (Lewis 1951, p. 132). It is not the absence of fear that demonstrates bravery in Caspian's journey; rather, it is the determination to do justly in the face of danger. The fact that Caspian is willing to sacrifice himself for the sake of the Old Narnians is evidence of his integrity and his belief in the justness of the cause.

3.2 Temptation: Doubt and Power

In *Prince Caspian*, temptation manifests itself as the struggle against self-doubt and the allure of power through the characters. C.S. Lewis makes use of these concepts to emphasize the moral integrity of Prince Caspian in contrast to the destructive ambition of King Miraz, highlighting the inner difficulties that are associated with leadership and responsibility.

The most illustrative example of the bad outcomes that might result from unbridled ambition is King Miraz. The fact that he successfully ascended to the throne through dishonesty and brutality illustrates his descent into immorality. In order to achieve dominance, Miraz eliminates any potential danger, including the Old Narnians and Caspian's father, in a meticulous manner. His desire to have complete control over everything motivates him to do this. The fact that he turned down the legitimate demands of other people demonstrates the corrupting impact of ambition. In his speech, Miraz reveals his arrogance by saying, "The boy is nothing but a relic from a bygone age. Narnia belongs to the strong; I shall see it molded in my image" (Lewis 1951, p. 67). His never-ending pursuit of power ultimately leads to his downfall, which serves as a somber lesson on the consequences of giving in to such temptation.

Prince Caspian, on the other hand, is confronted with the internal temptation of self-doubt, particularly in light of his leadership role in the war against Miraz. Caspian's periods of doubt mirror his awareness of the magnitude of the work that lies ahead of him and his fear of failing. He once asks, "How can I, a young man who has never been in a battle, hope to lead Narnia to victory? What would happen if I failed to meet their expectations?" Caspian, on the other hand, is able to overcome this doubt by having faith in Aslan and seeking advice from his friends, including the Pevensies and the Trufflehunter. Miraz, on the other hand, is unable to fight gloom and keep his moral integrity. Lewis uses these many characters to examine the consequences of temptation, whether it is power obsession or paralysis through ambiguity. In the end, these tests mold Caspian into a leader who is both fair and courageous.

IV. THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER

4.1 Courage: Reepicheep and the Journey East

Throughout the course of *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, each character displayed bravery in a variety of different ways, although none more so than Reepicheep, whose unyielding determination to reach Aslan's Country is a beacon of courage and

faith. This is due to the fact that the heroes travel to the easternmost point of the earth and face both moral and physical challenges.

The story depends much on Reepicheep's bravery. Driven by his desire to reach Aslan's Country, the brave mouse has a relentless belief in the justness of his goal. Often inspiring others, his boldness manifests in his clear declaration of readiness to travel alone if necessary:

"I have made my own plans. As long as I am able, I travel eastward in the Dawn Treader. When she lets me down, I swim east in my coracle. When she submerges, I shall swim east with my four limbs. When I am no longer able to swim and if I have not yet arrived at Aslan's Country, I will dive underwater with my nose in the direction of the sunrise" (Lewis 1952, p. 228).

This remark exemplifies his bravery since it demonstrates that he is willing to risk his life in order to accomplish what he has set out to do.

Each of the other characters demonstrates bravery throughout the course of their risky voyage. "Courage, dear heart," a voice murmurs, restating Lucy's faith and bravery (Lewis 1952, p. 146). Lucy demonstrates resilience at the Magician's House by confronting her worries and the seduction of vanity while she is reading the magic book. During the course of the journey, both Edmund and Eustace develop a greater sense of bravery. Eustace, in particular, undergoes a transition from a self-centered youngster to a person who is humble and courageous. This transformation is confirmed upon his atonement as a dragon. Based on these models, C.S. Lewis asserts that bravery encompasses both physical and moral dimensions. The characters' bravery encompasses not only the conquering of external threats but also the confronting of their own inner concerns and limitations, highlighting the concept of human development through the performance of courageous deeds.

4.2 Temptation: Challenges and Trials

During the course of *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, the crew is subjected to tests that evaluate their moral integrity and willpower, and temptation influences them to a significant degree. By conquering such hurdles and confronting their own limitations, these events demonstrate how people develop as individuals.

A powerful illustration of the way in which Eustace's avarice and egocentrism led him to succumb to temptation is the transformation of Eustace into a dragon. Eustace succumbs to his hunger for riches and domination when he finds a dragon's treasure: "Sleeping on a dragon's hoard with greedy, dragonish thoughts in his heart, he had become a dragon itself" (Lewis 1952, p. 108). Due to the fact that it is a physical manifestation of his inner flaws, his transformation compels him to confront his own tendency toward avarice and loneliness. Through the occurrence of this episode, Eustace acquires humility and selflessness, which consequently marks the beginning of his transformation into a more moral person.

