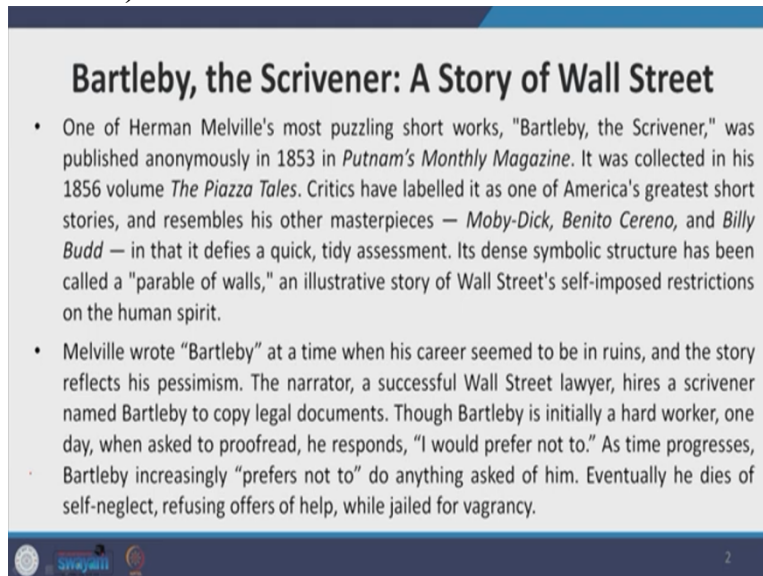


Narrative Mode and Fiction
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Lecture - 41
Short Story in the Modern and Post-Modern Era

Good morning and welcome back to the lecture series on narrative mode and fiction we are discussing short story in the modern and postmodern era. Today our topic of discussion is going to be *Bartleby the Scrivener* a Story of Wall Street by Melville.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- One of Herman Melville's most puzzling short works, "Bartleby, the Scrivener," was published anonymously in 1853 in *Putnam's Monthly Magazine*. It was collected in his 1856 volume *The Piazza Tales*. Critics have labelled it as one of America's greatest short stories, and resembles his other masterpieces — *Moby-Dick*, *Benito Cereno*, and *Billy Budd* — in that it defies a quick, tidy assessment. Its dense symbolic structure has been called a "parable of walls," an illustrative story of Wall Street's self-imposed restrictions on the human spirit.
- Melville wrote "Bartleby" at a time when his career seemed to be in ruins, and the story reflects his pessimism. The narrator, a successful Wall Street lawyer, hires a scrivener named Bartleby to copy legal documents. Though Bartleby is initially a hard worker, one day, when asked to proofread, he responds, "I would prefer not to." As time progresses, Bartleby increasingly "prefers not to" do anything asked of him. Eventually he dies of self-neglect, refusing offers of help, while jailed for vagrancy.

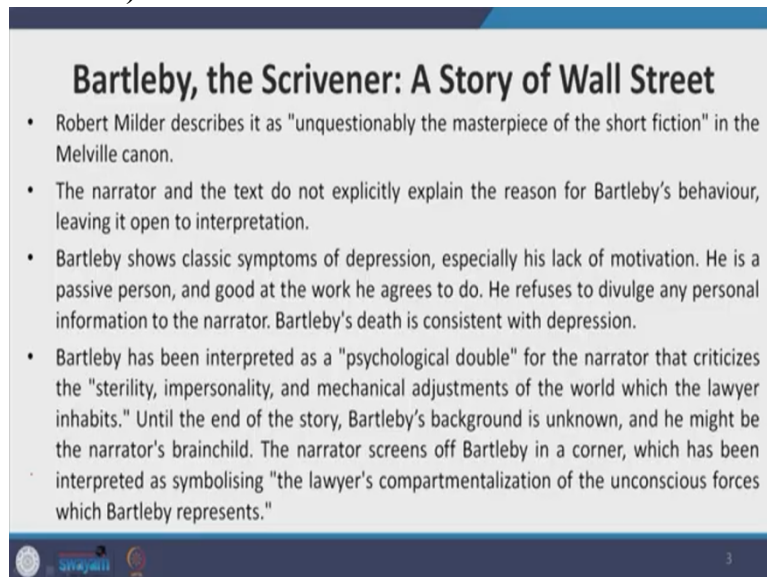
So one of Herman Melville's most puzzling short works is *Bartleby the Scrivener* and it was published anonymously in 1853 in Putnam's monthly magazine. It was collected in his 1856 volume *The Piazza Tales*. Critics have labeled it as one of America's greatest short stories. And it resembles his other masterpieces such as *Moby Dick*, *Benito Cereno* and *Billy Budd*, in that it defies any kind of quick tidy assessment or coming to conclusion arriving to conclusion.

And it is a dense symbolic structure has been called a parable of walls which is an illustration I mean which is an illustrative story of wall street's self-imposed restrictions on the human spirit. So it is dense symbolic structure has been called a parable of walls and the symbol of wall keeps coming back in the story through the name wall street. And that the wall like a deadlock that the protagonist Bartleby faces in his office throughout.

The Wall Street and, the wall as a self-imposed restrictions on the human spirit so Herman Melville's work *Bartleby* was written at a time when his career seemed to be in ruins. And the story reflects his pessimism the narrator who is a successful Wall Street lawyer hires a scrivener named Bartleby, to copy the legal documents though Bartleby is initially a hard worker one day when asked to proofread. He responds to lawyer that I would prefer not to.

As time progresses in the narrative Bartleby increasingly prefers not to do anything asked of him by his boss. And eventually he dies of self-neglect refusing offers of help while he is jailed for vagrancy. So he makes a wall around him where he is neither helping others nor seeking others help, and he wastes away and dies eventually to at the end of the story.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- Robert Milder describes it as "unquestionably the masterpiece of the short fiction" in the Melville canon.
- The narrator and the text do not explicitly explain the reason for Bartleby's behaviour, leaving it open to interpretation.
- Bartleby shows classic symptoms of depression, especially his lack of motivation. He is a passive person, and good at the work he agrees to do. He refuses to divulge any personal information to the narrator. Bartleby's death is consistent with depression.
- Bartleby has been interpreted as a "psychological double" for the narrator that criticizes the "sterility, impersonality, and mechanical adjustments of the world which the lawyer inhabits." Until the end of the story, Bartleby's background is unknown, and he might be the narrator's brainchild. The narrator screens off Bartleby in a corner, which has been interpreted as symbolising "the lawyer's compartmentalization of the unconscious forces which Bartleby represents."

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So Robert Milder describes this work as unquestionably the masterpiece of the short fiction in the Melville canon. The narrator and the text do not explicitly tell us the reason why Bartleby is behaving, in a certain manner. And so his behavior is open to the reader's interpretation Bartleby shows classic symptoms of depression according to many psychoanalytical readings. Bartleby shows classic symptoms of depression especially his lack of motivation in life.

