



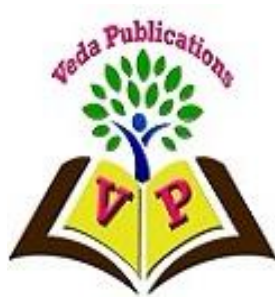
## SIMON'S HEROIC JOURNEY IN CASSANDRA CLARE'S *THE MORTAL INSTRUMENTS*

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### ABSTRACT



In recent young adult urban fantasy literature, the heroic character and the heroic journey have become one of the most important elements, as supernatural and futuristic elements allow exploration of all kinds of traits and decisions that create the idealized state which heroes represent. Frequently, the protagonist is unwilling to be a champion, or is of low or timid origin. Though events are mostly beyond their control, the protagonists are thrust into points of huge importance where their caliber is proved in a number of divine and physical challenges. The several tasks presented throughout the hero's journey transform the characters into heroes. Simon, one of the protagonists of *The Mortal Instruments* is originally introduced as a mundane to the Shadow World. My paper explores Simon's heroic journey from a mundane to a vampire and then later to a Daylighter. Though in the end of the novel series, Simon's immortality was taken away, along with his memories by making him into a mundane again, the author Cassandra Clare shows Simon's gradual journey of becoming a hero throughout the series.

**Keywords:** *Young adult literature, Urban fantasy, Heroic journey, Shadow hunters, Vampires.*

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In young adult urban fantasy literature, some characters don't have any hidden powers or destinies. They are only ordinary people and are dragged into events until they develop the magic. Bilbo Baggins, the Narnia Children, Dorothy Gale and Peter Parker are protagonists of such type. Simon Lewis, one of the protagonists of Cassandra Clare's *The Mortal Instruments* also comes under this category. He is introduced as the most ordinary boy living in Manhattan, New York in the beginning of the novel *City of Bones*. When Clary's mother disappeared and the Shadowhunters finally reveal themselves, Simon was thrown into the peculiar Shadow World. But once he gets into the groove as a Daylighter vampire, Simon gains enormous self-confidence and becomes quite brave and is always selfless.

Cassandra Clare in an interview when asked which character is her favourite, she answers that it is probably Simon Lewis because he reminds her of herself. In Madame Dorothea's home, Simon saved the Shadowhunters from the Greater Demon Abbadon, the demon of the Abyss, by shooting one of Alec's arrows to break the window and allowing the sunlight to fall on it and expelled it away. Simon, with his camp skills and cleverness saves all the heroic Shadowhunters. Even as an ordinary guy, he has the power of practicality and wisdom in the magical world. In *City of Ashes*, he says as "Never believe the bad guy is dead until you see a body. That just leads to unhappiness and surprise ambushes" (428).

According to the hero's journey, the hero or the protagonist is introduced as an ordinary person who is then forced into the magical world. The protagonist faces death and returns from the experience with new knowledge. Through this journey, the hero must also accept his dark side and he should overcome it. Simon at first struggles to understand his new vampire powers but later accepts them as a strength rather than damnation. First he becomes a vampire, then he becomes a Daylighter, which is a unique power and later he gets the Mark of Cain which serves as his talisman from Clary.

In *City of Bones*, at a party thrown by Magnus Bane, Simon drinks a fairy potion and turns into a rat and was taken by a vampire, thinking he was one of theirs. He is then rescued by Clary and her friends where Simon bites Raphael Santhiago, a vampire to save himself. Though he is rescued, he already tasted the vampire blood. Simon constantly feels sick and soon came to the conclusion that he might be changing into a vampire. In *City of Ashes*,

Simon goes to the Hotel Dumort and was bitten and nearly killed by the vampires' clan, but was saved by their leader Raphael. He took the nearly dead Simon to the Institute and passed to Clary, Jace, and Isabelle the option to either let Simon die or have him resurrected as a vampire. Clary decides to bury him in a Jewish cemetery and let him rise as a vampire. He dies and with the help of Raphael, revives as a fledgling vampire. He enters the magical world by becoming a Downworlder.

