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## **The thematic thrusts of Solomon A. Edebors Good morning, Sodom**

Good morning Sodom is a play by Solomon Adekokun Edebor published by Patrick Edebor and associates, Ibadan that was reprinted in 2023. They're twenty three movements in the play that "paint a realistic picture of how a seemingly harmless encounter among students, turn out to be deadly and utterly destructive. The play follows Keziah Richards and Demola Diran, 200 level students of Mayfield University. The thematic thrusts of the play are as follows

1). **Peer pressure:** peer pressure in this play manifests in the form of the friendship, K. K starts up with Demola. K.k. is far more experienced in delinquency as he is a member of a secret cult society. During his confession to Engineer Diran and his wife, he makes mention of how he pressured Demola, who in turn pressured his parents into getting him an apartment outside of the university campus where it's much more easier for them not to monitor his activities.

Through a minor flashback in the play, we learn that it is K.k. who gives Demola the idea to sedate Keziah (the main character) so he can rape her. Though Demola refuses at first, he gives in to the idea from his friend K. K. moreover, that is the only friend Demola is mostly seen through the entirety of the play hanging out with it is shown in the play that K.k is the one who introduces Demola into drugs and subsequently assists in initiating Demola into his cult. By the end of the play through the people he keeps around him and the influence they have on his decision making, Demola ends up shot dead during a shoot out he's involved in by a fellow gang member. Though K.k gets jail time, he is still alive and Demola is dead.

2). **Lack of parental care** : these themes are made manifest in the play in various instances. The first being that Engineer Diran and his wife do not really pay much attention to Demola during his childhood and missed certain things, they make mention of this in the twenty first movement in here they meet Keziah and her parents the Richards. This is not to say that the Richards are absorbed from this, when Keziah comes home after being raped by Demola, as her parents they should have noticed the pattern or behavior. When Keziah tells them how the pregnancy resulted, her father Mr. Richards first reaction is to chide her and call her a liar (when in fact, research shows it that very rarely does a girl child cry rape it is proven falsehood Hafsah). He becomes indifferent to Keziah and it's implied he asked her to get an abortion to the stunch approval of Mrs. Richards. They do not ask Keziah's stance on the situation. This indifference from her father is what pushes her into attempting suicide.

3). **Victim Blaming and Victimization** : this occurs in the character of Keziah and Stella (a friend of hers) both who have been victims to rape and sexual assault. The former by Demola a fellow collage student whom she had started developing romantic feelings for. The latter Stella is raped by four boys. The home of a trusted spiritual figure that not only leaves her emotionally scared but for a time fractures her spiritual relationship with God.

The first reactions to Keziah's rape by her parental figures are accusing fingers and glances and disappointment. Mr. Richards her father accuses her of lying. Keziah blames herself for getting raped. Even Demola her rapist blames her the first time they meet after the rape.

4). **The decline in moral decadence** : this is something the play does well to highlight, in the way K. K casually has drugs in himself and offers it to his friend to finally get the girl who has been proving hard to get, the way he offered it to Demola to get high. It is seen by the number of young boys who rape girls for fun, join gangs in the name of brotherhood, ending up getting killed by rival or fellow members, getting jail time owing to a life of cowardice and waywardness.

5). **Poverty** : considering the accounts of the life led by K. K's mother, I as a reader assume that his upbringing in a poor household and lack of proper influence affected the decisions he comes to make as an adult and contributing member to society.

6). **Theme of forgiveness**; if the Richard had not forgiven the Dirans for the actions of their sins it is imperative that they would welcome them into their household and they would accept them to become a part of Mourith's life.

### **Characters in the play**

1). **Keziah**: she is a medium height, slightly round fair woman, a 200 level student of Mayfair university. At the start of the book, she is in a loving relationship with her parents and has a select group of friends and an admirer who has been pursuing her. Her life takes a drastic turn when one day while visiting her admirer who has been pursuing her, she is sedated and drugged by him. Resulting in an unplanned pregnancy that shatters the trust and relationship she has with her parents which pushes her to attempt suicide. Through the course of the play, we see her as a single university student in Mayflower university of Obwole single parent and potential student of the university of Ibadan.

2). **Demola Diran** : through the company he keeps, a once 200 level student turns to drugs in order to sexually assault a woman whom he claims he loves and is infatuated by. This lifestyle influenced by a friend, K.K. further leads him to drugs, joining a cult, engaging in violence on campus and later getting shot by a fellow gang member and dying ultimately. Through his character, the playwright explores the influence of peer pressure and delinquency among our youths in the society today.