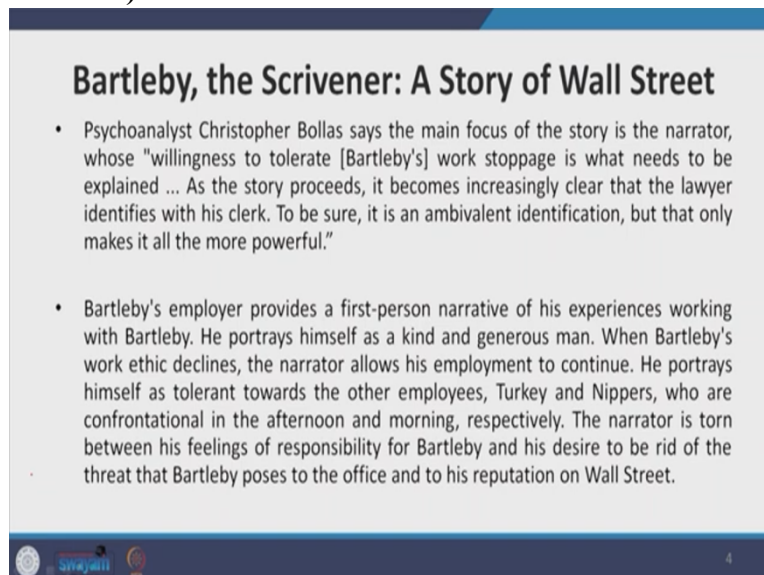
He is an inert passive individual and good at the work he agrees to do till he starts to refuse and he chooses he prefers not to work. And he refuses to divulge any personal information to the narrator who is also his boss Bartleby's death is consistent with various typical symptoms of depression. So Bartleby has been interviewed as a psychological double for the narrator himself that criticizes the sterility impersonality.

And mechanical adjustments of the world which the lawyer inhabits until the end of the story the Bartleby's, background is unknown. So other than for his dimension of life as a scrivener so the professional dimension of his life the reader or the narrator who is his boss, the lawyer have no way of knowing any other facets of Bartleby's life. So one could read this story in a way where Bartleby is purely a figment of the narrative's imagination.

That Bartleby is the narrator's brain child in fact the, narrative screens of Bartleby in a corner in the office which has been interpreted; as symbolizing the lawyer's compartmentalization of the unconscious forces, which Bartleby represents. So through introduction of Bartleby in this story it becomes a narrator's journey from the prosaic from the mundane to discovering to you know to facing up to some aspects within himself some unconscious forces, within himself.

And you know discovering new possibilities within himself. So Bartleby might be a kind of Bartleby might stand for the suppressed possibilities inside the lawyer the inside the law is personal. They are not that the undiscovered unconscious dimensions of the lawyer himself.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- Psychoanalyst Christopher Bollas says the main focus of the story is the narrator, whose "willingness to tolerate [Bartleby's] work stoppage is what needs to be explained ... As the story proceeds, it becomes increasingly clear that the lawyer identifies with his clerk. To be sure, it is an ambivalent identification, but that only makes it all the more powerful."
- Bartleby's employer provides a first-person narrative of his experiences working with Bartleby. He portrays himself as a kind and generous man. When Bartleby's work ethic declines, the narrator allows his employment to continue. He portrays himself as tolerant towards the other employees, Turkey and Nippers, who are confrontational in the afternoon and morning, respectively. The narrator is torn between his feelings of responsibility for Bartleby and his desire to be rid of the threat that Bartleby poses to the office and to his reputation on Wall Street.

So psychoanalyst Christopher Bollas states that the main focus of the story is, the narrator whose I quote willingness to tolerate Bartleby's work stoppage is what needs to be explained. As the story proceeds it becomes increasingly clear that the lawyer identifies with his clerk to be sure it is an ambivalent identification but that only makes it all the more powerful. And

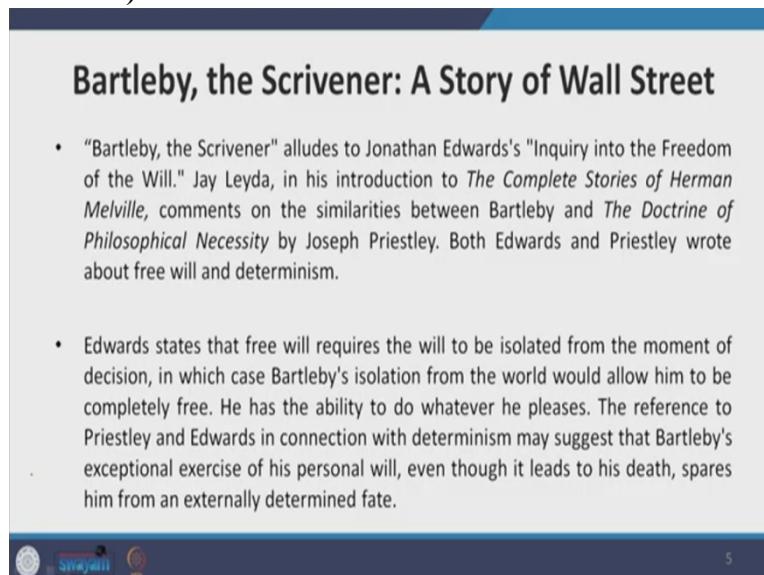
good now, Bartleby's employer provides a first person narrative of his experiences working with Bartleby.

He, portrays himself as a kind and generous man once again there is a lot of pomposity a lot of complacency and you know self-congratulatory attitude in considering himself as the ideal boss. And constantly wanting to help Bartleby however in his own terms what he considers as help may not be seen as so no may not be seen as such by Bartleby. So when Bartleby's work ethic declines the narrator, allows his employment his job to continue.

And the narrator the boss throughout portrays is himself as a tolerant man towards all his employees. We have these are the 2 employees apart from Bartleby who are named Turkey and Nippers and they are confrontational in the afternoon and morning alternately. So we see that the narrator is torn between his feelings of responsibility for Bartleby and his desire, to get rid of the threat that Bartleby poses to the office.

And to his reputation on the Wall Street so, Bartleby is a breakaway from the on goings from the lifestyle that symptomizes the lifestyle that symbolizes the Wall Street culture.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- "Bartleby, the Scrivener" alludes to Jonathan Edwards's "Inquiry into the Freedom of the Will." Jay Leyda, in his introduction to *The Complete Stories of Herman Melville*, comments on the similarities between Bartleby and *The Doctrine of Philosophical Necessity* by Joseph Priestley. Both Edwards and Priestley wrote about free will and determinism.
- Edwards states that free will requires the will to be isolated from the moment of decision, in which case Bartleby's isolation from the world would allow him to be completely free. He has the ability to do whatever he pleases. The reference to Priestley and Edwards in connection with determinism may suggest that Bartleby's exceptional exercise of his personal will, even though it leads to his death, spares him from an externally determined fate.