On Valentine's ship, in *City of Ashes*, Simon was kidnapped by Valentine Morgenstern for the ritual of Infernal Conversion. Valentine drained him of his blood and Simon faces his death for the second time, and only survives by feeding on Jace. Because of the angel blood in Jace, Simon becomes a Daylighter - a unique power which makes him a much stronger one. Clary realizes Simon sounds different: "He sounded like someone who felt like he could face Valentine Morgenstern on equal footing" (418).

The central moment of the hero's journey is facing death and it also comes in terms with the fear of mortality and growing stronger. Joseph Campbell describes this as,

The conscious personality here has come in touch with a charge of unconscious energy which it is unable to handle and must now suffer . . . while learning how to come to terms with this power of the dark and emerge, at last, to a new way of life. (146)

In *City of Glass*, Simon offers his life to the Vampire head Raphael in return for the vampires joining the war against Valentine. Clary provides him the Mark of Cain, a talisman to protect him. With Clary's mark on him, Simon walks into the possible death, faces Raphael and wins his alliance. He says, in battle he needs to be "vampire Simon, a creature he barely even knew" (470) rather than a gentle geeky human. His vampire power offers him extraordinary strength and speed. For the first time, Simon accepts that he is a vampire and demands the right to win his people a seat on the Council and bind Shadowhunters and Downworlders together.

In *City of Fallen Angels*, Simon noticed himself looking for normality. He confesses Isabelle, "You treated me like I was normal. You've never called me 'Daylighter' or 'vampire' or anything but Simon" (300). But his effort to become normal fails. Simon does not compare him with other vampires and also does not have any knowledge about them. He tries to have an ordinary human life since he can



walk in daylight. He cannot figure out how Raphael and Camille can use the word 'God'.

When his mother rejects him, Simon realizes that he cannot continue faking being human. His best friend Clary is no longer his comic book buddy but a Shadowhunter. After realizing this, he quickly leaves the normal world behind as he becomes a part of the magical one. Simon spends all his effort pretending to be human, reluctantly drinking blood or ignoring his need to do so. Simon doesn't realize that animal blood isn't enough for him, and that skipping meals will make him attack humans. Frankel in *Buffy and the Heroine's Journey: Vampire Slayer as Feminine* tells that

When someone is always well-behaved, kind, and restrained, they are not taking the time to be moody and angry, to connect with their Shadow. Thus it can unexpectedly take over the entire personality. (169)

Without any warning, Simon bites the innocent Maureen, and he mourns his act through most of the book.

At the climax of the *City of Fallen Angels*, Simon uses his Mark of Cain deliberately as a weapon to save Clary. Lilith told him his Daylighter powers could revive the dead, and used a captive Clary, brought to the spot by a bewitched Jace, to oblige Simon to help her revive Sebastian. Simon bit Sebastian and began the ritual to revive him, though Sebastian's blood poisoned him. Lilith subsequently attacked Clary to force him to surrender. Simon blocked her as she moved to knock Clary with her whip, and the Mark of Cain demolished her. Later, Simon tells Luke about feeding off Maureen. Luke warns him as "The more you try to crush your true nature, the more it will control you" (419). Simon cannot ignore his vampire power and his rising urge to feed. He decides to use his powers to overcome his dark side. Isabelle helped Simon in truly accepting his nature and being as vampire. In *City of Lost Souls* Isabelle conveys that "Being a vampire is part of you" (264). For the first time Simon experiences the feeling of drinking the blood of someone in a mutual loving relationship and he finds a measure of pride and peace. When he leaves behind Maia, who makes him feel normal, and commits to Isabelle, he turns his back on his human life.

In *City of Lost Souls*, after realizing that no earthly weapon can harm Sebastian but not Jace, Simon along with others decided to raise the demon Azazel, and try to gain help from him. Simon, Magnus

and the others summoned Azazel who says that he could free Jace from Sebastian if they were willing to free him into the world. They banished him briefly and acknowledged that this cannot be done. When they called Azazel again to tell him that they wouldn't help him, Simon accidentally slipped inside the pentagram, and Azazel framed to kill him when Simon showed him his Mark of Cain. Azazel admitted that he couldn't harm him and vanished. Afterwards, Simon proposed that he should try to summon Raziel as he couldn't be harmed.

