



# Critical analysis on Interpretation of St Joan

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## Abstract

Five hundred years have gone, still Joan remains a living presence, whereas others of her day became little more than shadows and names in a museum. what is the explanation of this young girl who lived for nineteen years in the first part of fifteenth century? Before trying to answer this question, let us explain the facts of her life. She was born in on January 6,1412 in Demery, a small town in North Eastern France. At the age of thirteen, she first heard of voices of angels and visions of angels who in the years which followed and advised her to go to the help of city of Orleans which was surrounded by the English. Within three months she finished her mission. Then she continued in the service of the king, until she is captured and retained as a prisoner by the Burgundies. She was sold to the English, she tried for sorcery and heresy and burned at the stake in Rowen on May 30 1431-just one year after her capture.

Like many characters in times when political alliances changed with the season, Joan herself blew back and forth between tremendously useful to the French throne at that time and dangerously uncomfortable at others. Popularity is a powerful commodity in all times and George Bernard Shaw carefully tracks the rise and fall of Joan's fortunes as she watches herself be manipulated, leveraged and ultimately put on trial.

St Joan is a religious girl who led Prince Charles' army to victory over the invading English at Orleans and helped the French sovereignty. Joan thought herself as a God's appointed messenger and France saw her as an avenging angel. Now she is commonly considered as a schizophrenic. She was brutally killed. She was canonized in the 1960s, five hundred years after her death. Whether the god or insanity was the source of her strength, power, will and incredible courage-there is a little doubt over her role in the salvation of France nor the fate that awaited her afterward.

Was Joan schizophrenic

Was she a messiah?

Or was divinely inspired prophet?

Actually, Joan is the deeply devoted, illiterate peasant girl who claims the visions and voices sent directly by God, assuring her the glorious victory to France over the advancing forces of the English army. She manages to convince a depressed monarch to have her lead the battalion of army into the battlefield despite the fact that she brings with her no previous battle experience or even a knowledge of the use of weapons in war. Readers first look her as a young girl obsessed with religious piety, attending confession regularly, running through the woods in a mad frenzy of ecstasy, encountering strange inexplicable visions along the way, and eventually being driven to the hatred of the British by the rape and murder of her beloved sister.

In this work we see the French army and people driven to desperation by the inexorable encroachment of the British onto their native soil, that they lend credence to this girl and give in to her demands, sending her to lead the battalion into what turns out to be some miraculous victories. Glory is more often than not, an ineffable entity that is lost as quickly as it is gained. Joan tragically learns once her original goal of restoring the French monarch to the throne is achieved, now her services are no longer of value, and she is allowed to be captured by the English trailed by the Catholic Church and burnt alive at the stake by the English government for the crime of Witchcraft.

The warrior Joan often comes as a small girl who never convinces us that she is indeed, someone all these military strategies would follow. After, sanguine encounter with the English, in which thousands of arrested and limbless corpses strew the blood-soaked ground, Joan breaks down in despair over the horrifying inhumanity of the sight.

From then on her actions comes from a paradoxical conflict occurring within the very core of her being between the righteousness of her pious cause, the teachings of Christ and her single minded devotion to her king and Country. When she is finally captured and held in prison before and during her trial, she begins asking questions about her visions and to think the motivation for her cause really lay in divine inspiration or an obsession for personal glory and power.

Joan of arc followed GOD'S call even when it costs everything.

"So do not fear, for I am with you.

Do not be dismayed, for

I am your God

I will strengthen you and help you

I will uphold you

With my righteous right hand"

St Joan's mission is very clear, she is chosen by God, in her simplicity and humble strength, to lead her country to glorious victory. Through her unwavering witness of God's faith, she shows her countrymen the power to abandon oneself to boldly follow God's will.

Joan is aware that her mission is to lead her country to victory, but at last to assist Christ in building up civilization of love on earth, which in conjunction with all her achievements reflects God's message in love and building the kingdom.

Works cited

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