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English IV – Honors

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Societal Norms in Beowulf’s Society

 Although our current society values characters traits in heroes such as honesty, bravery and self-deprecation, Beowulf’s pre-Medieval society valued things that our current society may not immediately understand—things such as boastfulness, pride, and reckless abandonment of common sense. In the epic poem, Beowulf, which was written by an unknown poet in the 7th century A.D., many features of societal expectations appear to the modern reader, expectations that would have fit nicely into the culture of 1500 years ago, but ones that would strike a modern reader as odd at best, and simply non-heroic at worst.

 Hrothgar shows that his pre-Medieval society valued \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with his speech to Beowulf. According to Hrothgar, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (156). Here, with the word, ‘xxxxxxxxxxx,’Hrothgar is suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ; this is especially clear with when he implies that Beowulf is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In Beowulf’s society, it was completely normal, and even expected, for a hero to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . This is most likely due to the social demands of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as seen in the passage when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Although some in Beowulf’s day would have thought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Beowulf is clearly the hero of the story, the prototype around which society sets its norm. The fact that Beowulf does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and is seen as the hero of the epic suggests that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a conclusion verified by the passage that suggests, “;LASD;FAS POQUPIWER ; ;LASJDOFUAOSD QP09OUQWPER A;JAS;DFJ PIUPQOWUEPQWR ;J;IJFD ;PIOASDF” (672). When \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ claims that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he makes it clear that Beowulf’s society valued \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (751). After all, people who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ also \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and there’s nothing anyone can do about it other than accept it.

Works Cited

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