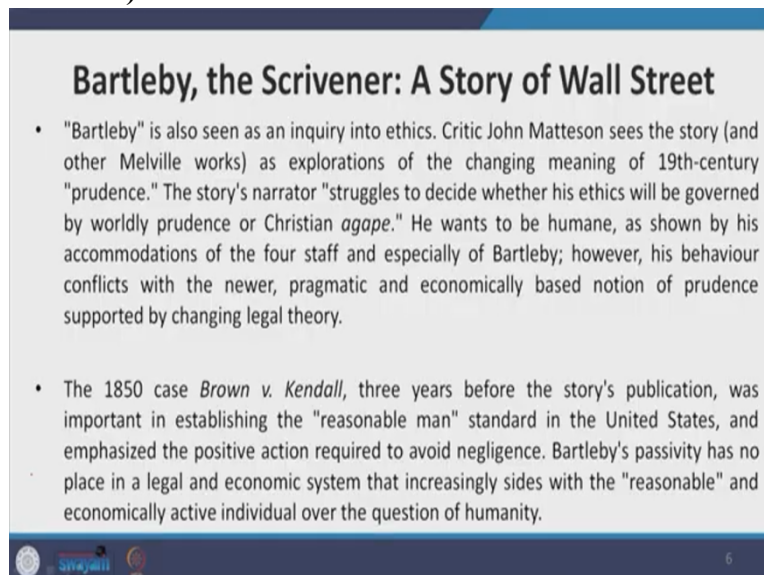
So he is a breakaway he is an unfit to the Wall Street professional culture Bartleby discriminate, alludes to Jonathan Edwards's inquiry into, the freedom of the will Jay Leyda in his introduction to the complete stories of Herman Melville. Comments on the similarity between Bartley and the doctrine of philosophical necessity by Joseph Priestly both Edwards and Priestly wrote about free will and determinism.

So Edward states that free will require as a will to be isolated from the moment of decision in which case Bartleby's isolation from the, rest of the world allows him enables him to be completely free. Free in the true sense where he has no transactional relationship with the world neither does he give you know nor does he abide by commands from his commands or demands from his boss.

He has the ability to do whatever he pleases that is the actual freedom that Bartleby symbolizes the reference to Priestly and Edwards in connection with, determinism is suggest that Bartleby is exceptional exercise of his personal will although, it leads to his wasting away. And eventually to his death spares him from an externally determined fate so his death is something that he chooses.

I mean this is going into the question of the agency of the suicidal person a person who suicides also, exhibit some form of great agency where the external determinants do not function on him at the moment of suicide in many cases. So he works from within and he is not made to work from without Bartleby we can also be seen as an inquiry into ethics.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- "Bartleby" is also seen as an inquiry into ethics. Critic John Matteson sees the story (and other Melville works) as explorations of the changing meaning of 19th-century "prudence." The story's narrator "struggles to decide whether his ethics will be governed by worldly prudence or Christian *agape*." He wants to be humane, as shown by his accommodations of the four staff and especially of Bartleby; however, his behaviour conflicts with the newer, pragmatic and economically based notion of prudence supported by changing legal theory.
- The 1850 case *Brown v. Kendall*, three years before the story's publication, was important in establishing the "reasonable man" standard in the United States, and emphasized the positive action required to avoid negligence. Bartleby's passivity has no place in a legal and economic system that increasingly sides with the "reasonable" and economically active individual over the question of humanity.

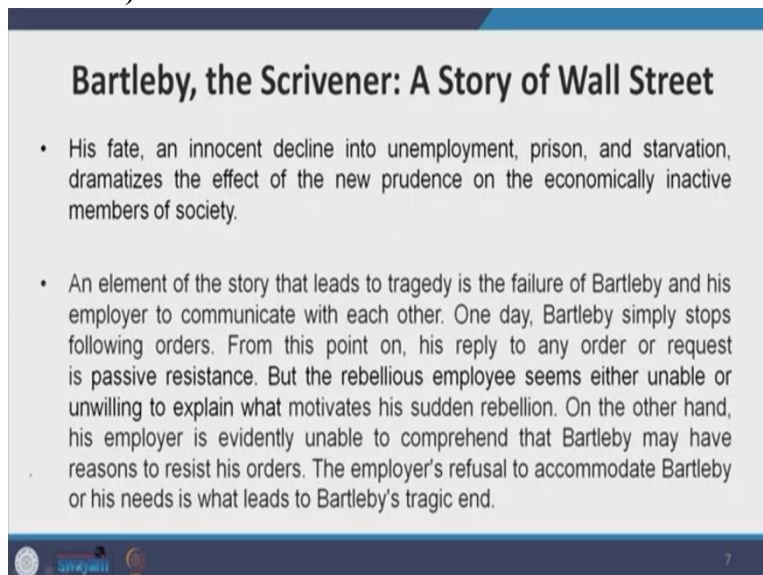
Critic John Matteson sees the story and other Melville's works as you know explorations of the changing meanings of the 19th century question of prudence. The subject of prudence the story is narrator, struggles to decide whether his ethics will be governed by worldly prudence or Christian. Again he wants to be humane he consciously wants to display his humanitarian side as through acts you know such as accommodating the 4 staffs.

And especially Bartleby each of whom have their own quirks their own oddities eccentricities however his behavior conflicts with the newer pragmatic and, economically based notion of prudence which is rather supported by changing legal theory. So to accommodate the oddities of one's subordinates is a very past decade notion of prudence and ethics to poses or to posit a prudence based on pragmatism. And you know economic cognizance and economic practicality supports the current understanding of prudence and ethics.

So then 1850 case Brown versus Kendall which happened 3 years before the; story's publication was important in establishing the reasonable man's standard in the US. And this man of reason keeps coming back to confront and to lure the psyche of this lawyer boss in the story the narrator in the story. And so the reasonable man stand is a, it emphasizes the positive action that is required to avoid.

Any sort of negligence Bartleby's passivity has no place in a legal and economic system that increasingly sides with the reasonable. And the economically active the economically viable and the question of productivity the productive individual and this kind of a question of who is reasonable? Who is productive? Who is economically contributing gradually shrouds? And overthrows the question of humanity.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- His fate, an innocent decline into unemployment, prison, and starvation, dramatizes the effect of the new prudence on the economically inactive members of society.
- An element of the story that leads to tragedy is the failure of Bartleby and his employer to communicate with each other. One day, Bartleby simply stops following orders. From this point on, his reply to any order or request is passive resistance. But the rebellious employee seems either unable or unwilling to explain what motivates his sudden rebellion. On the other hand, his employer is evidently unable to comprehend that Bartleby may have reasons to resist his orders. The employer's refusal to accommodate Bartleby or his needs is what leads to Bartleby's tragic end.

