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A Life-Made Decision

A human makes around 35,000 decisions per day(Google). Most of your choices are harmless, yet a small percentage are life-changing decisions. The story by Hernando Tellez “Lather and Nothing Else” is when the Barber from the story decides on what course of action he should take. The choices he chooses will decide the kind of lifestyle he is going to live from now on. He could either kill Captain Torres, a military leader who is putting down the revolution or continue shaving his beard like a normal Barber. The Barber chooses the second option, deciding not to kill Captain Torres. I believe that the choice he made there was the right one, as the barber did not want to become a murderer. If he had killed Captain Torres, the life he lived will no longer be the same, as with his death chaos and destruction will ensue.

The barber is a professional. He takes pride in his work as being one of the few that can shave a man's beard without spilling a drop of blood. He uses his soft and delicate hands, allowing him to gently shave a man's beard. His skills are on

par with his pride, it just goes to show how much he loves his work. However, the town he lives in is not something that he loves dearly about. The barber is a revolutionary, a person who disagrees with the way the government is doing things. He demonstrates this by having a decision between killing Captain Torres or not. Yet, instead of becoming an active revolutionary, he is instead a peaceful one. A revolutionary that does not use violence, and instead uses his own action and words to demonstrate that he is not in approval of the government. But what can he do? He is just an ordinary barber. There is a huge difference between his job and Captain Torres's job. Captain Torres's job is to be a soldier, one who can threaten people and make them abide by the government's wishes. The barber, however, is just a simple civilian, protected by soldiers and police officers. All he knows is how to style people's hair or shave a man's beard, not to kill them.

Even if the barber decided to kill Captain Torres right, then and there, the barber's life will no longer be the same. The corpse of Captain Torres will be right in front of his chair, blood dripping out from the neck of the corpse, splatter all over the floor. Right outside the door can be many people who come in to have their beard shave; many who can become witnesses. How can he get rid of the corpse, stop the blood from spilling outside the door, clean the bloodstains in the room, and escape without being caught? Sooner or later, they will pick up on the

many clues and find out who killed Captain Torres. They will turn the barber into a criminal, not allowing him to join back into society. His normal lifestyle will no longer be the same, as he has to live his life on the run. Yet, the trauma that comes from killing a person for the first time will hurt him even more. His mental state will no longer be the same, the nightmares he would have when he sleeps. Everything, the blood, the guts, the nerves, all of the things that came out after killing Captain Torres will be right on his mind, haunting him.

With Captain Torres's death, there will be more bloodshed and destruction. The revolutionary will still go on, prolonging the civil war. Captain Torres is a leading figure in putting down the rebellion. He is a smart and courageous person in the eyes of his comrades, having their full trust in him and believing that he could do anything. With the death of their leader, their command will break down and all their soldiers will be rampant. Some soldiers might be enraged with the fact that someone had killed Captain Torres. They might decide to kill or cause harm to the whole town if the murderer had not been found. The enraged soldiers will use violence to solve violence, giving cause for the revolutionary soldiers by using self-defense with even more violence. People will be afraid of each other. They will be on edge with each other, wondering whose side people are on. The civilians and cities will be caught up with this war, ending up either destroyed or dead.

Without a smart and capable leader, people will keep responding to this problem by using more violence. This then, however, does not solve the conflict and instead creates even more problems.

Just from one of the decisions that the barber had made will not only affect the barber's life but also most likely affect the fate of his own country. He might even be known as a barber who helped or destroyed his own country. Just an ordinary barber, not a soldier or a hero. Yet that decision will not only affect his morality but also the people around him. The barber never wanted to become a killer, neither the one whose choices allowed for the destruction of the people around him. But in contrast, that never happened. He chose not to kill Captain Torres, which I believe was the best option. He did not go against his morality in not wanting to become a murderer. He never created problems for the people around him, and he kept his job in just being an ordinary barber. He made one most important life-made decision that I believe he will be most thankful for.