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 AFE 122 ASSIGNMENTS

1. Attempt an incisive interrogation of Solomon A. Edebor’s **Good Morning**, **Sodom**, underscoring at least five underlying thematic thrusts the drama engages.
2. Attempt detailed character analyses of any three characters in Solomon A. Edebor’s **Good Morning, Sodom**.
3. What are the points of divergence between the published and film version of **Good Morning, Sodom**?

Answers

1. **Good Morning, Sodom** by Solomon A. Edebor is a thought-provoking drama that explores various themes and issues prevalent in contemporary Nigerian society. Here are five underlying thematic thrusts that the play engages:

i) Cultism: The theme of cultism is prevalent in the play. Demola, one of the protagonists of the play, is influenced by his friends in the Red Shadows to carry out heinous acts in the name of brotherhood. K.K. leads Demola to be initiated and the fight against The Sparrows leads to the eventual untimely death of Demola. This is a regular occurrence in many Nigerian higher institutions. A good number of able-bodied boys and girls belong to one secret society or another which is one of the leading causes of violent crime on campuses. Cultism has also led to an unsafe environment in several universities.

ii) Peer Pressure/bad influence: The theme of peer pressure is shown in the relationship between K.K., Bentol and Demola. K.K. himself stated in the nineteenth movement of the play (page 70) that he was responsible for all that happened to Demola. He said:

 “Demola was my very good friend, even though we were not in the same level. The first day I set my eyes on him, I knew he was different from other boys around ... I succeeded in making him do so many terrible things ... I even encouraged him to rape a female course mate that had been proving too stubborn”.

Ironically, it was K.K. who mistakenly shot Demola instead of a rival cult member during their operation. It is not far-fetched to say that it was Demola’s friendship with K.K. that led to his death. Peer pressure can also be seen in the life of Keziah. Her friends, Ovie and Bunmi, convince her to give Demola the benefit of the doubt, a costly mistake that leads to her defloration.

iii) Untimely death: This is portrayed by the death of Demola. Demola was just a young boy who mixed with a bad crowd. His affiliation to the Red Shadows led to his untimely demise at the hands of his closest friend, K.K.

iv) Rape/unwanted pregnancy: This is portrayed in the life of Keziah. The poor girl is drugged and raped by Demola on the advice of his friend K.K. This is a normal occurrence in several universities across Nigeria where young, virtuous and uncompromising girls are forced to bed by degenerates.

v) Failed responsibility: This is portrayed in various people like Demola’s parents, and K.K. Demola’s parents acknowledge the fact that they failed in raising their son to be a respectable member of society. Instead of raising a son worth more than gold, they raised a rapist and a cultist. K.K. has the responsibility of being the long-awaited hope of his widowed mother but ends up with life imprisonment, thus dashing her hopes of a liberator from poverty.

1. Stella: Stella is Keziah’s roommate, close friend and confidante. She is a 21-year-old 200-level student of Mayflower University, just like Keziah. When Stella was fourteen years old, she loved God and the things of the Kingdom. She followed her father to see her pastor. There, the pastor’s sons, Daniel and Tosin, rape her alongside their two friends. From then on, she dabbled in all forms of immorality and pushed God aside. University gave her the opportunity to take her promiscuity to the next level until she had a dream and was preached to by a classmate named Emanuella. Stella has since learnt from her mistakes and has tried her best to help Keziah. Stella is a kind, understanding girl who has helped Keziah as much as she could. She provides guidance and comfort to Keziah after she is raped and advices her on how to handle things with Demola. Stella also informs Keziah of Demola’s early demise and where to see his corpse. She also calls Keziah’s mother when Keziah collapses and bleeds after seeing Demola’s corpse. She is with Keziah when she leaves campus to cater for her unborn child.

ii) Keziah: Keziah Richards is a 200-level student of Mayflower University. She is a disciplined and focused student who is the center of her parents’ world. She is a calm, easygoing and brilliant girl whose friendly nature appeals to different people. She easily sees through Demola’s antics, indicating that she is an intelligent girl. She falls prey to negative peer pressure from Ovie and Bunmi who convince her to give Demola a chance. She gives Demola a chance and is drugged, charmed and raped. Once her parents find out she is pregnant, their demeanor towards her changes completely. Her father, Dr. Richards, refuses to acknowledge her as his daughter and her mother, though skeptic, eventually accepts her and the child. Her parents’ behavior towards her leads her to attempt suicide. Luckily, she survives and gives birth to a baby girl afterwards. She eventually continues her studies in the University of Ibadan a while after her safe delivery.

iii) Demola: Demola Diran is a 200-level student of Mayflower University. He is an English student and the only child of his parents, Engr. And Mrs. Diran. He becomes friends with K.K. and Bentol, a costly mistake. K.K. introduces him to drugs, cultism and convinces him to lie to his parents knowing that they won’t suspect a thing, implying that they give him free rein and must have done so since he was a child. It is on the advice of K.K. and Bentol that he drugs, charms and rapes Keziah. After he commits the heinous crime, he feels a great deal of remorse, implying that he is an inherently good person who has made bad choices due to his choice of friends. He is eventually killed by accident by K.K. and is rusticated posthumously.

1. The published and film versions of Good Morning, Sodom both have similarities. The film version has amazing similarities in detail and truly portrays the emotions and thematic thrusts the playwright tried to pass across. However, there are several points of divergence between the two versions of the iconic play. The first point of divergence I noticed was the omission of Olumide, the Richards’ family driver at the beginning of the film version. The second point of divergence I observed was that the conversation between Ovie, Bunmi and Stella that led to Stella’s visit occurred in the cafeteria, not away from the lecture room like the published version. The last point of divergence I observed was the change int the name of Keziah’s child. In the published version, the baby girl is called Mouritha. In the film, she is called Heritage Demola-Diran. These are the few points of divergence I found while watching the film version and reading the published version of **Good Morning, Sodom**.