So Bartleby's fate is an, innocent decline that leads him to unemployment followed by prison then starvation and it dramatizes the effect of the new prudence on the economically inactive members of society. So Bartleby in a way is a concept he is a representative of all such

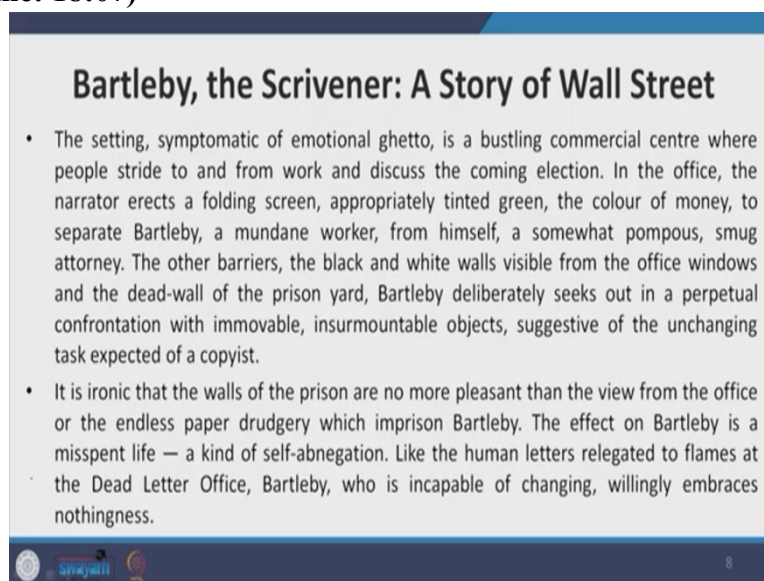
figures that were not you know that could not be included. According to the new definition of prudence those who were not economically are active, and contributing to the progress of the society they might as well face the same you know destiny as Bartleby.

An element of the story that leads to tragedy is the failure of Bartleby and his employee to communicate with each other there is definitely a lapse of communication throughout the narrative. So in one instance Bartleby simply stops following orders from one day suddenly Bartleby stops following orders from this point onward is relying on any order or request is his you know response to so from this point in the story.

And in his life Bartleby's response to any order or any request made to him is passive resistance but the rebellious employees seems either unable or unwilling to explain what motivates this sudden rebellions this certain rebellion this sudden passive resistance. On the other hand we have the lawyer his boss who is evidently unable to comprehend that Bartleby may have his own reasons to defy the orders we made to him.

The employers refusal to accommodate Bartleby or his needs is what leads to Bartleby tragic end. So this crack this lapse between what the boss orders and how Bartleby cannot, carry it out cannot implement contains the chirm contains the canal of you know the future where Bartleby is going to die. He does not fit into the wall street professional culture and the new notions of ethics.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- The setting, symptomatic of emotional ghetto, is a bustling commercial centre where people stride to and from work and discuss the coming election. In the office, the narrator erects a folding screen, appropriately tinted green, the colour of money, to separate Bartleby, a mundane worker, from himself, a somewhat pompous, smug attorney. The other barriers, the black and white walls visible from the office windows and the dead-wall of the prison yard, Bartleby deliberately seeks out in a perpetual confrontation with immovable, insurmountable objects, suggestive of the unchanging task expected of a copyist.
- It is ironic that the walls of the prison are no more pleasant than the view from the office or the endless paper drudgery which imprison Bartleby. The effect on Bartleby is a misspent life — a kind of self-abnegation. Like the human letters relegated to flames at the Dead Letter Office, Bartleby, who is incapable of changing, willingly embraces nothingness.

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The setting of the story is symptomatic of emotional ghetto and there is this bustling commercial center where people stride to and from work and discuss the upcoming election in the office. The narrator erects a falling screen appropriately tinted green the color of money to separate Bartleby who is a mundane worker from himself and he being a pompous smug attorney there are other barriers too in the narrative in the story.

There are other barriers to in the story such as the black and white walls visible from the office windows and the dead wall of the prison yard like I said. At the beginning of this discussion the walls the symbol of the walls of a deadlock beyond which the horizon cannot be seen the horizon has kind of come to the individual and hemmed the individual in becomes very important.

And it is a recurrent you know its recurrence throughout the story deliberately seeks out in a perpetual confrontation with some immovable insurmountable objects he is the that the walls symbolize the insuperable situation that hems him in till he dies. And it is suggestive of the unchanging task expected of a copies of a scrivener what happens what becomes of the free will of a clerk an unimaginative clerk whose work is a drudgery whose work is only a reputation.

Where the thinking is separated from the hand functions on its own it just copies, day after day till it loses its capacity. The person loses its capacity to think freely respond freely and act freely. I mean we think of Bartleby's you know rebellion as a recuperation of his agency that is greatly threatened through a prosaic task such as that of the scrivener of this clerk the copies it is ironical that the walls of the prison are no more present.

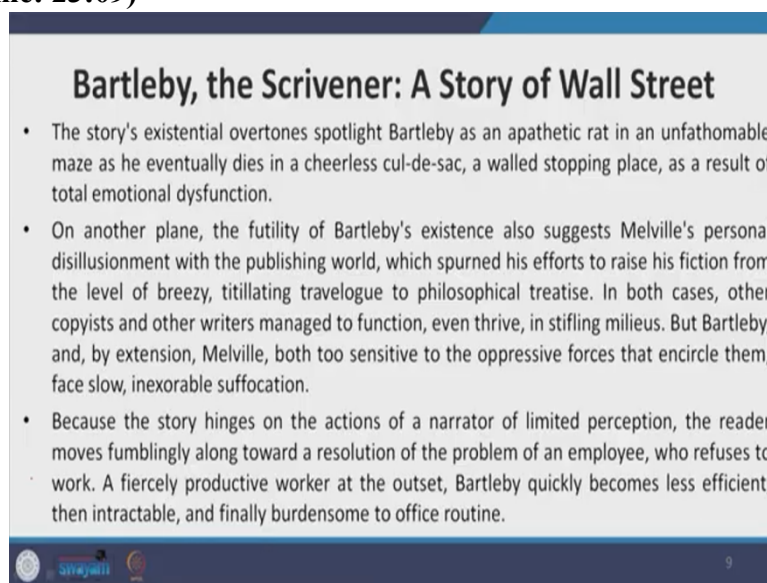
Than the view that he had from the office or the endless paper drudgery which imprison Bartleby so is he better or is he worse in the prison than he was in the lawyer's office with the kind of task. And the kind of sitting position the kind of you know office that he had that was ascribed to him assigned to him he is you know. He is diminished by the endless repetitive task that he is required to fulfill the clinical task, that does not require his originality his creativity his in intervention.