In *City of Lost Souls*, Simon then faces the Angel Raziel and accepts possible death once again to seek help for Clary, Isabelle and Jace. Raziel, who, like Azazel was about to kill Simon but noticed the Mark on his forehead. Raziel seeks a different price by seeking the Mark of Cain. The Mark of Cain helps Simon feel "like a conductor for a lightning bolt, sheer energy passing through him with deadly force" (426 – 427). Like a sacrifice, he gives it up for his Shadowhunter friends. Raziel observes, "You are a warrior of Heaven, Daylighter, whether you like it or not" (427). By giving him the sword 'Glorious', Raziel appoints him as a soldier for the side of light, adding that the sword "possesses the power of Heaven's fire" (428). In return he removed Simon's Mark of Cain. At last, Simon has got a proof that he is on the side of the angels.

In *City of Heavenly Fire*, to escape from the attack of Sebastian's Endarkened, Isabelle gave Simon her necklace to wear as a protection for him while she was gone to Idris and also as a reminder of her. While with Jordan and Maia at their apartment, the Endarkened called on them, and Simon, alerted to the danger by Isabelle's necklace, was forced to flee the apartment. Later, when Emma told Simon and his friends about Edom, they discovered the way there through the Seelie Court. Simon accompanied the others as they invaded the Court and found the path to the demon dimension.

When Simon along with the others entered Edom, they were shown a vision of their perfect lives, and also like the others, the vision had one crucial fault that showed it is not real. Simon saw himself as a successful musician and celebrity and he was together with Clary. Despite the vision, he still was in love with Isabelle, and upon realizing that the vision melted away. When they find a weapon called 'skeptron' in the demonic Alicante Accords Hall, Simon warned Jace against taking it. When Isabelle was mortally wounded in the fighting, they returned to the cave and Simon was able to save her by using his own blood, which as a Daylighter had restorative



powers. Alec felt indebted to him, and when it later came up that Simon no longer had any blood to drink, Alec offered his own. As Sebastian has sealed all the exists of Edom, in order to leave, Magnus summoned his father, the Prince of Hell, Asmoedeus. The demon promised to do as they asked, but wanted Simon's immortality and memories in return. Therefore, after the demon brought them back to their realm, Simon would remember nothing of them, and would no longer be a Daylighter vampire and he would be a mundane again. In the end of the novel series, Isabelle, Clary and Magnus approached Simon and informed hi, everything about the Shadow World. But Simon cannot retrieve his memories. Inorder to remember his friends, Simon agreed to attend the Shadowhunter Academy and train for his Ascension.

The author Cassandra Clare has portrayed Simon as a courageous one. He saves Jace, Alec, Isabelle and Clary by using Alec's bow against the Greater Demon Abbadon. He has experience in Archery after six years of archery camp. Simon, when transformed into a vampire and Daylighter became heroic and stand up to Valentine. Simon not only witnesses his loyalty and bravery, but also understands his unique position and uses it. He asks Clary to nail the first mark, the Mark of Cain, on him so that he can be guarded from Raphael and the other vampires that want him dead. Simon does this so he can turn himself over to the vampires and urge the vampires to fight along the side of the rest of the Shadowhunters and Downworlders. Simon wanted to insure that the Night's Children would be a part of the new Council. Simon is willing to sacrifice his life to save Clary and Jace by giving up his blood as demanded by Lilith, who wants to resurrect Sebastian Morgenstern. Simon is referred as heroic when he is willing to raise the Angel Raziel in order to save Jace. He ends up giving up his Mark of Cain to the Angel in exchange of the sword of the Archangel Michael 'Glorious' which separates Jace from Sebastian. Simon does this knowing that Raphael has sworn that if he ever loses his Mark of Cain, that Raphael will be first in line to kill him. By doing this, Simon proves that he is selfless and truly cares for his friends in doing this.

Magnus tells me I was a hero. And I see on your face when you're looking at me that you're searching for that guy. The guy you knew who was a hero, who did great things. I don't remember doing those things. I don't know if that make

me not a hero anymore. But I'd like to try to be that guy again. (*City of Heavenly Fire*, 720)

As a vampire, he worried about the life of his friends as they are mortal and despised the chance of remaining sixteen forever while the others except of Magnus will age and die. This may have believed for his willingness to offer up his own immortality. He also ignored the company of other vampires in favour of his friends. Cassandra Clare conveys that with the combination of vampire powers and wisdom, Simon completes his journey from darkness into salvation.

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