

# **1.THEMATIC THRUSTS OF SOLOMON A. EDEBOR's GOODMORNING SODOM**

The play, Good Morning Sodom is a literary work that portrays the life of a young teenage girl called Keziah that attends Mayflower University. In school, a certain young man called Demola is interested in making her his girlfriend due to his love for her. However, he is misled into raping her and joining a secret cult which then led to his untimely and painful death. The young girl is then left to suffer in pain alone until she gives birth to the child. This play contains a lot of themes and is quite relatable as things like these do occur in these present times. However, I'll be talking on specific themes that are very much conspicuous in the play:

- 1).** Theme of Love
- 2).** Theme of Forgiveness
- 3).** Theme of Justice
- 4).** Theme of Love (Family)
- 5).** Theme of Peer Pressure
- 6).** Theme of Rape and Deceit

## **THEME OF LOVE**

Love bears up under everything, its hopes are fadeless and it endures everything {~The Holy Bible, 1 corinthians 13:7}. Love was basically showed in all parts of this

book. Stella (Keziah's roommate) loved her enough to be way too concerned about her not falling into Demola's web. There was love between Dr Richards and Mrs Richards, a type of love that brought them together in the first place, they also didn't let the deed of their daughter get between them. Love brought FORGIVENESS between Father and Daughter. I personally think LOVE was in most scenes of this play. Love wins everyday and anytime. LET LOVE LEAD.

## **THEME OF FORGIVENESS**

Generally, forgiveness is a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or group of persons who has harmed or hurt you regardless of whether they deserve it or not. Relating this theme to the book "Goodmorning Sodom" the both parents of Keziah (Dr and Mrs Richards) forgave her. We can see from the drama that it took a while before Keziah was forgiven by her father (Dr Richards) because he was deeply hurt and angered. His actions was very understandable for him to feel that way because he was the "bread winner" and obviously "THE HEAD" of the family and the shame brought on his was unbearable. And the end, the love he had for his daughter brought FORGIVENESS.

## **THEME OF LIFE AND DEATH**

The pain of loss gives meaning to the things and people lost, highlighting how without death, there is no shape to life. By losing Demola, K.K {Nkanga Nwoko} felt fully the weight of what he had done. He knew he was going to have to pay dearly for it. He became aware of how much easier it was it to manipulate and do all his evil deeds when Demola was alive. He definitely knew this was the end of the road for him. Moving to the next character, Keziah~ life became quite unbearable for her when her father {Dr Richards} attitude and countenance changed towards her. She felt so much pain when all these was happening and

decided it would be much better if she took her own life(**DEATH**). Her attempt to suicide made her father realize he loved his daughter despite the situation she was into amidst his anger and disappointment. He saved his daughter's life and assured her that "as long as there's life, there's hope."

## **THEME OF JUSTICE**

Justice is the pursuit to find the truth but is often affected by people's views and biases. Justice is what the people want it to be. To find the truth, both sides of the story must be listened. The truth was finally discovered; all members of the cult group were captured and taken to court. In the court room, after the judge heard from the both parties ( the Defense and Prosecution Counsel), the Defense Counsel pleaded to the court to "temper justice with mercy" paramount in dispensing justice that even criminals who are found guilty deserve mercy, an act of grace and compassion. I sternly think the judgment was just and fair at the end **JUSTICE WAS SERVED.**

## **THEME OF PEER PRESSURE/INFLUENCE**

This is one of the significant themes in this drama. Peer pressure is the influence from members of one's peer group because you want to feel accepted or valued by your friends. There are two major instances of peer pressure in this drama with Demola and Keziah as victims. In movement five, Keziah was pressurized by her friends, Ovie and Bunmi to go out with Demola, who has been asking her out but she constantly refused his proposal. After her friends pressurized her she decided to give him a chance which caused her to be raped. Another victim of peer pressure is Demola. Demola was advised by his friends K.K and Bentol to rape Keziah when she comes over to his house. He firstly refuses but after further pressurizing he agrees and he is giving a substance to put into her drink. His plan succeeds and he raped her. Demola was also pressurized by his friends into other vices like taking drugs and joining a cult group. The cult group which he engaged in caused his death. Peer pressure/influence mostly ends badly.