So one could also read that Bartley's comment on one fine day that I preferent of onto is a way of reviving that part of him which that you know facet of him which is jeopardized

which is almost made to die by the requirements of the wall street. What is the wall street require of a scrivener such as Bartleby with very limited economic and cultural capital someone who is not very educated not very moneyed what is such a person reduced to by a space such as the wall street.

The effect on Bartleby is that of a misspent life a kind of self abnegation and earlier he worked in the dead letters office. Where like the humans letters are relegated to flames and so Bartleby is also like, those dead literacy is incapable of changing and he willingly embraces some sort of nothingness.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- The story's existential overtones spotlight Bartleby as an apathetic rat in an unfathomable maze as he eventually dies in a cheerless cul-de-sac, a walled stopping place, as a result of total emotional dysfunction.
- On another plane, the futility of Bartleby's existence also suggests Melville's personal disillusionment with the publishing world, which spurned his efforts to raise his fiction from the level of breezy, titillating travelogue to philosophical treatise. In both cases, other copyists and other writers managed to function, even thrive, in stifling milieus. But Bartleby, and, by extension, Melville, both too sensitive to the oppressive forces that encircle them, face slow, inexorable suffocation.
- Because the story hinges on the actions of a narrator of limited perception, the reader moves fumblingly along toward a resolution of the problem of an employee, who refuses to work. A fiercely productive worker at the outset, Bartleby quickly becomes less efficient, then intractable, and finally burdensome to office routine.

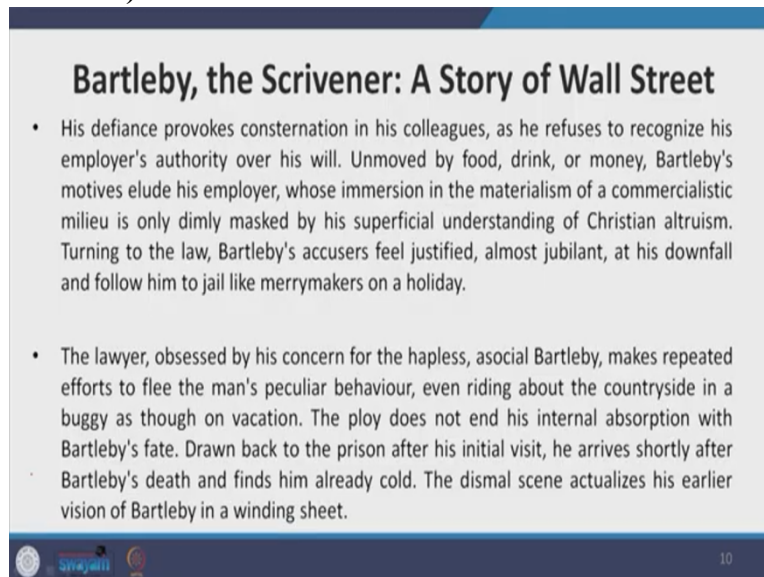
So the story is existential overtones a spotlight Bartleby as an apathetic indifferent rat in an unfathomable maze as he eventually dies in a cheerless cul-de-sac a walled place. As a result of a total emotional dysfunction that is happening inside of him on another plane one could like I have already, stated one could relate the futility of Bartleby's existence with Melville's personal disillusionment personal you know failures.

As a writer his fiasco with the publishing world which spurned his efforts to raise his fiction from the level of breezy you know travelogue to something serious such as philosophical treaties. In both cases we see other copyists other writers are managing to function and, even thrive in stifling milieus but Melville is like Bartleby to an extent where he is crashing his career is crashing.

So Bartleby and by extension Melville both are too sensitive to the oppressive forces that encircle them. And finally that you know choke them suffocate them because the story hinges on the actions of a narrator of you know a narrator with a very perception the reader moves, you know forward the reader struggles fumbles to move forward towards a resolution to the problem that faces and an employer.

And the dilemma that faces and employees such as Bartleby who refuses to work all together a fiercely productive worker at the outset. Bartleby suddenly becomes less efficient and then he becomes you know an intractable worker till he finally becomes a burden to the office, routine that needs to be somehow carried out.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- His defiance provokes consternation in his colleagues, as he refuses to recognize his employer's authority over his will. Unmoved by food, drink, or money, Bartleby's motives elude his employer, whose immersion in the materialism of a commercialistic milieu is only dimly masked by his superficial understanding of Christian altruism. Turning to the law, Bartleby's accusers feel justified, almost jubilant, at his downfall and follow him to jail like merry-makers on a holiday.
- The lawyer, obsessed by his concern for the hapless, asocial Bartleby, makes repeated efforts to flee the man's peculiar behaviour, even riding about the countryside in a buggy as though on vacation. The ploy does not end his internal absorption with Bartleby's fate. Drawn back to the prison after his initial visit, he arrives shortly after Bartleby's death and finds him already cold. The dismal scene actualizes his earlier vision of Bartleby in a winding sheet.

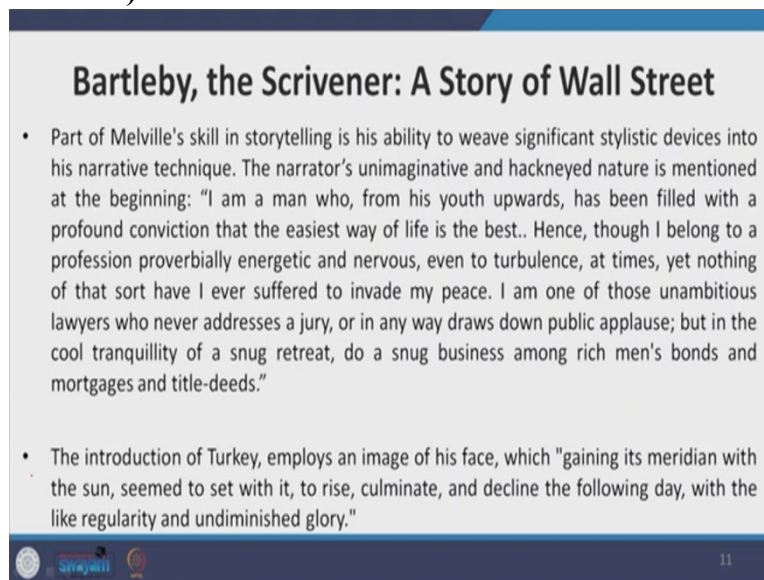
So that his defiance Bartleby's defiance provokes you know shock consternation in his colleagues as he refuses to recognize his employer's authority over his own free will. He is unmoved by food, drink or even the money that is offered to him when Bartleby's motives elude his employer who has the perception of being, a very kind you know a very charitable, boss he is smug you know extremely condescending in this regard.

