

Reviewing Two Precious Works of the Neorealism Movement:

From Bruno The Bicycle Thief to Kanaya of Two Acres of Land

by Mona Khorsandi

October 2023

The Bicycle Thief by Vittorio De Sica, which falls into the neorealism category, is considered one of the most inspiring cinematic works.

The film, which fully displays the elements of neorealism, narrates the story of a family man who, after the war, like other people, seeks to find a job to support himself and his family. In a similar work, which is loosely adapted from the bicycle thief, we see a man who is involved in many hardships in order not to lose the only land from which he provides his family's livelihood, and this is the story of the movie two Acres of Land. We are watching the decline of hope and despair, both of which end with regret. In both these works, the woman is the heartwarming angel which starts the film off, whether it is by selling the sheets of the house in the bicycle thief or selling the earrings that were a gift from her father in two acres of land. In both films, the family has an only male child who accompanies the father in the challenging path of the story. Antonio looks for his stolen bike in every single alley, and Shambu has left his ancestral village for money to get his land back. Boys have a clear role in both stories. In both, the father is momentarily faced with the fear of losing his child. Antonio when he hurts his son and thinks he threw himself into the water throws and Shambu when his son gets a fever from sleeping on the street. However, there is an understandable difference between Bruno and Kanaya. Bruno will not fall onto the wrong track, but Kanaya, is drawn to the path of theft on the way to help his father, and this is the point of distinction between the characters of the two children in the story. When Bruno is looking for a clue from the bicycle thief, he goes to the church with his father. He still pays his respects in the church.

Another difference that can be seen in these two works is the presence and position of the grandfather, which is prominent in Indian families, but not present in Italian families.

Although in the winding path of the story, the characters gradually understand the importance of being with each other, but economic stress will still keep concerning and bothering them in their hearts and minds, and cause confusion and restlessness in their existence.

Despite the general similarities and differences in expression, through a sad ending, both

men and both families remain in great regret. One misses the bike and the other misses the land.