

Nature of the Herald

Question:

Hello, I'm wondering if you can help me with a question I have regarding the Herald: mine is an old man who spent his life on the side of the dark forces. Now that he's been diagnosed with terminal cancer + given 6 months to live, he wants to redeem himself as he is afraid he might go to "hell" and finds the heroine to reveal to her her ancestry which will act as the Call to Adventure. So, is it ok to have a bad guy turned good out of fear be the Herald that will launch the fight against the dark forces?

Answer:

Absolutely it is ok. It's quite common.

The Herald is a function (to provide the Call to Adventure - encouragement to move out of the Ordinary State) but the character that provides the Call (performs the Herald function) can go on to travel with the Hero (become an ally)... and the ultimate return to the State of Perfection that is induced by the Hero's Journey then ultimately impacts on the Herald / Ally and resolves his / her issue (Loss of his / her Original State of Perfection).

The Herald may or may not travel with the Hero / be an ally; either way, the fact that the Hero "Returns the Worlds to a State of Perfection" affects the Herald character/all characters wherever they are.

Related (but not direct) examples:

In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (2005), the childrens' journey ultimately resolves the issues of concern to all the creatures of Narnia; whether they have accompanied them or not (metaphor: their world returns to sunshine).

In *Star Wars* (1977), the droids perform the Herald function and then go on to travel/ally with Luke.

In *Lord of the Rings* (2001), when Frodo returns the Worlds to a State of Perfection, everyone from the Shire, whether they travelled with him or not, have their issues resolved.

If the Herald character has already turned good when s/he performs the Herald function, then the resolution may impact the entity that turned the Herald to the "dark side." In other words, the original dark entity is punished (contained) [this is *Star Wars Part III*]

Another common resolution (in line with the classic structure) is this: the dark character turned good (Herald) assists the Hero return the Worlds to a State of Perfection and then

passes away / departs at the end - in Gladiator (2000) from one POV Maximus starts off on the dark side (a tool of the Roman Empire) and ends up restoring the State of Perfection and then passes away.

Read about the archetypes:

<http://www.clickok.co.uk/screenwriting/HerosJourneyArchetypes.html>

Hope this helps.

Wishing you a good day.

Best,

510+ stage Hero's Journey / Screenwriting,

<http://www.clickok.co.uk/index4.html>