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**GOOD MORNING SODOM, A PLAY BY: SOLOMON ADEDOKUN EDEBOR**

The play focuses on the grievous consequences that comes with moral evils and wrongs which includes: drug abuse and addiction, cultism,uncontrolled sexual drive, rape and all other anti-social vices, that underpin the life of university students after leaving the vicinity of their parents where they can no longer be watched, controlled or told what to do.Basically, the story revolves around Keziah and Demola who are 200 level students of Mayflower University. Keziah was depicted as a serious student at the beginning of the play but she later gives in to peer pressure, likewise Demola.

1. **THEMES IN THE PLAY**

Theme can be defined as the main subject that is being discussed or described in a piece of writing, a movie, and so on. It is a central, unifying idea. It is the bigger issue that emerges as the characters pursue their goals.

Good Morning Sodom is a play that centers on many anti-social vices which may include illicit sex, drug abuse and addiction, murder, thuggery, cultism, rape, alcoholism and so on. The playwright has been able to expatiate and explain solely these anti-social vices and their consequences and threats to human life, most especially students in university. The book has many themes but we’re only going to focus on six, which are: **Negative peer pressure, Rape, Consequences of cultism, Rejection and stigmatization, Depression, Anger, Reconciliation.**

1. **NEGATIVE PEER PRESSURE:** This is the main theme of the play. Peer pressure can be defined as the influence from members of one’s peer group just to feel accepted and valued by them. Peer pressure comes in two ways; negative and positive. The playwright depicted the issue of negative peer pressure in the play.

This is first shown in the 5th movement when Ovie and Bunmi, Kezaih’s friends tried to convince Keziah into accepting Demola’s advances,even though she clearly did not want to, just because they thought he was a good guy. This is a form of pressure.

Keziah, even being a smart girl, still fell for it and decided to pay Demola a visit without knowing his intentions towards her.

Demola was also pressured and persuaded by his friends, KK and Bentol, to take his opportunity but drugging Keziah so that he can have his way with her.

After raping Keziah, Demola was given drugs by his friend KK which was supposed to banish his sorrow. This means that Demola must have been doing drugs because of the kind of friends he is walking with. His ability to succumb to the opinions of these type of friends is very wrong.

KK after going to jail also confessed that he forced Demola to lie to his parents that there was no longer accommodation in the hostel so that he can leave hostel for town.

1. **RAPE:** This is another recurring theme in the play. Rape can be defined as a type of sexual assault involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration carried out against a person without their consent. Rape is the most hideous crime humanity can think of. In the play, two girls were a victim of rape and it affected their lives.

In movement 6, the first girl, Keziah, was raped by Demola after he had been requesting for her to date him but she still wouldn’t bulge even after months. This simple act changed her life forever. She got pregnant and had to stop school and had to give birth at such a young age because a boy was pressured by his friends to rape her.

This little event led Stella, another victim of rape, to come out and tell Keziah the story behind her own rape. The playwright shows the reality of not trusting anyone even though they are very close to us. Stella was raped when she was 14 years old by 4 boys after she followed her dad to the house of the pastor. It was there where the pastor was called that his wife was involved in an accident so they had to leave her with the pastor’s sons (Daniel and Tosin) who raped her when two of their friends came around. This event turned around her life and made her question God.

1. **CONSEQUENCES OF CULTISM:** This is another theme in the play that replicates the issue of cultism in most universities. Cultism means an act of belonging to a secret cult in an educational institution. Cultists use threats and intimidation to force non-members into cult. Cultist are also known to be high-handed, violating school rules and regulations with no sense.

In movement 8, Spark, KK, Bentol and a group of students of Mayflower university were seen carrying out an initiation for Demola into the cult. The name of their cult group is Red Shadows. After initiating Demola, they discussed about how another cult group, the Sparrows, had taken two of their men- Dagren and Festula. They also talked about how they are going to retaliate.

In movement 10, the consequence of cultism is now shown in this movement. Due to the fact that they want to retaliate, they got into a fight. This leads to the death of Demola, who had just joined the group and was killed at the battle and the other cult members that were caught were sent to jail.

1. **REJECTION AND STIGMATIZATION:** Rejection can be defined as the act of pushing someone or something away. It is also the act of not giving someone the love and attention they want and expect. Stigmatization involves identifying and marking an undesirable characteristic in a way that narrows a person’s social identity to that characteristic. It is also the act of treating someone or something unfairly by publicly disapproving of them. The playwright talked about this in the play.

Survivors of sexual violence experience more threats to physical and social integrity than others. The playwright was able to expatiate the things sexual violence survivors experience. Most survivors prefer to be silent than speak out because of how people will see them, or they may not even believe them. Most of the rejection and stigmatization comes from their closest family members or friends.

