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ASSIGNMENT ON GOOD MORNING SODOM

1. THEMATIC THRUSTS IN THE PLAY "GOOD MORNING SODOM".

The play satirizes the social ills among the youth, it's a typical didactic that aims to teach moral lesson especially in our various high institutions the idea of the playwright is quite conspicuous to happenings in high institutions such as cultism, peer pressure, prostitution and promiscuity which is contrary to what a citadel of learning should be.

A morally upright girl Keziah from home met her Waterloo by desecrating her core values and personal vow when she became gullible after persuasion from her friends her zealous attitude towards God and educational pursuit was mocked by her friends which made her consent to accepting a friendship she once kicked against. Demola blinded by peer pressure danced to the tone of his friends, drugged and raped Keziah a girl that once proved hard to get. Keziah becomes the tragic hero of the play as she could not uphold her moral norms she has portrayed to the audience as the plot of the play unfolds.

There are several themes derived from the play which includes - Theme of;

- Bad/wrong choice of friends
- Bad influence
- Youthful Exuberance
- Negligence of Parents
- Sexual Assault (Rape)
- Peer pressure
- Reward/ harvest of choices made
- Deception.

#### 1. Theme of Bad friendship/ association:

From the play Good Morning Sodom, the Holy Writ: "evil communication/ bad company corrupts good manners(1st Cor. 15:33) is proven true. This is because Demola who was not a bad or corrupt student ended up as a cultist, rapist, drug addict, and dropout from the university because of his wrong choice of friends. He had good friends(Zuwaira and Nonso) earlier but ended up destroying his life because of his relationship with (k.k and Benzol). Due to adherence to wrong advice from them, he raped Keziah and died untimely. He subconsciously became like them. Though he knew the truth, he chose the path that cost him his life.

In addition, Tosin and Daniel were influenced and listened to wrong advice and counsel from their friends to rape Stella and that single action of theirs,brought shame and reproach to their family.

#### 2. Theme on Youthful Exuberance;

It is usually believed that when a person becomes a teenager/ youth, he is entitled to freedom of his choice. When people reach their youthful age, they tend to explore and try to live life to know what it has to offer. This is seen in the play when students who ought to concentrate on the primary/ major aim of going to the university began to deviate into other things like; use of hard drugs, head turning alcoholic drinks, cultism, sexual drives and all other forms of anti-social vices. They believed that in doing such, they become powerful, famous and respected but they are only blinded by the temporal gain which soon vanishes because "everyday is for the thief and one day is for the owner". Demola and his friends all ended badly due to their way of exploring or experiencing life.

#### 3. Theme of Negligence of Parents;

It is the responsibility of every parent to train up their children in a way that is acceptable both to God and man so that their children won't bring them pain and regret in their old age. When

parents fail in this duty, they never leave to enjoy their old age because it would be filled with pain and had I known. This is seen in the life of Demola's parents(Mr and Mrs Richards) who neglected their roles as parents because they were too busy chasing after wealth to give their son a good life not knowing that he lacked the most important which is "godly training". They failed to check on him, know how he was doing in school, and help out in the challenges he faced. Demola's friends took up this responsibility and that caused their only child's life. They failed to teach him the way of God, how to make good friends, cope with lust and lots more which rendered them childless.

Also, Tosin and Daniel's parents were negligent of the friends that their children kept. They never taught their children about sex and its consequences at an early age. They were busy with ministerial duties while their children were wallowing in sin. In addition, Stella's parents failed to teach their daughter about secondary virginity and chastity knowing that she was a victim of rape. They didn't do enough and that led to Stella deviating from godly teachings and training.

#### 4. Theme of Rape;

In the play Good Morning Sodom, there were two incidences of rape; that of Keziah and her roommate Stella. They were raped due to carelessness and ignorance respectively. Keziah's rape was due to carelessness because she should never have visited an opposite sex alone or in a private place. She was too blind to notice that the drink he served her was already opened as it wasn't sealed anymore. If she had taken precautions by going with a friend or visiting him in an open environment then Demola's evil plot may not have worked because he would be cautious not to drug her or try raping her. Stella on the other hand, was raped as a result of ignorance which still lies down to poor home training. Her parents weren't able to teach her how to behave around the opposite sex. Peradventure she was taught, she may not have been raped at such an early age(14 years) by four boys of which pastor's children were among. They were both raped cruelly and it created permanent stigma in their lives.

