

**THE NEED FOR THE WORLD PEACE IN RIDLEY SCOTT'S  
*KINGDOM OF HEAVEN* MOVIE (2005):  
A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement  
For getting Bachelor Degree of Education  
In English Department

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**2010**

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

*Kingdom of Heaven* is a 2005 film directed by Ridley Scott and written by William Monahan. It stars Orlando Bloom, Eva Green, Jeremy Irons, David Thewlis, Marton Csokas, Brendan Gleeson, Kevin McKidd, Alexander Siddig, Ghassan Massoud, Edward Norton, Jon Finch, Michael Sheen and Liam Neeson.

The story is set during the Crusades of the 12th century. A French village blacksmith goes to aid the city of Jerusalem in its defense against the Muslim leader Saladin, who is battling to reclaim the city from the Christians. The film script is a heavily fictionalized portrayal of Balian of Ibelin.

Most filming took place in Ouarzazate in Morocco, where Scott had filmed *Gladiator* and *Black Hawk Down*. A replica of the ancient city of Jerusalem was constructed in the desert. Filming also took place in Spain, at the Loarre Castle, Segovia, Ávila, Palma del Río and Casa de Pilatos in Sevilla.

The movie was a box office flop in the U.S. and Canada, earning \$47 million against a budget of around \$130 million, but was successful in Europe and the rest of the world, with the worldwide box office earnings totaling at \$211,643,158. It was also a big success in Arabic-speaking countries, especially Egypt, mainly because of the Egyptian actor Khaled El Nabawy. Scott insinuated that the U.S. disaster of the film was the result of bad advertising, which

presented the film as an adventure with a love story rather than as an examination of religious conflict. It's also been noted that the film was altered from its original version to be shorter and follow a simpler plot line. This "less sophisticated" version is what hit theaters, although Scott and some of his crew felt it was watered down, explaining that by editing, "You've gone in there and taken little bits from everything".

A sweeping landscape in *Kingdom of Heaven* characteristic of Ridley Scott's cinematographic style. The visual style of *Kingdom of Heaven* emphasizes set design and impressive cinematography in almost every scene. It is notable for its "visually stunning cinematography and haunting music". Cinematographer John Mathieson created many large, sweeping landscapes, where the cinematography, supporting performances, and battle sequences are meticulously mounted. The cinematography and scenes of set-pieces have been described as "ballets of light and color" (as in films by Akira Kurosawa). Director Ridley Scott's visual acumen was described as the main draw of *Kingdom of Heaven* with the stellar, stunning cinematography and "jaw-dropping combat sequences" based on the production design of Arthur Max.

The music to the movie is quite different in style and content from the soundtrack of Ridley Scott's earlier 2000 film *Gladiator* and many other subsequent films depicting historical events. A composition of classical listings, rousing chorales, juxtaposing Muslim sacred chants, and subtle implementation of contemporary rock/pop influences, the soundtrack is largely the result of

British film-score composer Harry Gregson-Williams. During the climactic final battle scene, a piece of Jerry Goldsmith's "Valhalla" theme from *The 13th Warrior* is used. "Vide Cor Meum" sung by Katherine Jenkins is also used during the funeral of the King.

*Kingdom of Heaven* set in a remote village in France, Balian (Orlando Bloom), a blacksmith, is haunted by his wife's (Nathalie Cox) recent suicide. A group of Crusaders arrive at the small village and one of them approaches Balian, introducing himself as his father, Baron Godfrey of Ibelin (Liam Neeson). Godfrey, asks Balian to return with him to Jerusalem. Balian refuses and the Crusaders leave. Afterwards, the town priest (Michael Sheen), Balian's younger brother, reveals that he had ordered Balian's wife beheaded before burial (a customary practice in those times for people who committed suicide). During the encounter Balian kills him. Balian follows after his father in the hope of gaining forgiveness and redemption for him and his wife. After he catches up to his father, soldiers led by Godfrey's nephew arrive to arrest Balian. Godfrey refuses to hand him over and during the subsequent fight most of Godfrey's men are killed and Godfrey himself is mortally wounded.

The cinema always reflects the situations that happen in the certain time in order to reveal the reality in human life. Beside that, film gives us knowledge to understand the essence of life and contributes to the understanding of the reality of life in order to be realistic. Film eventually presents the characterization that indicates frustration, excessive of inferiority feeling, and his

withdrawal from social interaction. That is why there are a lot of director displaces the realism of life into film through the script. One of those directors is Ridley Scott who involves the need for the world peace in his major character in the film *Kingdom of Heaven*. Ridley Scott was born in 30 November 1937, South Shields, County Durham (now South Shields, Tyne & Wear), England, UK. He personally sketches most of his own storyboards, left-handed, with great artistic style (*The Duellists* (1977), *Alien* (1979), *Blade Runner* (1982), *Legend* (1985), *Black Rain* (1989/I), *Thelma & Louise* (1991), *1492: Conquest of Paradise* (1992), *Gladiator* (2000), *Black Hawk Down* (2001), *Kingdom of Heaven* (2005), *American Gangster* (2007), *Body of Lies* (2008)).

