

Class: British and American English Literature, Dr. Song Ling

Date: 2011/3/28

## *If I were Rip Van Winkle*

Multicultural and Linguistic studies

Cherry Chen, 陳易霆, 499810314

“When the time comes to difficulties, I always wish I could avoid that.” It may sounds a little bit familiar to the people thinking nowadays. And definitely, it included me. However, after reading the text of Rip Van Winkle, I changed my mind, and I would love to share this with you.

Rip in the story is the main character with easygoing but lazy personality. Yet, he had a very wicked wife. Because of that, he always wanted to get rid of her by walking his dog to the mountain. Also to escape the farm works. One day, after he drank a wine from a strange man, he fell asleep under a tree in the mountain. When he woke up, it had already passed twenty years. Almost everything had been changed; there wasn't called the England instead of a new name as: America; the village people didn't know him at all, even the kids didn't welcome him and the dogs were barking to him. Everything had been transformed! However, a woman whom didn't die during the war recognized him. He began the life like what he did in the past and told his story to others. He was a lucky man to keep off the destiny as died in the war, and no longer had to bear his wife and the farm job, at least he think. It also represents the 'America Dream,' people believe they can seek their dreams and control their lives. At that time, lots of people were Dreamers, carrying pure thinking but without seriously concerned. Nevertheless, the author whom had written this book in a humorous way was going to persuade people to do something in their life. Not just sleep under a tree waited the fortune. Just like Rip, he actually is a tragic man, his close friends all passed away; his dog can't recognized him; His life had no meanings. Even though the era had been changed, his life was still the same. No changes. It's not really necessary for him, but he had to endure that sadness. What is the meaning? All the stuff people search for may be just something mirage.

If I were Rip Van Winkle, I would love to choose the previous life. I will face to the music, get prepare for myself and ready to fight. I would show my show my hatred to my wife even I am so scared by her, at worst, get divorced with her; I would still walk my dog, Wolf everyday and go to do farm works; I would continuing telling tales to the village people. Life is full of obstacles; otherwise, it's not named LIFE. Moreover, comparing to dream all day, I rather change myself, act some steps forward and play a colorful drama in my own life. It might not be considered success or wonderful in others' eyes, but it would be the best musical I've sang to myself, for it's what I've chosen and done the best effort on. There is no wrong either chooses having the previous life or the latter life, just enjoy the life style and do what you really desire from heart. In a word, Life can be every single thing that you want it come true, just keep a rule which is saying: dreaming is great, on the other hand, too much can contribute nothing but empty. Starting to act your movements is more practical!