

There are two murders in both The Devil and The Tell-Tale Heart and two killers. Point out the difference between the motivation of each murder and the two killers.

There are two murders in The Devil and The Tell-Tale Heart, however, there is a difference in the motivation that led each criminal to commit his crime. Inside every one of them, the killer has his own reasons to commit such a crime. Both of the writers are very successful in discussing these reasons. Besides, both of the two stories contain important themes like poverty in The Devil, and crime versus punishment in The Tell-Tale Heart.

On the one hand, in The Devil, Honore, the son of the dying woman, asks Mother Rapet to look after his mother who is in her last moments in life. He is not able to look after her as he must get his harvest, his only source of money, before being burnt of the sun. Thus, he has gone to Mother Rapet who used to look after dying people in the village for a certain price. She has a deal with Honore that she will take a fixed price but she discovers that she is not going to die soon and Honore is deceiving her. She finds that she is wasting time and money. So, she decides to get rid of the old woman and to end her task by killing the old woman.

The motivation that led Mother Rapet to commit this crime is clear. She feels that she has been deceived by Honore. She has thought that the old woman is going to die soon and she is going to take more money, but she was mistaken. She discovers that she is wasting her time and money with a dying woman, so she kills her. Thus, poverty is the main reason of such a crime, if this money has not been important for Mother Rapet, she would not have ever thought of committing such a crime.

Mother rapet is considered a criminal and a killer. She should be punished as she killed the old woman without any reason. Though she is poor, she has no right to commit this crime. There are a lot of poor people that can live without getting money by these ways. In addition, she was not caring for a human's life as she cares for money.

On the other hand, in The Tell-Tale Heart, a mad man who has a high sense of hearing decides to kill his old neighbour because the old man's eyes are like vulture eyes. The madman is always afraid of these eyes, so he decides to get rid of them to be comforted and calm. He plans with high cunning for committing the crime. He succeeds in killing the old man and his fears are over. But before the death of the old man he has made a shriek, the officers come to see what happened. The madman convinces them that nothing had happened. He talks with them with high confidence but he hears the sound of the old man's heart

once again. This time his high sense of hearing betrayed him, he thinks that the officers hear the same sound. So, he confesses his crime to them.

The motivation of the crime here is complex. The madman is afraid of his neighbour's vulture eyes. These eyes bother him very much that he cannot even sleep of his fear. Thus, he has to end his fear by getting rid of those eyes by killing the old man. The killer is mentally sick and this idea clarifies the minor theme of the unjustified terror.

The killer in The Tell-Tale Heart should not be punished, he is a mad man suffering from a psychological disease, so he is not aware of what he is doing. He cannot control his deeds as he is mentally unstable. He should be treated like a patient not like a criminal.

In short, both of the writers of The Tell-Tale Heart and The Devil are successful in conveying their ideas to the readers through the characters. They are also successful in discussing the bad psychological states of the two killers and the ways the readers feel towards each character throughout the events of the two short stories.