The film won five Academy Awards in the 73rd Academy Awards ceremony, including the Academy Award for Best Picture. The film's epic scope and intense battle scenes, as well as the emotional core of its performances, received much praise. The film's success may have helped to revive the historical epic genre, with subsequent films such as *Troy*, *Alexander*, *300* and Scott's own *Gladiator*. And on April 2005, Ridley got the most successful British director in Hollywood in terms of box office to date.

Critical response from Edward Norton received acclaim for his portrayal of King Baldwin IV. Upon its release, the film was met with mixed opinions. Critics such as Roger Ebert, however, found the film's message to be deeper than Scott's previous *Gladiator*. Several actors/actresses were praised for their performances. Jack Moore described Edward Norton's acting as

"phenomenal", and "so far removed from anything that he has ever done that we see the true complexities of his talent". The Syrian actor Ghassan Massoud was also praised for his portrayal of Saladin, described by The New York Times as "cool as a tall glass of water". Also commended were Eva Green, who plays Princess Sibylla, "with a measure of cool that defies her surroundings", and Jeremy Irons.

Academic criticism has focused on the supposed peaceful relationship between Christians and Muslims in Jerusalem and other cities depicted. Crusader historians such as Jonathan Riley-Smith, quoted by The Daily Telegraph, called the film "dangerous to Arab relations", claiming the movie was Osama bin Laden's version of the Crusades and would "fuel the Islamic fundamentalists". Riley-Smith further commented against the historical accuracy stating "nonsense like this will only reinforce existing myths", arguing that the film "relied on the romanticized view of the Crusades propagated by Sir Walter Scott in his book *The Talisman*, published in 1825 and now discredited by academics." Fellow Crusade historian Jonathan Phillips also spoke against the film. Paul Halsall defended Scott, claiming that "historians can't criticize filmmakers for having to make the decisions they have to make... [Scott is] not writing a history textbook".

This movie is interesting to study about the phenomenon of society life, there are divided into four aspects to study. The first aspect is Ridley Scott conveys the name of *Kingdom of Heaven* through the story it self. In *The*

*Kingdom of Heaven*, he describes how the major character's need for the world peace. Film *Kingdom of Heaven* is reflected about Balian of Ibelin travels to Jerusalem during the crusades of the 12th century, and there he finds himself as the defender of the city and its people.

The second aspect, as a reflection in after being accepted as the new Lord of Ibelin by Godfrey's retainers, Balian soon becomes acquainted with the main players in Jerusalem's political arena: the leper King Baldwin IV, Tiberias, Marshall of Jerusalem, Princess Sibylla, King Baldwin IV's sister, and Guy de Lusignan, Sibylla's husband, who supports the anti-Muslim activities. Guy is determined to rule after Baldwin's death and seeks to provoke a war that will allow him to dispose of the Muslims and claim the Kingdom for the Christians.

Knowing they cannot defeat the Saracens, they hope hold their enemies off long enough for the Saracens to offer terms; after three days and having proven their resolve, Saladin offers terms: Balian surrenders Jerusalem when Saladin offers all the inhabitant safe passage to Christian lands. Balian points out that when the Crusaders conquered Jerusalem a hundred years previously, they massacred the Muslim inhabitants, but Saladin assures him that he is a man of honor and releases Guy back to Jerusalem where Balian encounters him in a fight. Balian tells him "When you rise again, if you rise again, rise a knight."

The third aspect is structural elements including: the character & characterization, theme, plot, setting, and style. The theme of the movie: In council war is agreed upon "because God wills it" and against sound advice they

march into the desert away from adequate water supplies to fight Saladin, leaving Jerusalem unguarded except for Balian, his knights, and the townspeople. Saladin's army attacks the Crusader army near to the city of Hattin, and at the Battle of Hattin, the Crusader army is annihilated. Guy and Raynald are captured; Saladin executes Raynald, and then marches on Jerusalem, sparing Guy out of tradition but stating that he is not worthy of this. Balian prepares the defences, challenging the Patriarch's advice to flee, and then knights a number of men-at-arms because "making a man a knight makes him a better fighter."

This movie uses progressive plot (straight plot), called straight plot if event in the story walked chronologically, one event cause the next event. Every person has need for the world peace in his life even ones. This situation happens as people interacts with other people that sometimes, the stronger power innervate her or him that finally pressure results un-good feeling or uncomfortable condition into the weaker one. That is why people will against that to get free no matter what he or she tries to effort as long as he or she can try to overcome.