And this is also this perception about himself the lawyer's perception about himself emerges from his you know immersion Steve immersion in the materialistic life in a you know commercialistic milieu. And he can only dimly understand Bartleby's dilemma he is trying to intercept the case that Bartleby is through certain very, superficial understanding of Christian altruism. So turning to the law Bartleby's accusers feel justified almost jubilant.

As the chase him as they follow him like many makers to the prison to his downfall. So the lawyer is obsessed by his concern for this hapless this useless asocial Bartleby and he makes repeated efforts to flee to the man's peculiar behavior. He even tries riding about the countryside in a buggy as though he is on a vacation the ploy does not end his internal absorption with Bartleby's feet he is drawn back to the prison after his initial visit.

And arrives shortly after Bartleby's death so he goes visits in the prison and then again arrives shortly after Bartleby's death and finds him already hold. So, this so we see the skills of Melville's you know the skills as a storyteller.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- Part of Melville's skill in storytelling is his ability to weave significant stylistic devices into his narrative technique. The narrator's unimaginative and hackneyed nature is mentioned at the beginning: "I am a man who, from his youth upwards, has been filled with a profound conviction that the easiest way of life is the best.. Hence, though I belong to a profession proverbially energetic and nervous, even to turbulence, at times, yet nothing of that sort have I ever suffered to invade my peace. I am one of those unambitious lawyers who never addresses a jury, or in any way draws down public applause; but in the cool tranquillity of a snug retreat, do a snug business among rich men's bonds and mortgages and title-deeds."
- The introduction of Turkey, employs an image of his face, which "gaining its meridian with the sun, seemed to set with it, to rise, culminate, and decline the following day, with the like regularity and undiminished glory."

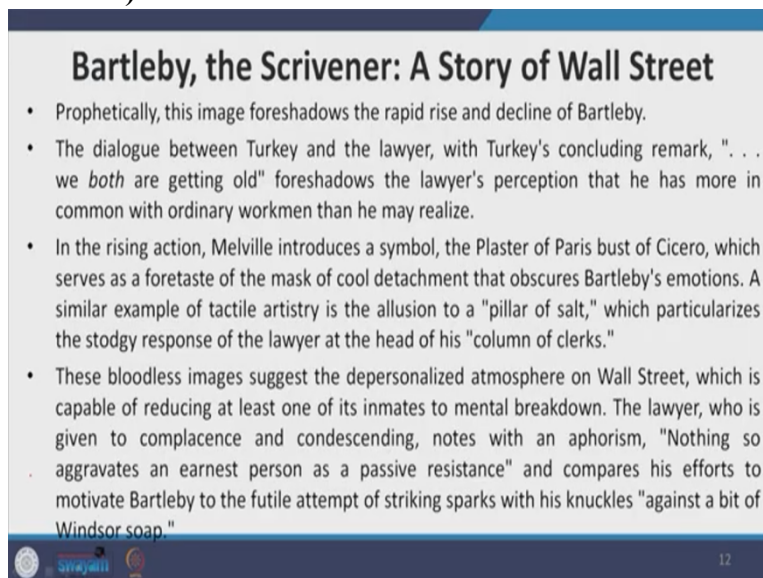
We see Melville's skill as a storyteller as he is able to weave a significant stylistic devices into his narrative technique at the outset the narrator the lawyers unimaginative and hackneyed kind of nature is mentioned. I would quote from the story he says I am a man who from his youth upwards has been filled with a profound conviction that the easiest way of life is the best.

Hence though I belong to a profession probably energetic and nervous even to turbulence at times yet nothing of that sort has I ever suffered to invade my peace. I am one of those unambitious lawyers who never addresses a jury nor in any way draws down public applause. But in the cool tranquillity of a snug retreat do a snug business among rich men's bones and mortgages and title deeds unquote.

So, here we have a very unadventurous character who has very hackneyed state of existence he does not think differently. He enjoys a monotonous life without much variation without too many challenges coming in and then the introduction of Turkey employs an image of his face which is gaining its meridian with the sun seems to set with it to rise culminate and decline the following day, with the regularity and undiminished glory.

So the mood is of Turkey another employee in his office is compared with the rising and the setting of the sun the entire trajectory of the sun in the course of an entire day. Now prophetically this image foreshadows also the rise the rapid rise and decline fall of Bartleby.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- Prophetically, this image foreshadows the rapid rise and decline of Bartleby.
- The dialogue between Turkey and the lawyer, with Turkey's concluding remark, ". . . we *both* are getting old" foreshadows the lawyer's perception that he has more in common with ordinary workmen than he may realize.
- In the rising action, Melville introduces a symbol, the Plaster of Paris bust of Cicero, which serves as a foretaste of the mask of cool detachment that obscures Bartleby's emotions. A similar example of tactile artistry is the allusion to a "pillar of salt," which particularizes the stodgy response of the lawyer at the head of his "column of clerks."
- These bloodless images suggest the depersonalized atmosphere on Wall Street, which is capable of reducing at least one of its inmates to mental breakdown. The lawyer, who is given to complacence and condescending, notes with an aphorism, "Nothing so aggravates an earnest person as a passive resistance" and compares his efforts to motivate Bartleby to the futile attempt of striking sparks with his knuckles "against a bit of Windsor soap."

Now the; dialect between Turkey and the boss the lawyer and Turkey's concluding remark. I quote we both are getting old unquote foreshadows the lawyer's perception that he has more in common with his subordinates with these ordinary you know scrivener's and clerks working under him than he may ever realize. So there is this commonality where his subordinate and him are both getting old this is the inevitable fate for everyone regardless of the status one holds in the society.