Lucy's obsession with the spellbook is another Magician's House temptation. Due to the fact that the book contains a spell that gives her the ability to become the most beautiful woman in the world, she experiences feelings of insecurity and envy, particularly with regard to her older sister Susan. On the other hand, she does not accept the appeal after hearing Aslan's voice, which says, "Courage, dear heart" (Lewis 1952, p. 146). The moral fortitude that Lucy possesses and her capacity to prioritize morality over petty ambitions are both highlighted in this scene. On the Island of Dreams, the group confronts their deepest fears and faces temptation. Their bravery is undermined by the desire to escape their obligations, despite their trust in Aslan. During these exchanges, C.S. Lewis evaluates a person's character based on the temptation they face. The struggles that each character goes through highlight the primary spiritual symbolism of the story, which is that overcoming temptation facilitates the development of one's moral character and prepares one for the journey to Aslan's Country.

V. THE SILVER CHAIR

5.1 Courage: Jill and Eustace's Mission to Rescue Prince Rilian

Due to the fact that Jill and Eustace are embarking on a perilous journey to rescue Prince Rilian from his captivity, *The Silver Chair* places a significant emphasis on fearlessness. They face physical danger, betrayal, and uncertainty during their journey; nonetheless, they are able to persevere because of their confidence in Aslan's leadership and their strengthening of their own inner strength.

Beginning with the fact that she takes on the burden of remembering the four signs that Aslan provides to lead their hunt, Jill demonstrates a great deal of bravery from the very beginning. Despite the fact that she was initially afraid and uncomfortable,

Jill demonstrates resilience as she endures the difficulties that they encountered on their voyage. The fact that she disobeys the Green Lady's enchantment and continues on with the quest is a particularly clear indication of her determination in the Underworld. The moment Rilian begs her to destroy his silver chair, she is able to overcome her anxiety and do her work. She also adds, "We have to trust Aslan's signs, no matter what" (Lewis 1953, p. 196).

Eustace demonstrates a tremendous deal of bravery, which is a continuation of his transformation that occurred previously in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. In addition to the physical challenges he must overcome, such as enduring severe storms and traversing Ettinsmoor, he must also overcome moral challenges such as hopelessness. When Eustace encounters Prince Rilian and the Green Lady, who are both under the influence of the witch, he stubbornly fights the witch's attempts to mislead and fool them, and his bravery is put to the test to a significant extent: "We know who we are, and we serve Aslan. Your magic cannot turn the truth" (Lewis 1953, p. 202). Lewis emphasizes the need for faith and determination in order to overcome internal as well as external obstacles through the use of bravery. The fact that Jill and Eustace remained true in the face of danger and dishonesty highlights their moral development and growing dependence on Aslan. Since they act in the face of uncertainty and fear in order to accomplish their goal, their courage is proactive rather than merely reactive.

5.2 Temptation: The Allure of Comfort and Hopelessness

At the same time that Jill, Eustace, and Puddleglum are confronted with the illusions of the Lady of the Green Kirtle and the suffocating temptation of Underland, these tests evaluate their faith and tenacity. C.S. Lewis examines the appeal of comfort and suffering in *The Silver Chair*, demonstrating how these factors could inspire people to abandon their calling.

Aiming to cause the characters to experience a false sense of security and cooperation, the Lady of the Green Kirtle makes use of enchantment as a strong enticement. Her magic creates an otherworldly mist that hides their sense of vision, drawing them to embrace the Underland as their reality. At this point of dishonesty, she questions the existence of Narnia, Aslan, and the sun, therefore reducing their convictions to simple illusions: "There never was any world except mine... Neither Narnia nor Overland nor the sun" (Lewis 1953, p. 191). This enchantment takes advantage of their exhaustion and brief pessimism in order to entice them to give up on their objective and enjoy a comfortable life under her influence.

The fierce opposition that Puddleglum brings to the table is a paradigm rejection of this attraction. This courageous act releases the magic and fuels their will, despite the fact that the possibility of their existence exists only within his imagination. He boldly states his confidence in Aslan and Narnia, saying:

"Suppose we have only dreamed, or made up, all those things... Then all I can say is that the invented things appear a lot more crucial than the actual ones" (Lewis 1953, p. 192).