Based on the phenomenon, the writer is interested in analyzing this film by using sociological approach because this film relates to the human efforts in realizing personal wishes and the need for the world peace. So the writer constructs the title **“The Need for the World Peace in Ridley Scott’s *Kingdom of Heaven* Movie (2005): A Sociological Approach”**.

## **B. Literature Review**

The first study about *Kingdom of Heaven* is conducted by Petter Kreeft's (2009). His study entitled "Religious Conflict in *Kingdom of Heaven*": A Sociological Approach. The result uses the data source kingdom of heaven movie. Based on the analysis the writer draws conclusion. There is religion conflict in kingdom of heaven movie between Islam and Christianity who live together. The reason conflict in kingdom of heaven movie is Guy and his armies attacked Muslim caravan and occupied territories. The crusades in Jerusalem went on until three days. Furthermore Balian asked saladin to negotiation. Finally Balian deals to give Jerusalem for saladin.

The second study is conducted by Sixstringking (2008). His study entitled "Knight over night in *Kingdom of Heaven*". He uses humanistic perspective to analyze the data. The result of the research is about the people beliefs that at the same time were sacred and its not likely would compare their beliefs to other. The research starts to give the effect that Balian is a humanistic and not religious person. This also starts to give a little insight to the movie arguments and religion.

The differences between the writer and the two previous writers are the theme and the perspective. Petter Kreeft's writes about the Religion Conflict between Islam and Christianity who live together using sociological approach. While the second writer, Sixstringking, conducts a research about the people beliefs using humanistic perspective, while the writer means to analyze the movie based on

Sociological Perspective. The writer analyzes the need for the world peace in *Kingdom of Heaven* movie using sociological perspective.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem in this research is “How the need for the world peace is reflected by the major character in *Kingdom of Heaven* movie directed by Ridley Scott at the time?”

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

In this research, the research will focus on the relation between the social backgrounds of English society in the early of 21<sup>st</sup> century and the movie as reflected in *Kingdom of Heaven*.

### **E. Objectives of the Study**

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the film based on its structural elements and technical elements by finding characters and characterizations, setting, point of view, plot, theme, *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, sound, and editing.
2. To analyze the movie based on sociological perspective, in order to know the need for the world place in the major character’s morality in Ridley Scott’s *Kingdom of Heaven*.

## **F. Benefit of Study**

There are two benefit of studying *Kingdom of Heaven* movie, which expected by researcher:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

This study is expected to contribute to the larger body of knowledge, particularly studies on Ridley Scott's *Kingdom of Heaven*.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

This study is expected to give deeper understanding about the movie especially in sociological perspective.

## **G. Research Method**

The research method of this paper is broken down into five aspects:

### **1. Type of the Study**

The type of this study is qualitative research. Means this study is more grounded. Qualitative study is the study of the fact concerts with individual behavior and the results of this study can not be fact using numbers in analyzing the data found in the movie.

### **2. Object of the Study**

Object of the research is the need for the world place in Ridley Scott's *Kingdom of Heaven* movie by using sociological perspective.

### **3. Type of Data and Data Source**

The type of data of this study is text and image. The text consists of words, phrases, or sentences that comprise the dialogue or and narration in the movie. The primary data source is the movie itself, while the secondary data source is documents related to the study, either in terms of theoretical or methodological resources.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collecting**

The techniques of collecting data include note-taking and image-capturing. Note-taking is the techniques of collecting the textual data, while image-capturing is used for collecting the visual. The writer uses library research in collecting data, which involves several steps; searching the script of the film from internet, reading the script repeatedly, marking the point in the script to make easy in analyzing it, taking image capturing to classifying the data into groups according categories of elements of literary study, and selecting the picture which the relevant of sources to support the topic of the study.

### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The writer uses sociological perspective and applies it by using the descriptive analysis. In addition, the writer also uses the structural analysis of the work. Firstly, the data are arranged in a list of data. Secondly, the

researcher is looking for a selecting the relevant of the data by using the chosen approach. Thirdly, all data from the second step are arranged. Finally, a conclusion is drawn.

## **H. Research Organization**

This paper is divided into six chapters. Chapter I is introduction, which explains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, research limitation, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, research method and thesis organization. Chapter II deals with the underlying theory, which consists of sociology of literature, structural element of the movie and theoretical application. Chapter III contains the social background of English society when the author directs the movie. Chapter IV is structural analysis; the researcher wants to explain the structural element of the movie and discussion. Chapter V is sociological analysis of the movie. Chapter VI is the last chapter that consists of conclusion and suggestion.