

T6T, or why I don't like how John is developing as a character and why I like Sherlock more and more instead

by mazaher, January 1, 2017

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A slight reworking of the notes taken while watching The Six Thatchers.

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The story about the Merchant and Death is told in a slightly different context by Roberto Vecchioni in the song *Samarcanda* (<https://youtu.be/coaDHAcqkQ>), from back in 1977.

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John is an idiot, because in front of the absolute miracle of having Sherlock alive and back, to say nothing of his being ready to give his life for him, he can't do better than make scathing jokes at his expenses with Lestrade.

John tries to cover everything in bullshit because he is scared stiff of the uniqueness of his situation as friend, husband and father. At the same time he feels stifled by the commitment to his family and is readily willing to begin an affair with a woman met on a bus, disregarding the fact that he is involved in dangerous espionage fallout and their oh so casual meeting may just possibly be not so casual after all.

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In the meantime Sherlock is working hard and with great diligence, to say nothing of personal effort.

He tries to decode John's sarcasm; he makes a duty of being kind to a victim's family; he also has learned how dangerous is kudos (not sure whether John, even now, is aware of his past responsibilities in this regard). At every moment, moreover, Sherlock is aware of his vow in the same way of a samurai like Ghost Dog in the film by Jim Jarmusch.

Sherlock goes so far as overturning his choice of a lifetime and adopt John's principle that "Friends protect people", to the point that he says to Mary "Stay near me and I'll protect you". He induces Mary to abandon her own choice of "Alone protects those I love"... and it turns out that she and Sherlock were quite likely right, because John's concept goes very very wrong.

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At the end, Sherlock and Mary show themselves to be friends and team-mates in a way that is based not on sentiment as much as on honour, which passes totally over John's head.

John is ready to accuse Sherlock of breaking his vow when Mary dies! He uses Molly as a messenger to tell Sherlock he is the last person whose help he would accept! No respect for Molly and no courage to say in person what he wants to say.

In which way is this John fitting under the title of "friend", or of "team-mate", or of "soldier"?!

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In all this, Sherlock is giving his best to reach John on his inner pathways, to the point that he tries therapy in an effort to follow in his tracks and join him wherever he is. He asks Martha to keep his pride down low with a special *memento mori*...
Damn, what more could the poor beggar *do*?

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I like John less and less since Baskerville, and I m not at all sure that Johnlock would be a good idea, either at this time or in the future.

I am sooo thankful for fanfiction, where we can have them understand each other and love each other sincerely for who the other is!

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