AFE 122

AN ANALYSIS OF GOOD MORNING , SODOM

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**“A journey to the end” : The degradation of the society portrayed in Solomon Edebor’s *Good morning , Sodom .***

Solomon A. Edebor’s good morning Sodom is often read as a crude cautionary tale of the moral decadence exhibited in higher institutions , with the youths painted as the antagonists in the society . The play centers around the life of two characters – keziah and Demola . Who at different parts of the book were seen as black sheep . Unlike Demola who from the inception was portrayed in negative light, keziah became a disappointment at a latter part of the play, particularly to her father Dr. Richards.

 This tragic drama is set in the serene campus of mayflower university , contrary to the urgent and cautionary scenes the writer used to voice his message on the immorality portrayed in our society especially in the university. The writer’s skilled technique of approaching various aspects of the problem through individual characters is by no means a small fit and is to be highly commended . He was able paint a rapist , an innocent soul , a victim of peer influence and a vice of peer pressure through his writing . Good morning Sodom is truly a carousel of emotions .

**Literary devices used in the play**

Idioms .

* *‘cut me some slack’* **:**to treat (someone) in a less harsh or critical way.
* *‘Dribbling around’* **:** to avoid talking about what’s important
* *‘Jack the reader’* **:** a person that reads a lot

Simile

* *‘we are like flowers’***:**  is comparing with the beauty and fragility of flower

 **THEMES**

* One of the main themes of the play is love. With Demola as the main perpetrator in the play .On several occasions he is seen trying sway keziah into reciprocating his feeling , and worries about her as seen in the third movement where he was genuinely care for her wellbeing and was worried about her recent absence to class .

*Demola :I noticed kezaih was not in the class today*

*Ovie : (Nods ) yes*

*Demola: and… she did not show up for the evening class we had yesterday*

He also openly confessed his love in the twenty first movement saying “ I cant do this . Don’t you guys get it I love this girl-”

Unfortunately his love was unrequited and this lead him to commit the heinous crime of raping keziah in her sleep , an attempt to maximize his opportunity with her .

 The theme of love is also shown by God in the play . Stella’ narration recounted how she had just woken up from a dream and was visited by Emmanuella who told her that God still loved her but she ignored it . This led to her having a more intense version of the first dream .

This time two men , one dragging her to the heart of the river and another a distance away with clothes in hand . She was saved in the dream by the latter man and was also saved in real life by God and had led a life of Christ since that day.

* The second listed theme of the play is sexual assault . Described by the author as kezaih opening her door to thieves , a PG rated language that does no justice to what keziah actually went through. In the sixth movement were keziah visited Demola’s off campus house , he drugged her and slept with her still body. Despite being raped , Keziah still received ill treatment from her father when he learnt of her pregnancy leading her to commit suicide . This theme is seen to have reoccurred in the play undoubtedly to another woman . Stella , who was raped in the house of her pastor by not one but four boys at the tender age of fourteen .Despite this her parents did not press charges . The rape caused Stella to start living an immoral life and to hate God

*“I hated God . I hated him so much for allowing me to be so humiliated .if , indeed, he is almighty God as claimed by people why couldn’t he have saved me ? –such that my dad had to save the life of a woman whose children and their friends were busy destroying his own daughters life-”*

* The play also explores the complexities of parental neglect. This theme is the beacon of all that is portrayed in the play. Particularly in the life of Demola , who fell victim to negative influence and took his immoral peers as advisors and role models ,while his parents chased their finances and never once visited their son in school . The drugs , bad friends , cult or k.k were not the cause of Demola’s death . The real perpetrators were his parents who confessed in the nineteenth movement

*“ Ah!we killed him ! dear we killed demolla –”*

The parents of keziah off course are not exempted , in the fourteenth movement where Dr Richard learnt of her pregnancy he refused to believe her despite knowing her nature and proposed abortion even though in the sixteenth movement it is stated that he was against anything abortion . Dr Richard is a hypocrite that drove his daughter to suicide.

* The fourth listed theme being negative peer influence, which Demola fell victim to in the hands of K.K .A devil in disguise , demola confessed in the nineteenth movement that he had introduced Demola to drugs , cult and had even convinced him to rape the woman he loved all because he noticed that Demola was from a rich home , he remained a fiend till the very end killing Demola in a shoot out .
* The last theme is suicide . A heart breaking scene is shown in the eighteenth movement when Dr Richard walks into an empty house to find a suicide note and his daughter lying lifeless on her bedroom floor. His ill treatment had led her to a state of depression , being continuously blamed of disgracing her family she chose to end her life instead of being a living embodiment of shame . Her father had stigmatized her , however after her survival he changed for the better . She gave birth to the only seed Demola had left on earth and was also opportune to meet the paternal grandparents of her child .
* **CHARACTER ANALYSIS**

**Keziah Richards**

One of the novel’s main protagonist , the smart daughter of Dr Richards . Keziah’s father might be a hypocrite but she has a strong character and a sense of morality . Despite her immoral roommates and the continuous persuasion of Demola for an intimate relationship she stood her ground and stayed true her values. Unfortunately she trusted to quickly and was raped . keziah faced stigmatization from her father due to her pregnancy and because she so much loved her parents she couldn’t stand being a living embodiment of disgrace to her parents she decided to end her life as well as the babies .

 QUOTE BY KEZIAH

**Second movement**

*“- I have made my position known on this matter : there can never be us if that’s what you are suggesting , I am here for a purpose –”*

**Eighteenth movement ( suicide note )**

*“- mum please forgive ,me for everything and forgive dad for everything . his anger is demonstrationof how badly I have hurt him .Ilove you both dearly .”*

**DEMOLA**

Is one of the lenses that Solomon A. Edebor used to focus on the effect of negative influence . Demola is the son of Engineer and Mrs Diran who neglected him and left him victim to k,k who introduced him to several harmul vices . He became a member of the red shadow gang gang along side k.k , who later mistakenly killed him in a cult cross fire. Demola was also madly in love with Keziah and his weakness to peer pressure allowed him to be convinced by K.K to rape Keziah

 QOUTES BY DEMOLA

**Twenty first movement**

*“ I cant do this . Don’t you guys get it I love this girl-”*

**NKANGA NWOKO ( K.K)**

k.k is the son of a poor widow who sells plantain at the road side , despite his background he decided to become a negative vice in the life of Demola his supposed best friend by introducing him to drugs cult and even persuading him into raping the woman he loves . why? Because he Demola was rich . K.K was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of his best friend and showed remorse for his mistakes and negate influence in Demolas life at the end .

**MODE OF DIVERGENCE IN THE PLAY**

The film of *Good morning , Sodom* was acted with high level of accuracy , however there were some parts in the film that the deviated from the written play.

 Apart from the fact that more emotion was conveyed through the film , the following scenes deviated from the play.

1. In the thirteenth movement wee the criminals were apprehended , it was stated there that they were three however in the film they were four
2. In the film an there was an added scene that wasn’t in the play . In the scene the playwright plays the role of a teacher who send out students that were late to his class.
3. Background music that wasn’t stated in the play wee also added .
4. In fourteenth movement were kezaih found out she was pregnant the lines were different in the film . in the play Dr Richards called the test results a book however in the film he called it a letter.