

Chapter I – INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The *Knightfall* TV series on History Channel explores the ascent and decline of the Knights Templar. The writer's primary attention will be on the protagonist, Landry de Lauzon, a fictional leader of the Templar Knights. After their defeat in the Siege of Acre 15 years ago, the Templars almost ceased to function. Godfrey, the former Master of the Paris Temple of the Templar order, fulfill the roles of both mentor and paternal figure for Landry.

The enigmatic murder of Godfrey precipitated a series of consequential events in the subsequent plotline. Landry was appointed as the next Templar Master of the Paris Temple by Pope Boniface VIII, thereby receiving a promotion. Subsequently, the inquiry into Godfrey's demise gave rise to rumours regarding the whereabouts of the Holy Grail in the vicinity of Paris. These two factors resulted in numerous subsequent conflicts that ultimately led to the suppression of the Templar Knights by King Philip IV of France, who was formerly a trusted friend of Landry.

Psychology and literature share a connection. Literary works serve as a reflection of our daily experiences, encompassing aspects such as emotions, thoughts, imagination, and perception, which are subject to our interpretation. According to Wellek and Warren (1970:81), the term "psychology of literature" might refer to the psychological study of the writer as a type and as an individual, the study of the creative process, or the research of psychological types and laws

that are present within literary works. Furthermore, the impact of literary works on their readers, specifically in terms of audience psychology.

Psychoanalysis is a therapeutic approach developed by Sigmund Freud in 1896 to treat individuals with neurological disorders. Psychoanalysis focuses on the notion of the unconscious mind. One way to describe the unconscious is as a repository of painful experiences, feelings, wounds, anxiety, desires that are rooted in guilt, and unresolved conflicts that we do not wish to be aware of. Psychoanalysis explores the concept of the unconscious mind in the context of literature, emphasizing its connection to language. The author's concept is the source of all works, regardless of whether the creator is conscious or unconscious of the idea. Just as psychoanalysis enables individuals to comprehend human behaviour, literature serves the same purpose.

1.2 Research Questions

Given the context provided in the study, the author only has one inquiry in question, which is as follows:

- What type of anxiety does Landry de Lauzon experience in the TV series?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to address the inquiries related to the topic indicated in the aforementioned research question. The study only has one objective, which are derived from the question:

1. To determine the anxieties that had been experienced by Landry de Lauzon.

1.4 Previous Studies

There are no academic research studies, articles, or journals that have researched *Knightfall* as their source material. For non-academic writings, the writer found that there are many articles, reviews, and online discussions about *Knightfall*.

Knightfall receive an average score both from expert critics and casual audience online, gaining a 6 out of 10 both on RottenTomatoes and IMDb. Some of the reviewers state that *Knightfall* is quite an enjoyable show to watch casually, but will torture historians or those that quite into it.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The writer limits their attention to the first season, which comprises ten episodes, despite the fact that *Knightfall* currently has two seasons, as indicated by the source material. Moreover, the writer emphasizes psychological analysis that revolves in interconnected research problems. The analysis exclusively focuses on the character Landry de Lauzon, his anxieties, and the fundamental causes of each anxiety.