



The Card Players

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Two men are playing cards earnestly, with a bottle of alcohol beside them and all while smoking a pipe. What would you call them? How about "The Card Players"? It sounds rather simple, but the meaning behind these unadorned words is much more than one could imagine. Paul Cézanne painted the masterpiece known as "The Card Players" and, in fact, painted the entire set. He is a French painter and one of the greatest of the Post-Impressionists, whose artworks and ideas were very influential in the aesthetic development of various 20th-century artists, especially in Cubism art style.

It's a painting, though it isn't an ordinary one; the background behind the painting is truly exceptional. "The Card Players" is a series of five oil paintings, each with different peasants playing cards from various angles. The series of these impressive artworks was said to be one of the finest among Cezanne's works during the 1890s. They also served as the highlight of his final years. Each painting by Cezanne depicts typical local peasants that were entirely immersed in their mundane activities while they smoked their pipes and played cards. Even though the essential parts of a painting are its meaning, the description and details of this admirable piece of art are what takes it beyond the limit of greatness. Fortunately, you are going to go through this blissful journey of imagination.

The pungent smell of smoke suffocates your nostrils, while erratic tendrils scatter into the air. Your vision becomes blurry and starts to lose focus. The saliva in your mouth settles on your tongue while it longs for another cold droplet of luscious red wine. As you begin to play your cards, you feel the sharp edges of the aged cards roughly cut the tips of your fragile fingers. The sweat from your palms slowly combines with the blood dripping down— making your fingers stick together. A harsh scuffing sound arises when one of the card players moves his arm across the splintering table, forcing you to cringe. You see the dried blood on your last card and immediately know the game won't be to your victory. Beginning to grit your teeth and tap your feet rapidly, you realize the opposite card player now knows he has won the game. His thick, shaggy, mustache flicks upwards, while he smirks at you mockingly and throws his winning card.

Work Cited

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