Hunter Leckonby

Mr. Wright

European Literature 2B

January 9, 2012

Candide Essay

Throughout the novel, Candide, the main character is constantly completing quests and journeying through different places to find his one true love. Candide believes his goal in life is to marry Cunegonde and when he finally achieves this goal, he realizes he was happier when he was pursuing the goal than he is now. “Let us cultivate your garden” (Candide) can be interpreted as Candide saying that he wants to live a simple, hardworking life to be able to feel the satisfaction he felt while pursuing Cunegonde.

When Candide marries, Cunegonde he loses the feeling of satisfaction he had while pursuing her and soon realizes he is no longer happy with her. Cunegonde has turned out not to be the perfect woman Candide thought of her to be, and he soon grows tired of her and becomes bored. By saying “Let us cultivate our garden”, Candide realizes that the only way to feel satisfaction again is to do something that requires hard work and challenges him. While Candide was in El Dorado, he realized it was better to work towards a goal and appreciate the work he put into it than to be given something for nothing. He wants to be able to be thankful for the things he has and also wants to feel satisfaction in the thought that he has accomplished something. Therefore, he knows that by cultivating a garden he is able to achieve both of these goals.

After Candide and Cunegonde are reunited, he realizes he is no longer satisfied with what he has and becomes idle. The preacher Jonathan Edwards wrote that by being idle you invite the Devil to tempt you. Candide goes to see an old dervish and the man tells him that by cultivating his land, his labors preserve him from the three great evils - weariness, vice, and want. Candide also wants to be able to live a life that will satisfy him and make him happy. For Candide, cultivating a garden will keep him from being idle and give him something that requires hard work; therefore he will have the satisfaction that he had while pursuing Cunegonde.

. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were the goals that Candide was trying to reach by cultivating his garden. Candide realizes that happiness is achieved by pursuing happiness. He pursued Cunegonde through many difficult situations because she made him happy. Even though he was never able to be in control of Cunegonde, he is in control of his garden and can do what he pleases with it. Unlike in his marriage to Cunegonde, things are not as happy or satisfying as he thought they would be. The actually pursuit of Cunegonde satisfied his need for adventure because he liked the thrill of the chase. Candide also enjoyed being able to work his abilities and show Cunegonde that no matter what he would always find her. By pursuing Cunegonde, Candide achieves the happiness and satisfaction he has wanted throughout all his adventures and allows him to obtain the one thing he was forbidden to have.

By saying “Let us cultivate our garden” Candide is saying that to achieve happiness and satisfaction one must live a simple, hard working life. Throughout the book Candid pursues Cunegonde and feels satisfaction while he is doing it. But when he finally marries Cunegonde, he loses the satisfaction he felt before and soon becomes bored with her. He realizes that to achieve his goal he must find something that he can feel in control of and that will give him the satisfaction that he so desires. Therefore, by cultivating his garden he is free of boredom and is able to experience the fulfillment he hungers for in his life.