THE WHITE RABBIT

When we talk about Alice in Wonderland, the White Rabbit comes to our mind as much as Alice, Mad Hatter and the Queen of Hearts does for sure. He is now a part of our imagination as our punctual, cutesy rabbit. Well, it’s pretty normal for him to become an important influence when we think about how we’ve been chasing after him for 150 years! Even though I introduced him as the “cutesy” rabbit of our imagination, let’s be honest, this guy isn’t even lovely.

The White Rabbit was first shown walking peacefully without a care in the world until he looks at his watch and realizes that he is late for announcing the Queen of Hearts, being her herald. He then rushes to his rabbit hole, with a young girl named Alice following behind as she is curious. The White Rabbit notices her but tells her he has no time for chatting because he's late. After entering his Rabbit Hole, Alice enters as well and is taken to the world of Wonderland.

The rabbit is notable for wearing a waistcoat and periwinkle trouser when is always seen with his watch.

Some people claim that the rabbit was inspired by Alice Liddell’s father Henry Liddell, who is the dean of the Oxford University, Church Christ College and is always late for school meetings.

There are a lot of different opinions about this rabbit’s source, but the main question is always the same. Why have we been after that one rabbit all the time? What kind of rabbit is that?

The White Rabbit is very famous in popular culture for his quote "I'm late! I'm late! For a very important date!" in the 1951 Disney film. He appears at the very beginning of the book, running close by Alice on the riverbank and muttering, "Oh dear, oh dear!" I shall be too late!

He has always been the cause of curiosity we’ve been waiting for, and just like Alice said, curiosity often leads to trouble. But hey, that didn’t stop Alice nor us to wonder about the things outside of our own worlds!

Other than its mathematical and philosophical sides, the book has a psychological meaning too. For example, the rabbit hole represents mystery and wonder while the image of the running rabbit is an inspiration for many books, movies and songs. Just like how Neo, a character of the movie Matrix follows a white rabbit and finds himself in a completely different world. Jefferson Airplane’s song “White Rabbit” and The Beatles’ song "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds” are some other examples of the White Rabbit’s effect. In 1969, Salvador Dali has portrayed the journey Alice and her friends went through because of drugs.

We shouldn’t forget that the only escape from the world of strict ruled Victorian Era is possible because of the White Rabbit. Getting away from the hard rules that come with the civilizaiton is something we seek for without realizing. The thing that makes us follow the white rabbit is no other thing than our own curiosity.The rabbit figure is effective for each one of us, as long as it’s about the unknown, the thing we’re curious about. And just like Alice, we often find ourselves in strange situations.