

# **The Sense of an Ending of Benito Cereno**

Herman Melville's short story "Benito Cereno" presents a complex and ambiguous sense of an ending. The story tells the tale of a slave revolt on board a Spanish ship. The plot twists and turns, leaving readers questioning the intentions and motivations of the characters, and ultimately, the meaning of the ending.

## **The Complications of Perception and Reality**

One of the central themes of the story is the complicated relationship between perception and reality. The main character, Captain Delano, misinterprets the situation on the Spanish ship, mistakenly seeing it as a peaceful and harmonious environment when, in fact, a slave revolt is taking place. This confusion is only made clear at the end of the story, leaving readers to question whether the truth can ever truly be known.

## **Ambiguity and Interpretation**

Another key element of the ending of "Benito Cereno" is its ambiguity. Melville leaves many questions unanswered, leaving readers to interpret the ending on their own. Some readers may see the story as a commentary on slavery and the fight for freedom, while others may view it as a warning about misplaced trust and naivete.

## **The Contrasting Characterizations**

The contrasting characterizations of Delano and Cereno also contribute to the story's sense of an ending. Delano is a well-intentioned, but ultimately naive character who is unable to see the truth until it is too late. Cereno, on the other hand, is a complex and enigmatic character who remains shrouded in mystery throughout the story. The contrast between these two characters leaves readers with a sense of unease and uncertainty.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the ending of "Benito Cereno" is complex and multifaceted. The story's themes of perception and reality, ambiguity and interpretation, and contrasting characterizations all contribute to its sense of an ending. Ultimately, readers are left to grapple with the story's message and meaning, making "Benito Cereno" a timeless and thought-provoking piece of literature.