The Underland provides a reprieve from the challenges that the journey has presented by appealing to the protagonists in a sinister manner. The dreary atmosphere encourages pessimism; however, the group fights hopelessness by following Aslan's signals and the aim of saving Prince Rilian. By utilizing these temptations to study the spiritual conflicts of doubt and complacency, Lewis emphasizes that true courage lies in rejecting false comforts and steadfastly following one's values.

VI. THE HORSE AND HIS BOY

6.1 Courage: Shasta's Search for His True Identity

Courage is a prominent theme in *The Horse and His Boy*, particularly in the context of Shasta's journey to discover his true identity and fulfill his destiny. From the moment Shasta makes the decision to leave the terrible life he has lived in Calormen and travel a perilous path to reach Narnia and free himself, his bravery is evident. As he confronts fear, uncertainty, and the unexpected, his efforts demonstrate both physical bravery and a growing fortitude within him.

In the beginning, Shasta demonstrates bravery when he listens in on his adopted father, Arsheesh, negotiating to sell him to the Tarkaan. Shasta, who has a limited understanding of the world, decides to flee with a firm determination: "He had not yet learned that if you do one good deed, your reward usually is to be set to do another and harder and better one" (Lewis 1954, p. 8). This event marks the beginning of his journey of self-discovery as he explores a foreign world accompanied only by Bree, the talking horse.

Shasta faces a range of challenges throughout the journey, testing his bravery. From evading the Tarkaan's search to traversing the challenging desert walk, he always manages to triumph over his fears. One of the most significant events that takes place during his solo journey across the mountains is when he experiences extreme loneliness and hopelessness and finally encounters

Aslan's guiding presence. "Who are you? He mumbled something. The Voice described him as 'one who has waited long for you to speak'" (Lewis 1954, p. 175). This meeting confirms Shasta's fate as the forgotten prince of Archenland, enabling him to continue his progress.

The bravery that Shasta displays is not just physical but also moral. Beginning as a timid child, Shasta matures into a courageous leader who, at last, accepts his own identity and becomes willing to take risks for the sake of others. In the story of Shasta, Lewis emphasizes the transformative force of bravery and the necessity of bravery in the process of self-discovery and the achievement of one's mission.

6.2 Temptation: Anxiety and Doubt

The Horse and His Boy explores the issue of temptation through the protagonists' experiences of fear and doubt, testing their willpower as they navigate the story. Due to the fact that Shasta and Aravis are confronted with circumstances in which temptations compromise their intended purpose, it is imperative that they have faith and perseverance in order to triumph over feelings of inner conflict.

The journey that Aravis takes demonstrates the allure of developing feelings of regret and melancholy regarding her past. From the beginning, Aravis, who was a Tarkheena and had been brought up in a lavish environment, considered her arranged marriage to be a more significant injustice than her participation in the cruel Calormene regime. During the course of the journey, she starts to confront the repercussions of her actions, particularly the fact that she abandoned her servant, who was forced to endure hardships at her expense. The judgment of Aslan manifests itself as an assault by a lion: "I have been humbled, and I deserved it" (Lewis 1954, p. 189). Aravis reflects on surrendering, considering whether or not she is worthy of taking it. Her conflict highlights the fact that self-doubt can be the result of fear of judgment and shame; Aslan's discipline is proof of grace and the prospect of being forgiven.

Shasta also succumbs to the allure of uncertainty, especially in his isolated moments. Not only is he separated from his comrades, but he is also burdened with the responsibility of notifying King Lune about the impending attack by the Calormene. He is filled with fear and trepidation. Nevertheless, his conversations with Aslan provide a new perspective on his uncertainties. "I was the lion that pushed you to team with Aravis. Among the dwellings of the dead, I was the cat that consoled you" (Lewis 1954, p. 175). This realization turns his anxiety into confidence by reassuring him that a higher purpose directed the hardships he faced. Because the development of the characters is dependent on resisting these temptations, the themes of trust, endurance, and the restorative power of Aslan's guidance are emphasized. Lewis uses the difficulties of uncertainty and fear to demonstrate how frequently temptation resides within the person.

VII. THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW

7.1 Courage: Digory and Polly's Adventures in Narnia

Particularly in the experiences of Digory and Polly as they witness the birth of Narnia and negotiate ethical and physical challenges, courage is a major theme in *The Magician's Nephew*. Their journey requires bravery in the face of unknown lands, magical forces, and moral dilemmas. Digory, in particular, demonstrates courage by confronting the witch Jadis and setting out to get the silver apple for his sick mother.