#### 5. Theme of Negative Peer Pressure;

Peer pressure or influence is when you do something because you want to feel accepted and valued by your friends. Peer influence can be positive or negative. In the Holy Writ "If sinners entice you, do not consent(Prov. 1:10b) was not obeyed by Demola and Keziah because they both gave in to advice of their peers and none paid off. From the play, Demola was pressured by his friends(aka Kk and Bentol) to drug Keziah, sleep with her, join a cult, use hard drugs and head turning alcoholic drinks which he agreed to without even giving it a thought. He never thought of his family, future, or integrity rather he made too quick decisions which led to his untimely death.

Also, Keziah was pressured by her course mates(Orie and Bunmi) to give Demola a chance. She could have politely rejected the offer and his pesterings but no, she gave in and became a victim of rape she could have avoided.

Peer pressure will eventually come in one area of a person's life or the other but we ought to deal with it with caution considering what lies ahead.

#### 6. Theme of Reward of Choices Made;

This is a very crucial part of the play as everyone who made one choice or the other, harvested or reaped the result eventually. Using K.k, Bentol and other cultists as a case study, they chose

to leave academics and explore and eventually, they were arrested, jailed and judgment was passed and that's how they couldn't graduate from the university.

Demola on the other hand, died a death not meant for him because of his choice of association. He caused permanent pain on his parents and loved ones and left no legacy behind except those of evil report.

Keziah, had to live with the stigma of getting pregnant(through rape) and her child Mouritha became fatherless due to her deviation from her studies to wrong advice/counsel.

In summary, everybody is forced to live with the consequences of their actions and inactions.

## 2. DETAILED CHARACTER ANALYSIS OF CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY GOOD MORNING SODOM.

1. Nwanga Nwoko(a.k.a k.k): He is a final year student in Mayflower University studying English as a course. He was a bad influence on Demola and he was sentenced to "life imprisonment" for murder, cultism and some other crimes. There's basically no good thing to write or say about him because he is one of the main reasons why Demola deviates from his studies, became corrupt, and eventually died. He was the person who killed Demola during a cult rival. Although he later confessed his sins and agreed to his faults, he couldn't take back the hand of time or bring the dead back to life. From his characterization, it should be noted and taken as a moral lesson that we ought not to be a bad influence on others or people who are not knowledgeable enough or come to us for help/advice. As students in the university, it is our primary duty to focus on our academics and nothing more(example deviation into cultism, drugs, or their likes). Nwanga Nwoko didn't end up graduating but got expelled due to his wrong choices.
2. Stella: She is Keziah's roommate. I call her a friend closer than a mother, family, or any other loved one because that's who she was to Keziah. She got raped at the age of fourteen but never wished such for her roommate. As much as she wanted to mind her business not becoming too clumsy, she kept encouraging and giving Keziah right and godly advice. She didn't want her story to be the same as Keziah's. Although what she wanted for her friend didn't work as planned, she still showed her love, care, understanding and was a huge support to her. She was a good friend to Keziah. She never advised her to abort the pregnancy when she found out she was pregnant. Although she treaded a wrong path(prostitution, holding grudges against God, and all forms of immorality) she later found her stand in God and that brought life, light and meaning to her life. Though she made mistakes, she received God's forgiveness. Her life is a lesson to all young ones out there who have journeyed through the path of destruction. God is still calling to you today because he loves you and wants to add

meaning to your life. This can only happen if you accept his proposal as there's no life outside Him. One with God is a majority.