3). **Stella** : though we get few scenes with her character, she is seen to be a kind and supporting friend to Keziah, she relates her rape story to her and how it fractured her spirituality as well as how it was rejuvenated. We learn if she asked tragic backstory while she is comforting Keziah. Stella is a character in whom a few flashbacks we see grow as a character.

## **The points of divergence between the published and the film version of good morning, Sodom**

— The play was first written with the intention for screen production. The film version was released in 2021 on YouTube and was directed by Ben Ope-johnson, Gbenga Sasere and produced by Solomon Adekokun Edebor. As with every book to screen adaptation, there would be new changes and additions to fit screen format and its conventions. The points of divergence includes the following;

In the published play, it is written that Keziah is a fair slightly round 200 level student of Mayflower University. In the screen adaptation, she is darker skinned. As in the book's first movement, the screen adaptation also begins with Keziah's mother dropping off food supplies and provisions for her.

In the play, there is a scene where Keziah makes a phone call in her way to the library where she gets approached by Demola, it is both the first on screen and on page appearance of Demola. In the play, there is no follow up scene that takes place in the library like in the screen adaptation. In this library scene, Keziah is seen going through her notes, she is met again by Demola who tries to persuade her of his intentions for wanting a relationship with her. She tells him she wants to study and wants to be free of distractions. She leaves him.

In the next movement that takes place in a lecture room, (this scene appears both in the written play and screen adaptation), the lecturer can be seen talking about the theories as to whether drama originated from Africa or not. Two students come in and are chased out by the lecturer for coming late. This particular scene does not appear in the play. The lecturer then gives them an assignment. Demola meets with friends of Keziah and asks them about her not attending lectures.

In the film he approaches Keziah in a cafe and asks to sit with her. When he does he calls her 'my queen' and asks why she never talked to anyone about not being in school. This scene appears both in the screen adaptation and the published play. In the play there's a scene before the parking lot scene where Keziah meets her friends Ovie and Bunmi who try to persuade her to at least give Demola a chance. In this scene she is walking away from the company of Demola after his unsuccessful attempt to persuade her of his feelings for her.

3 weeks later in Demola's house outside of campus, he offered her a drink. The sedatives Demola poisons her drink with takes effect and puts her out. Demola rapes her. She goes to Stella for comfort who narrates how she was raped (this is told through a color graded lense flash back) and he attempted suicide. The scene that features the second dream of Stella is where she is held at gunpoint by a man overlooking a brook. In the published play, when Stella wakes up horrified in her hostel, contemplating the dream she's just had, she is startled by a knock from Emmanuella who comes to talk to her about the love God has for her and that he still loves her. She tells Emmanuella to leave before bolting the door. While in the film, she is approached by an unnamed

character outside while drying washed clothes about God. After the flashbacks, she apologizes to keziah for not warning her earlier about Demola.

In the screen adaptation, keziah is approached by Demola the next day who tries friegning apologizing for his actions she leaves Demola bemused,who confronte k.k. during this scene kk offers Demola drugs and it is implied in this scene fbaf Demola has taken drugs with k.k before.

In the next scene,demola is initiated alongside one other person into a gang (red shadows ). In the play, he is initiated alongside two other people. There's more information in this scene compared to the play as to the motive behind the raid in the morning in the mayflower university campus. It is during this raid that Demola is killed and members of the red shadows are arrested. Stella calls keziah to come see a dead Demola causing her to faint. Stella calls the Richards and informs them. The arrested criminals are taken to the police station.

The next scenes shows the list of expelled students, Keziah's pregnancy comes to revelation, and is ostracized by her parents, her father who wants her to abkrt the pregnancy and her mom who wants her to keep it. Keziah's relationship with her father becomes strained. She is seen with a visible belly bump. She is also seen crying and being comforted by her mother at night.

In the film adaptation, while on his way to Abuja , her dad comes back home to pick a file after being called from his office, it is at home he finds the suicide note from keziah. After the hospital trip, her dad apologies to her.

The prison visit is skipped and instead showed as a flashback and instead demola's father visits the Richard and apologizes on behalf of his son and takes on responsibility for his actions. (in the film demola's mother is late , it is briefly mentioned by his father in the company of the Richards ). In the film he daughter is named heritage Demola -diran while in the play, she is named Maurithq.