Digory's bravery comes into question when he and Polly unintentionally awaken Jadis in Charn. Digory suffers a duality of fear and obligation upon the discovery of her terrible powers: "He was nauseated by the atrocities Jadis had committed and, perhaps, somewhat nauseated by the prospect of her potential actions" (Lewis 1955, p. 52). Despite his anxiety, his ability to resist her influence marks his development from a shy young man into a paragon of moral fortitude. Jadis makes comments that play on Digory's deepest fears, saying, "Consider how fervently she desires it..." (Lewis 1955, p. 166). Digory's fortitude goes beyond simply surviving the physical journey to include conquering egotistical tendencies and trusting Aslan's wisdom.

The ultimate test of Digory's bravery comes when Aslan orders him to find an apple from a distant garden in order to protect Narnia. There are many dangers on this journey, the most notable of which is the temptation from Jadis. Jadis tries to force him to grab the fruit for his own benefit in order to heal his mother. As a result of her assistance in putting Digory in harm's way, Polly demonstrates bravery. Her unwavering commitment and sharp intelligence, particularly in comparison to Jadis, highlight the importance of bravery in the presence of others. The journey that Digory takes demonstrates that true bravery is derived from compassion, conviction, and moral rectitude. C.S. Lewis defines bravery as the ability to act wisely in the face of anxiety rather than as the absence of fear.

7.2 Temptation: Forbidden Knowledge and Power

In *The Magician's Nephew*, C.S. Lewis examines the issue of temptation through the seduction of forbidden knowledge and authority. Digory and Uncle Andrew are confronted with challenges that force them to choose between moral integrity and personal gain. Their interactions with magic and the witch Jadis bring to light the perils of unbridled ambition and the corrupting power that can be brought about by power.

Seeking magic for self-serving reasons rather than enlightenment, Uncle Andrew embodies the attraction of forbidden knowledge. He ignores moral concerns because he wants to be better than everyone else, which makes him obsessed with the rings that allow Digory and Polly to travel between worlds. He defends his careless experiments by saying, "Individuals like myself, endowed with concealed knowledge, are liberated from ordinary regulations as we are detached from mundane pleasures" (Lewis 1955, p. 23). Especially in calling Jadis to London, this vanity clouds his awareness of the dangers he causes. His fate—becoming a shy and weak servant to the very forces he sought to rule—showcases the consequences of using knowledge for egotistical ends.

On the other hand, Digory, who is tasked with retrieving the silver apple from Aslan's orchard, encounters a more complicated but equally perilous temptation. Jadis, who is aware of Digory's strong desire to heal his sick mother, extends an invitation to him to consume the fruit for his own benefit, saying, "Think about how desperately she wants it... If you truly liked her, you would not have any doubts about them" (Lewis 1955, p. 166). As a result of this episode, Digory is forced to confront his impulses as well as the ethical repercussions of his decisions. In contrast to Uncle Andrew, he does not take any action; rather, he relies on the knowledge that Aslan possesses rather than his own instincts. The manner in which he behaves lends credence to Lewis's viewpoint that genuine strength is derived not from the pursuit of power for one's own profit but rather from faith and obedience. Through the use of these various pictures, Lewis serves as a cautionary tale about the perils of unfettered ambition and the allure of utilizing authority without the proper responsibility. At long last, the narrative demonstrates that the pursuit of control is not the source of knowledge; rather, it is humility and faith in a higher moral framework that are the sources of knowledge.

VIII. THE LAST BATTLE

8.1 Courage: The Fight Against the Calormenes

Courage is a significant factor in *The Last Battle*, particularly when it comes to the opposition that King Tirian and his devoted followers face against the powerful army of the Calormene. During the most difficult time in the story, the bravery of Narnia's last defenders highlights the importance of loyalty, faith, and sacrifice.

King Tirian is a symbol of courageous leadership; he maintains his steadfast resolve in the face of the unavoidable demise of Narnia. His decision to go into combat demonstrates his unwavering commitment to truth and justice. Despite the fact that they are vastly outnumbered, he refuses to be passive after discovering the false Aslan and the dishonesty spread by Shift the Ape. He says, "By the Mane of Aslan, this is disgraceful! Let no Narnian support these nasty falsehoods" (Lewis 1956, p. 34). The fact that he understands that their fight is one of dignity rather than simply one of survival motivates him to inspire his supporters to fight injustice rather than giving in to hopelessness.

Among Tirian's companions, Jewel the Unicorn and the children Eustace and Jill show outstanding bravery. "If Aslan bestows upon me my voice, I shall use it for him," Jewel says; "if he bestows upon me strength, it is his strength with which I contend" (Lewis 1956, p. 120). Jewel's loyalty is unwavering to the very end. Though young and inexperienced in battle, Eustace and Jill voluntarily assist the Narnians, proving that heroism goes beyond simple physical strength and includes a dedication to justice. Tirian and his soldiers are unflinching even though defeat is almost certain. Their resistance reflects Lewis's belief that true bravery comes from a resolve to fight for justice in the face of insurmountable obstacles rather than triumph. The ultimate fight represents a moral struggle that emphasizes the continuous influence of faith and dedication among certain defeat, transcending simple military involvement.

