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Elvis Presley

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It's said that most genius were luckless and short-lived, for example, Mozart, the greatest composer of the world, who born in a hapless family. Even though, he had accomplished his dream, he faced with obstacles and unfortunately he died too young. Likewise, Elvis Presley was another good example of a genius in the music history on the 20th century who died too young¹. He dealt with the tough time and gorgeous time like Mozart did. There were many stories about him that were remembered in the heart of everyone². One thing that is admiring and interesting about Elvis Presley is his brilliant idea to compose the new style of music and his fight with the criticism which later became the turning point of American's music industry and American culture.

Elvis Aaron Presley was born on January 8, 1935, in East Tupelo, Mississippi. He supposed to have a brother twin, Jesse Garon, unfortunately, he was stillborn³. The beginning of his life was not as good as in the fairy tale. He grew up as a poor, white country boy who seemed impossible to have a good life in the future. His family always faced the turbulent time, largely due to the poverty and harsh financial circumstances of his parents⁴. Yet, there were good things that happened in the family which were faith in god and loving. So, Elvis Presley was raised by true love of his

1 Website Editor, "Biography of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart" Wolfgang-Amadeus, 3 Feb 2013 <http://www.wolfgang-amadeus.at/en/biography_of_Mozart.php>

2 Harsh Kalan, "Geniuses that died young" Guylife, 3 Feb 2013 <<http://guylife.com/news-vices/wasted-promise-geniuses-that-died-young/4471>>

3 Website Editor, "About the King - Biography" Elvis, 3 Feb 2013 <http://www.elvis.com/about-the-king/biography_.aspx>

4 Website Editor, "Elvis's middle name, is it Aron or Aaron?" Elvis Australia, 3 Feb 2013 <http://www.elvispresleymusic.com.au/elvis_presley_1935_1953.html>

parents and he was taught to have a faith in god as well. Presley and his parents attended to the local First Assembly of God Church where it was a good moment for them to sing gospel music together. Thus, Gospel music absorbed in Elvis's life and became the beginning of his inspiration in music⁵.

As aforementioned, Elvis started to pay attention to singing. At the age of 11, Elvis got his first own guitar and he carried it with him every day⁶. He always sang when he was a high school student. He tried to find the way to hear music in Memphis – radio, churches, record stores, night clubs and so on. He also played with a band for Lauderdale Courts⁷. When the time passed by, He began his singing career with the legendary Sun records label in Memphis. Elvis tried to create a new style of American music. He used his own experience about music to compose his song. He integrated a mixture of gospel music, pop, the black R&B and the white music together into one song, then, he got Heartbreak Hotel as his first single. When it was released, people interested in it and it became a number-one hit that could be sold over million copies⁸. He was popular overnight. In the process, he became the first genuine of Rock 'N Roll icon. Elvis's song was the turning point of American's music industry and culture.

Elvis's music became the beginning of youth culture. After his first single was released, he allowed his hair and sideburns grow longer and his clothes changed to wild and flashy clothes that made him look outstanding⁹. With his style, unique voice and provocative dancing, people especially young females fell in love with him. Even though, there were some critics particularly old generations who hated him and

5 Webmaster, “The Religious Affiliation of Rock 'N Roll Pioneer, Elvis Presley” Adherents, 4 Feb 2013 <http://www.adherents.com/people/pp/Elvis_Presley.html>

6 Christine Wilson , “Feature Story, Elvis Presley” Mississippi history now , 3 Feb 2013 <<http://mshistorynow.mdah.state.ms.us/articles/32/elvis-presley-the-early-years>>

7 Website Editor, “Elvis Presley” Elvis Presley Music , 3 Feb 2013 <http://www.elvispresleymusic.com.au/elvis_presley_1935_1953.html>

8 Website Editor, “Elvis Presley” Wikipedia , 3 Feb 2013 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elvis_Presley>

9 Website Editor, “1953-1958, Here's what happened. Try to keep up. Elvis did” , Sheilaomalley, 5 Feb 2013 <<http://www.sheilaomalley.com/?p=57741>>

criticized him that his dancing was too much sexual harassment and he was a bad figure for the youth, it did not knock him down because he continued do what he loved. All of American teenagers began copying his clothes, hairstyle, the way he sang and dance. In short, young males wanted to be just like him and young females wanted to be with him. They gave the comments that Elvis Presley was their idol who led them to express their feeling through their appearances. The changes of youth culture did not occur only in America but also the rest of the world¹⁰.

Moreover, Elvis's music broke the wall of racial segregation. Since his music was combined from a black R&B and a white country music, people started to pay attention to African American music which had a positive on racial relations. He opened the door for the African Americans have the freedom through express themselves physically and mentally. He had to challenge the social and moral values at the time to change people's attitude toward to his music. Thus, the number of young supporters who listen to Elvis's music increased dramatically¹¹.

Throughout his career, it was not as good as novel. He had to deal with many barriers and criticisms that attempted to put him down, yet he never gave up and fight for what he loved and tried to prove himself. Elvis finally had a gorgeous time of his life. He had a huge fan around the world. He was accepted as “The King of Rock 'N Roll” who also got many awards such as the Grammy awards and more. At that time, he was only 36 years old¹².

Unfortunately, his gorgeous time was not last for very long as he hoped to be. Elvis Presley died of cardiac arrhythmia which was interpreted as a severely irregular

10 Marcie Wallace, “Elvis Presley;A revolutionist” Lagrange, 5 Feb 2013,
<http://www.lagrange.edu/resources/pdf/citations/2012/11_Wallace_History.pdf>

11 Andrew Coppa , “Elvis Presley” Studymode, 5 Feb 2013
<<http://www.studymode.com/essays/Elvis-Presley-662335.html>>

12 Website Editor, “Elvis – Overview of Achievements” Elvis , 6 Feb 2013
<<http://www.elvis.com/about-the-king/achievements.aspx>>

heartbeat when he was only 42 years old. His death shocked his fan around the world. He was too young to pass away¹³. Although the way in which Elvis dies was not always the good way to remember the contribution he made while they lived, its only thing that we can do to reminisce him. Elvis Presley became the legend of Rock 'N Roll whose name and story will be in everyone's hearts everlasting.

13 The Big Wiper, "Death on The Throne: The passing of Elvis Presley" Poopreport , 6 Feb 2013
<<http://www.poopreport.com/Intellectual/Content/Elvis/elvis.html?page=1>>