In the play, Keziah was rejected by her father, Dr. Aworawo Richards, after learning that she was pregnant. He didn’t even given her listening ears and went ahead to conclude that she wasn’t raped and she was forming a story. To him, she ruined her life. He couldn’t come to terms with the fact that his daughter was raped outside the school hostel. Even after Mrs. Richards had accepted, Dr. Richards still rejected his daughter.

1. **DEPRESSION:** Depression is a common mental health problem that involves a low mood and a loss of interest in activities. This is one of the minor themes in the play.

Keziah was always rejected and traumatized by her father after she got pregnant. Her condition led her to depression. She tried to take her own life at a point by overdosing but she was taken to the hospital early enough.

1. **ANGER:** Anger is an emotion characterized by antagonism toward someone or something you feel has deliberately done you wrong.this is another one of the minor themes.

Keziah expressed her anger towards Demola after he raped her by saying; “I hate you, Demola! I curse the sun that shone the day I set my eyes on you; I curse the feeling of friendship that drew me to this theatre of ridicule. Never again! Never again must our paths cross, or else….”. Dr. Richards also expressed by pushing Keziah away after learning that she was pregnant. This is to show how parents feel when their children disappoints them.

1. **RECONCILIATION:** Many people believe that reconciliation only occurs when they ask for forgiveness from god, however, there is far more to this theme. Reconciliation is the process of two people or groups in a conflict agreeing to make amends or come to a truce. It allows us to unite, forgive, accept, appease, compromise and agree.

Ultimately the theme of reconciliation was presented within the play Good Morning Sodom. In the play, Keziah and her father reconciled after the series of incidents that had happened.

**CHARACTERIZATION:**

1. **KEZIAH:** The play revolves around her. She is a smart young girl, in 200 level,Mayflower University,who got raped by her a boy that had been requesting for her to date him. She is the bone of contention. She is a brilliant girl whose parents trusted and hoped would make them really proud. Her desire not to involve herself in a relationship was shown when she was turning down Demola’s advances towards her even though he tried to show he cared. She was practically focused on her studies at first but she finally gives in to her friends. Her friends advised her to give the boy a chance so she decided to pay him a visit even though he lives outside the school hostel. Although it wasn’t her fault that she was raped, her father pushed her away emotionally after they found out that she was pregnant. They didn’t believe her story of being raped because she didn’t reach out to them when it happened so they felt like she was lying. She had to give birth at a very young age because of what happened. The name of her child is Mouritha. She had another shot at life again when her father arranged for her to continue schooling.
2. **DEMOLA:** This is another character in the play. He is also a student of Mayflower University. He is a young and determined man, who stood for his love with Keziah even though she was always turning him down. He was always following her up and down and trying to persuade her. Even when she wasn’t around at that school for a week he was so worried. He had hope that they would work out. He was the boy who raped Keziah. After his friends gave him an advice that if he does it, then she’ll see through his heart. When the plan goes accordingly, he saw that Keziah hated him. He is an easily influenced person. His friends introduced him to drugs and he succumbed. His friends told him to lie to his parents in order to live outside the school and he did so. They persuaded him to rape Keziah and he did. He was also initiated into a cult group in the school. This initiation led to his death after two cult groups were in a fight and his friend shot him. With this, he never had another shot at life again.
3. **STELLA:** Her role is just to create awareness and give the audience an information about rape. After Keziah was raped, she went to Stella and Stella told her the story behind her own rape too. She was 14 years old when it happened. She was raped by her pastor’s sons and their friends in the pastor’s bedroom. She was forcefully deflowered. Then she started hating god for allowing her to be humiliated and she drew away from God. But after dreaming about trying to drowning and a man saving her and a man trying to drag her to the river. Then when she woke up, she went to church and gave her life to Christ.
4. **DIVERGENCE:** In the third movement, two students came late to class. Ovie and Bunmi were not focused on what Demola was telling them when he was asking about Keziah. In the book he only asked Ovie about Keziah but in the movie Bunmi said Ovie’s line. In the movie, the man that appeared to Stella was not wearing khaki shirt and shorts with a cap as stated in the book.

In the sixth movement of the book, Stella was in the room when Emmanuella came to talk to her about giving her life to Christ but she was spreading clothes in the movie. The story of Stella was told in the room while in the movie Stella and Keziah were walking around the school.

In the eighth movement of the book Demola was being initiated into the cult but in the movie he was already part of the cult.

In the fourteenth movement, some dialogues were omitted like when Keziah’s dad said she disgraced him and brought shame unto the family name.

There was a scene in the movie that wasn’t in the book. In that scene Mrs Richards was consoling Keziah and assuring her that her dad still loves her.

Most of the things said in the court in the seventeenth movement of the book were omitted in the movie so as not to bore out the audience. The names of the other accused persons were mentioned in the movie but not in the book.

In the nineteenth movement of the book, it was both of Demola’s parents who went to see KK in jail. But in the play only Demola’s father went because his mother was dead.

In the book, Keziah’s child was named Mouritha but in the movie she was named Heritage Demola-Diran.