8.2 Temptation: Despair and Deception

Particularly via Shift the Ape's manipulation and the false Aslan illusion, C.S. Lewis explores the enormous temptations of despair and dishonesty in *The Last Battle*. These temptations show how dishonesty and hopelessness could erode moral integrity and cause destruction, therefore testing the faith and strength of Narnia's people.

As he creates a fake Aslan to rule Narnia, the sharp and self-serving ape Shift captures the seductiveness of lies. Declaring, "I, Shift, the most sagacious of creatures, am the spokesperson for Aslan," he takes advantage of the naivety and faith of the Narnians (Lewis 1956, p. 26). Tash disturbs the true faith of Narnia by combining the respect of Aslan with the Calormene deity, therefore causing much uncertainty and enslavement. His dishonesty thrives since it offers authority and convenience, therefore satisfying the need for consistency even at the price of accuracy.

It is apparent that King Tirian's struggles as he watches Narnia collapse demonstrate the allure of hopelessness. He gives in to hopelessness for a brief moment as he witnesses the destruction of his dominion and the betrayal of his inhabitants, asking, "Is this the end of all life? How useful is bravery in this day and age?" (Lewis 1956, p. 78). His pessimism encapsulates the greatest temptation to abandon one's faith in the face of profound obscurity. In spite of this, he ultimately decides against it, opting to fight despite the fact that he is approaching an almost certain defeat. This decision serves to underline Lewis's viewpoint that genuine faith is put to the test in difficult circumstances.

The Dwarfs experience melancholy differently, but it still affects them. In light of the fact that they have been misled in the past, they raise objections to Aslan's return and declare, "The Dwarfs are for the Dwarfs" (Lewis 1956, p. 148). Their lack of trust demonstrates how hopelessness can result in self-imposed isolation because it prevents them from making amends for their wrongdoing. Using these circumstances as a basis, Lewis issues a warning against the dishonest characteristics of lying and pessimism. Especially when faced with challenging circumstances, genuine faith and bravery are demonstrated by the fight against falsehood and the maintenance of confidence in goodness.

IX. CONCLUSION

C.S. Lewis skillfully weaves together the concepts of temptation and bravery throughout *The Chronicles of Narnia* to produce a complex narrative that imparts moral and spiritual truths appealing to readers of all ages. Lewis makes use of these concepts across the seven works in order to assist his characters in maturing, giving them the opportunity to question their beliefs, and ultimately guiding them toward atonement.

Characters like Aslan, the Pevensie children, and Prince Caspian frequently showcase the concept of heroism throughout the story. These characters demonstrate bravery, sacrifice, and resiliency when confronted with adversity. Their daring actions demonstrate the transformative power of bravery and the necessity of supporting justice because they reflect hope and inspiration among those who witness them. The theme of temptation is investigated through the challenges that characters such as Edmund, Eustace, and Digory face, confronted with the temptations of avarice, power, and ethical infirmity. These temptations test their willpower, ultimately assisting them in maturing and making amends; they serve as a reference point for pivotal moments in their journeys.

Edmund's betrayal and subsequent atonement in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* illustrate the transformative power of pardon and the necessity of atonement. The transformation of Eustace into a dragon in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* highlights the perils of avarice as well as the transformative power of self-awareness and the progression of human development. In addition to providing timeless reflections on the human condition, the skillful combination of courage and temptation that Lewis employs results in the creation of engaging stories.

The Chronicles of Narnia inspires readers to reflect on their lives, show bravery in the face of challenges, and reject distractions that could derail their path. It is abundantly evident that these topics continue to be relevant, as evidenced by the series' enduring popularity, which has enthralled readers of all ages and has remained a cherished classic in the field of children's literature. The series demonstrates that courage is not the absence of fear but the triumph over self-interest, while temptation functions as the crucible in which character is forged and moral identity is revealed.

Through the progression of characters across the seven volumes, Lewis constructs a comprehensive moral framework that illustrates the necessity of virtue, the reality of moral choice, and the transformative power of redemption. *The Chronicles of Narnia* stands as a powerful testament to the virtues of bravery and the dangers of giving in to temptation, provoking an exploration of the human spirit that is timeless and the moral judgments that determine our identities.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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