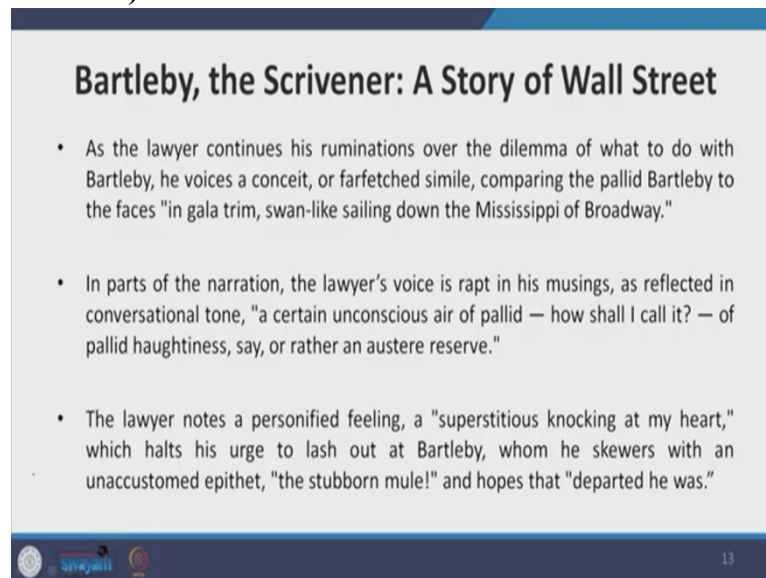
The social position one enjoys Melville introduces the symbol of the Plaster of Paris bust of Cicero which serves as a you know a marker which serves as a marker of the or which serves as a symbol of the mask of cool detachment that obscures Bartleby's emotions from the rest of the office. A similar example of you know his artistry the author's artistry is available in his allusion to a pillar of salt which particular which particularizes the stodgy response of the lawyer at the head of his column of clerks.

So all these images are very bland very you know bloodless in a sense and they suggests the depersonalized atmosphere on wall street the mechanical robotic dimension of life. The robotic kind of life that is encouraged and promoted in wall street wall culture which is capable of, reducing any of these workers to their mental breakdown, which could pursue a worker to his mental breakdown which happens actually too in the case of Bartleby.

The lawyer who is given who is smug and complacent and who is also quite condescending. So the lawyer who is given to complacency and is also quite condescending, notes with an aphorism and I quote from the story nothing so aggravates an earnest person as a passive resistance. And he compares Bartleby's you know his he compares his futile attempts at getting some response from Bartleby.

Or motivating Bartleby we the futile attempt of striking you know sparks with one's knuckles against a bit of Windsor soap. So his failure motivate Bartleby to you know get some information from what will be regarding his quandary his dilemma is compared you know with the futile attempt of striking sparks with one's knuckles against a bit of Windsor soap.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- As the lawyer continues his ruminations over the dilemma of what to do with Bartleby, he voices a conceit, or farfetched simile, comparing the pallid Bartleby to the faces "in gala trim, swan-like sailing down the Mississippi of Broadway."
- In parts of the narration, the lawyer's voice is rapt in his musings, as reflected in conversational tone, "a certain unconscious air of pallid — how shall I call it? — of pallid haughtiness, say, or rather an austere reserve."
- The lawyer notes a personified feeling, a "superstitious knocking at my heart," which halts his urge to lash out at Bartleby, whom he skewers with an unaccustomed epithet, "the stubborn mule!" and hopes that "departed he was."

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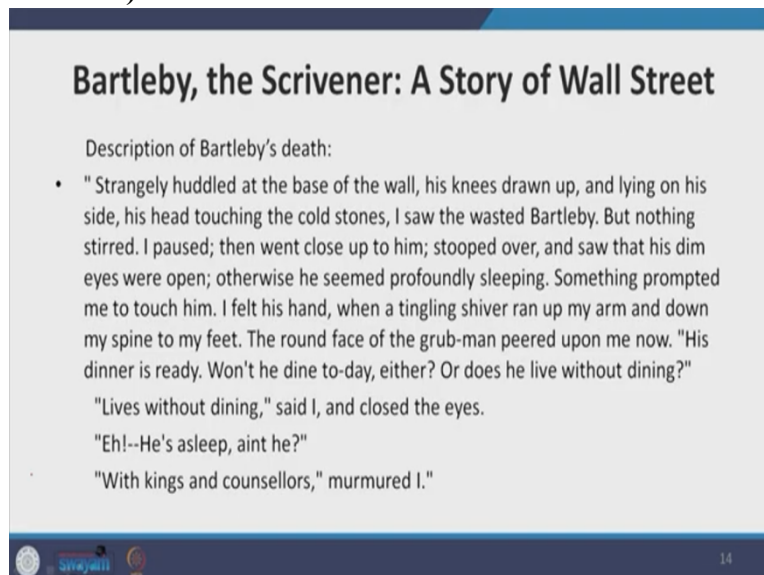
So the lawyer continues his remunerations over the dilemma of what to do with a passive you know dysfunctional character such as Bartleby and he voices his own conceit. Thereby he compares at one point you know the pallid Bartleby to the faces in gala trim swan like sailing down the Mississippi of Broadway. So also in some parts of the narration the lawyers voice is wrapped in his own musings Melville is a master in portraying these inner musings.

The wistful state of the boss himself through a conversational tone so for example we see that the boss is thinking aloud or his thinking is being documented by the author. The way one thinks that is the language one can capture that is the language that Melville is capturing in the story. So for example at one point the boss as a way of you know musing he is thinking inwardly a certain unconscious air of pallid.

Or how shall I call it of pallid haughtiness say or rather an austerial reserve so, he is you know revisiting the words that, he wants to apply for a character. And odd characters such as Bartleby he is constantly revisiting the words he is looking for the right word to describe a case that Bartleby is and that is you know the inner world the inner psyche that is so well captured by Herman Melville.

So the author knows you know a personified feeling a superstitious knocking at the heart which halts his urge to lash out at Bartleby. So many a times he feels like lashing out but he also controls himself and many a times he goes to the extent of calling Bartleby as a stubborn mule and he hopes that he was gone departed he was.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

Description of Bartleby's death:

- "Strangely huddled at the base of the wall, his knees drawn up, and lying on his side, his head touching the cold stones, I saw the wasted Bartleby. But nothing stirred. I paused; then went close up to him; stooped over, and saw that his dim eyes were open; otherwise he seemed profoundly sleeping. Something prompted me to touch him. I felt his hand, when a tingling shiver ran up my arm and down my spine to my feet. The round face of the grub-man peered upon me now. "His dinner is ready. Won't he dine to-day, either? Or does he live without dining?"

"Lives without dining," said I, and closed the eyes.

"Eh!--He's asleep, aint he?"

"With kings and counsellors," murmured I."

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I would like to quickly go through the description of Bartleby's death in the end where you know the deaths like I said. Bartleby could be a figment of the narrator's imagination a part of you know a possibility in him which was either to repressed, which was you know a part of his unconscious. And through facing Bartleby through facing the dilemma that Bartleby you

know the dilemma that Bartleby symbolizes Bartleby represents the narrator has also you know traversed a rough journey.

As a human individual from being smug complacent to you know understanding Bartleby if not entirely. He at least starts you know realizing that material goods such as food and money are not going to do any good to someone like Bartleby. Bartleby's quest Bartleby's predicament are different so although he realizes that not all questions posed by a figure like Bartleby can be answered.