## **THEME OF RAPE AND DECEIT**

Rape is one of the most hideous crimes humanity can think of. In the play, we can see these themes being illustrated through Demola and Keziah. We see how damaging this crime could be especially on the part of the victim. Damages like unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, etc. could occur with the former being the case in this play. Keziah was raped by Demola which made her go through a lot and she almost lost her father in the process as he treated her like a slave and didn't regard her as his daughter as she didn't abort the child. She was also close to losing her life as she had attempted suicide due to the hardships she had to go through because of Demola. The theme of deceit was also vivid between Demola and Keziah. Demola played on Keziah's intelligence by inviting her to his room, pretending to want to do an assignment with her meanwhile he had drugged her drink so he can take advantage of her without her consent. Sadly, she fell for his schemes and became a victim of rape. Demola also falls victim of this theme of deceit. He was deceived into joining a cult and along the line, he got killed by his own members although it was said to have been an accident.

## **2. CHARACTER ANALYSIS**

- **STELLA:**

There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship. Stella was a good friend to Keziah. She did not want her to fall into a dangerous trap. Even when she found out about Stella's pregnancy, she told her she wasn't totally at

fault and was there for her when she most needed her. Stella was a good influence to her friend.

### **DEMOLA:**

This character represents a male youth trying to fit in and blend with others. He is also portrayed as a character that is sensitive and soft hearted when it's mentioned that he falls in love. Even his reaction after what he had done is proof that he is actually an innocent boy and had good intentions towards her and was brought up with good values. He falls in love with a young girl named Keziah and wishes she could be his girlfriend. He goes after her wooing her as a normal youth would try to get a girl. However, he is misled and messes things up for himself thereby ruining his chances with the girl in the process. He represents the young male figure that gets into the university and tries finding his place and people. Peer pressure comes into the picture and then things start to turn upside down for him; it's also quite sad that immediately he succumbed to peer pressure, the consequences came at him really fast and he didn't get a chance to make things right. It's really sad the way things ended for Demola, though but it serves as a warning to other youths out there. Just once he went on a mission for his cult, he got killed meanwhile there are some others that have been into cultism for years.

### **MRS JOKE RICHARDS**

Mrs. Joke Richards played the role of Keziah's mother in the play. She was much more than a good mother. She was very understanding and caring. Despite all the money and time used in training her child, when she found out about the pregnancy she put away all anger and disappointment she felt towards her and forgave her and helped her daughter heal emotionally, mentally and physically. Mrs. Richards was compassionate and was one of my favorite characters in the play.

### **3. POINT OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED AND THE FILM VERSION OF GOODMORNING SODOM.**

Films based on books, always experience slight differences, this can be caused by many factors which include; Time, technology, Budget, and production. It is simply not possible to copy every single detail from a book. Books can go into details giving you a better explanation or understanding of something but films have to be a lot more fast paced otherwise people would lose interest watching, on this note, I would like to mark out the differences between Good Morning, Sodom, the published and the film version.

#### **MOVEMENT 1**

The beginning of the scene in the book depicted Keziah outside of her hostel while seeing her mother's car approach and upon her mother seeing her (Keziah), alighted from the car. Whilst, in the movie, the play started off with Keziah's mother, patiently waiting while leaning against her car for her daughter (Keziah).

#### **MOVEMENT 2**

In the book, it was stated that Keziah was walking past and stopped abruptly as she got a phone call to pick up, upon turning back, she saw Demola who was standing by the tree and was making a call but hung up after he saw Keziah while Keziah did the same. It was also enacted that the whole conversation between Demola and Keziah happened outside while standing where Keziah left Damola alone at the end of the conversation. **CONTRADICTING THE BOOK** (In the movie,)the scene began with Keziah walking past while receiving a call and still walking when Demola approached her, it was also depicted that the conversation

between Demola and Keziah took place in the library which is a contrast to what actually took place in the book.

### **MOVEMENT 3**

It was seen in the movie that Bunmi and Ovie were seated at the front row with Demola behind them trying to have a conversation with them, Ovie was the one who gave Demola attention but was ignored totally by Bunmi until the end of the conversation when she replied briefly to him....*lights fade out*. While in the book, it was when Ovie and Bunmi were leaving the class that Demola steadfastly approached them and went to a corner with Ovie and had a conversation with her about Keziah's whereabouts and absence from school after which Ovie went back to join Bunmi to leave and Demola back to his seat to pack his things (notes/books maybe) to leave as well.

### **MOVEMENT 4**

In the book, it was said that Keziah was taking rice and beans and plantain then Demola comes in to take an order and was about to sit somewhere when he sighted Keziah and moved energetically to her side and asked for a seat. After few discussions with Keziah, Demola is said to take a sip of his drink and a spoon of rice from his plate. In the movie, the scene began with Keziah taking only white rice with stew and Demola moving steadily to her side with a tray of drink and asked for a seat from Keziah which she responded to with disinterest.