

T. WULF'S "NO CURE FOR IT" AND "RETURN": DEPICTIONS OF AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL LANDSCAPES

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Annotation: *This article analyzes the autobiographical style of the renowned American writer T. Wulf in his short stories "No Cure for It" and "Return." It examines the author's use of autobiographical elements and techniques through these stories.*

Keywords: *Epic narration, narrative types, philosophical analysis, depiction of psychology, interior, psychological experience.*

T. Wulf's stories often contain numerous autobiographical elements. "No Cure for It" is no exception. The author places special emphasis on his family, their members, his parents, siblings, and even the streets and people of his hometown, Asheville. "No Cure for It" features a cast of characters centered around Eugene Gant, the main figure in the author's works, his parents, and a doctor.⁶⁰ A leading trend in modern storytelling is the use of the first-person perspective to narrate events. This concise story, with only around two thousand words, touches on universal themes but also emphasizes emotional and psychological matters.

The story reflects issues within the Gant family, including the child's upbringing, psychological condition, and how his mental world forms in relation to the people around him. Initially, the story reveals the innocent emotions of a seven-year-old boy as he approaches his eighth year. His physical differences from his peers, his parents' concerns about him, and the doctor's examination form the narrative structure of the story. T. Wulf skillfully uses every artistic detail in this composition. In the opening exposition, the writer opens the family dynamics through dialogue and philosophical interpretation of time: "Son! son! Where are you, boy?"⁶¹ The mother's call reflects her intrusion into the boy's world and the disruption of his peace. T. Wulf conveys the child's emotional state,

⁶⁰ Benthz J. A Critical analysis of the short fiction of Thomas Wolfe. – A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Purdue University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, 1991. – P. 269.

⁶¹ Holman. H. C. Thomas Wolfe. – USA: University of Minnesota, 1960. – P. 48.

showing the mental distance between him and his family. The boy, despite his young age, is deeply aware of his emotional isolation. The philosophical reflection embedded in this beginning points to a psychological crisis the boy experiences, suggesting that such emotional estrangement leads to depression.

"Return" is another autobiographical story written in 1929 and first published in *The Hills Beyond* collection. It later appeared in the posthumous complete short stories collection, *The Complete Short Stories of Thomas Wolfe*. This story addresses themes of memory, self-identity, time, and the value of life, vividly illustrating T. Wulf's literary style. The protagonist, Tom, returns to his hometown as a young man after many years. His feelings of nostalgia and alienation are evoked as he realizes that neither the people nor the places are as they once were. Tom's return emphasizes the passage of time and the emotional disconnection he feels from the environment and people he once knew.⁶² T. Wulf's autobiographical element in "Return" mirrors his personal life, particularly his alienation from his hometown. In his early works, the writer idealized his hometown, but upon his return, he is met with indifference and even hatred. This sense of alienation is expressed in the deeper themes of disillusionment and the internal conflict between the past and present. In "Return," the protagonist's philosophical reflections and the deep introspection about his return highlight the theme of time's relentless march and its impact on one's life. Both stories showcase T. Wulf's unique lyrical style, using stream-of-consciousness and inner monologues to delve into the characters' psychological states. These stories reveal the internal struggles of their protagonists, Tom and Eugene, as they navigate feelings of loneliness and alienation. The modernist characteristics of these stories are reflected in their themes of isolation and the search for self-identity.⁶³

In conclusion, T. Wulf's use of writing techniques in "No Cure for It" and "Return" reveals not only his rich creative legacy but also his profound understanding of the human psyche and his ability to depict psychological struggles through his characters.

⁶² Watkins P. D. The Short Stories of Thomas Wolfe. - A dissertation in the Department of English submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at New York University, 1979. - P. 320.

⁶³ The Complete Short Stories of Thomas Wolfe. Edited by Francis E. Skipp. - USA: Collier Books, 1989. -P. 660.

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