But all the same he starts to understand the questions posed by Bartleby in a way he tries to make I mean what Bartleby, stands for makes more sense to the boss towards the end of the story. He has some idea why Bartleby chooses to die and the question of free will which cannot be meted with food with you know social and material and worldly pleasures so here for the description of Bartleby's death.

Melville writes I quote strangely huddled at the base of the wall, his knee is drawn up and lying on his side, his head touching the cold stones. I saw the wasted Bartleby. But nothing stirred. I paused; then went close up to him; stooped over and saw that his dim eyes were open; otherwise he seemed profoundly sleeping. Something prompted me to touch him I felt his hand when a tingling shiver ran up my arm and down my spine to my feet the round face of the grub man peered upon me now.

His dinner is, ready will not he dine today either or does he lives without dining said I and closed the eyes eh he is asleep am not he? With kings and counselors murmured I. So towards the end there is a reconciliation there is an answer to the question and that makes the boss chase his employee to the prison to his death. He kind of starts understanding what Bartleby is made up of he is reconciled with his own suppressed unconscious.

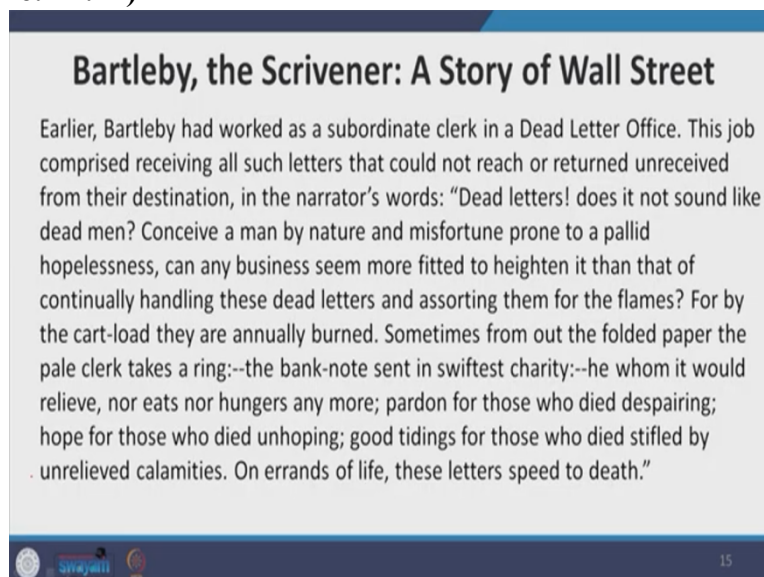
He reckons he understands a part of himself which does not belong to the wall street that could also be Bartleby so Bartleby could be this dead man who could not be accommodated who could not be contained within the wall street you know working culture. It could be a piece of the or a fragment of the boss's own personality itself. And so Bartleby not, a human but large concept can live without dining he is outside of the mundane coordinates of his outside of ordinariness.

He is dying with his eyes wide open, eyes that are staring at the wider horizons reaching out to the wider horizons you know a seek for something beyond the walls. The walls that try to constantly immure the postmodern self the external determinants that try to curb that try to tie down. The postpone itself the wide open eyes are looking for something else somewhere else beyond what the immediate you know mechanical mechanistic society has to offer.

And a man who is so you know eccentric and who is so larger than life who is almost a king in his own terms who lives by his own terms and conditions can only you know sleep with kings and counselors. He is a larger than what the life, the you know material life has to offer to him and so in the end the boss kind of understands the predicament is an ethical predicament.

And sees that a man like Bartleby is you know he only fits among kings and counselors. He is not made to he is not meant to fit into the regular life the repetitive life of a scrivener you know in a space such as the wall street we also need to quickly look at the earlier job of Bartleby.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

Earlier, Bartleby had worked as a subordinate clerk in a Dead Letter Office. This job comprised receiving all such letters that could not reach or returned unreceived from their destination, in the narrator's words: "Dead letters! does it not sound like dead men? Conceive a man by nature and misfortune prone to a pallid hopelessness, can any business seem more fitted to heighten it than that of continually handling these dead letters and assorting them for the flames? For by the cart-load they are annually burned. Sometimes from out the folded paper the pale clerk takes a ring:--the bank-note sent in swiftest charity:--he whom it would relieve, nor eats nor hungers any more; pardon for those who died despairing; hope for those who died unhoping; good tidings for those who died stifled by unrelieved calamities. On errands of life, these letters speed to death."

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Earlier Bartleby had worked as a subordinate clerk in a dead letter office and this job comprised receiving all such letters that could not reach their destination. They returned and received from their destination and in the narrator's words dead letters does it not sound like dead men conceive a man by nature and misfortune prone to a pallid hopelessness can any business, seem more fitted to heighten it.

Than that of continually handling these dead letters and assorting them for the frames for by the cart load their annually burned sometimes from out of the folded paper. The pale clerk takes a ring the banknote sent in swiftest charity he whom it would relieve nor eats nor hungers anymore pardon for those who died despairing hope for those, who died unhoping good tidings.

For those who died stifled by unrelieved calamities on errands of life these letters speed to death unquote. So a kind of frustration that might be you know seating inside of Bartleby from his earlier job the nature of the job as the narrator describes comprises you know it is a dead letter office. Letters that have you know almost hit the dead wall the dead end, there were no recipients or they reached after the recipient died moved to another place navigated.

Or reached after the letter had no relevance anymore and so they keep they come back with a lot of questions with a lot of hopelessness incomplete stories. And when they are piled up and burned you know it is that kind of almost it is the death of the letters signify the death of something inside of the man working in that office many hopes many emotions human feelings die with these letters that were not received.

Because a lot of investment might have been made towards writing a letter towards posting a letter there are expectations attached with the letter to. So working in a dead letter office is like the letter I never making it to the right place to the right person, working in a place like this for long could have you know could be associated with Bartleby's choice of life that he led till before his death his choice of you know withdrawing.

And almost giving up on any kind of mundane repetitive acts he chooses to recoil. He chooses you know kind of cocoon up and just become an unsocial self.

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Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street

- The dead wall facing Bartleby's desk at the lawyer's office symbolizes the lingering depression and emptiness building inside Bartleby. The Wall Street is unable to accommodate this inner vacuum.
- The story ends with the narrator's exclamation: "Ah Bartleby! Ah humanity!"

The dead wall facing Bartleby's desk at the lawyer's office symbolizes this lingering depression and emptiness building inside of Bartleby. And the Wall Street is unable to contain to accommodate and understand to crack this inner vacuum this inner you know nothingness the story ends with the narrator's exclamation of Bartleby. Or humanity with this I am going to end today's discussion and we will meet again with another round of discussions and another short story. Thank you.