3. Demola Diran: He is a chief character in the play(antagonist). He is a 200 level student of English at Mayflower University. He suffered an ignominious/untimely death long before his time due to his choice of friends and lifestyle. Although he lacked godly teachings and counsel, he had the opportunity to land good friends(Nonso and Zuwaira) and make right his wrongs. He rather chose to follow and adhere to wrong advice from kk and Bentol. This led to him subconsciously becoming like them in that he became a rapist, started taking hard drugs that intoxicate, strong drinks. He behaved like a person without a conscience by inviting a girl(Keziah) who he promised friendship to carry out his evil plots of drugging and raping her thereby destroying the young girl's life but God intervened and gave her a good end. He ended up as a cultist and during one of his operations, he was mistakenly shot dead by his friend kk. This he would have avoided if he made the right choice of friends and concentrated on his academics rather than lust. If he indeed lived Keziah, he would have married her(going about it the right way than raping her). His life ended on a painful note(he died as a cultist, rapist, dropout and caused nothing but pain to his parents). No good legacy did he leave behind.
4. Mr and Mrs Richards: They are the parents of Keziah. They trained and brought up their daughter in a godly manner. Though they didn't like the outcome of Keziah's rape and pregnancy, they could have been more understanding and not pushing their daughter into committing suicide. Not until she took the step of committing suicide, did they know that they were hurting and affecting her emotionally(most especially Mr Richard). They later recognized their flaws in Keziah's life and changed. They were the reason for the happy ending of Keziah. Notwithstanding the shame and humiliation, Mr Richard chose to give his daughter a better future and that's a lesson to all parents whose children are victims of circumstance. They need to encourage and love them because nothing changes the fact that they are still your children and not disowning them(like Keziah's dad did initially). Keziah's parents gave their daughter a meaningful life even after the incident and that is a lesson to note.
5. Engineer Diran and Mrs Diran: They are Demola's parents in the play Good Morning Sodom. They were workaholics and business people who became too busy that they failed in their responsibility to train up their son in a godly way. They never cared to check on him or know about what his challenges were, or how he was doing. They were one of the causes of Demola's death because of their failure to carry out their responsibilities as parents. Yes, they were able to provide everything he needed financially but not the needful(good home training). They later realized that the home ought to give adequate parental care and monitoring and not just material comfort. They ended up childless as Demola died untimely though they became grandparents of Mouritha, the stigma and consequences of their actions and inactions remained.
6. Keziah Richard: She is a 200 level student of Mayflower University and the protagonist of the play"Good Morning Sodom". Her life and story is worthy of lessons because of her actions and inactions. She is the only child of Mr and Mrs Richards and the mother of Mouritha. She starts out as a disciplined and focused student but later falls victim to negative peer pressure. This was because of her course mates(Orie and Bunmi) who led

her into Demola's trap. She later became pregnant and her education adventure was truncated. She was forced to live with the consequences of her actions and inactions. Her story ended on a happy note as she was later given the opportunity to go back to school after the safe delivery of her child Mouritha.

### 3. POINTS OF DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE WRITTEN AND FILM VERSION OF SOLOMON A. EDEBOR'S DRAMA ``GOOD MORNING SODOM``.

The points of divergence in the written and film version of the play is not far-fetched in the sense that the actions that cumulate the plot development of the play were in some cases performed at different locations.

For instance, in the first movement, during Keziah's mother's visit in the book or written version the driver(Olumide) took the provisions into kezia's hostel but the action in the film differs from the written form as the actions were all performed outside Keziah's hostel in the school premises.

Another point to note is in the second movement, the dialogue between Keziah and Demola in the written version was outside the library while in the film version the conversation took place in the library.

Also, in the third movement it is important to note that in the written version no student was sent out for late coming during Dr Yusuf lecture while in the film version two students were sent out. Demola approached Bunmi and Ovie to start a conversation with them while in the film version, Demola was already seated having a conversation with them in the lecture room while Ovie and Bunmi were seen studying and not really giving him attention during the conversation.

In the fourth movement, some of the wrylies in parenthesis in the written version didn't happen in the movie version. For instance, in the written version, Demola enters the cafeteria, places his order and scans through for a place to sit before eventually seeing Keziah and walking up to her. This didn't happen in the film version as Demola was already with food in a tray as he sat with her to eat.

In the fifth movement, Keziah, Demola, Ovie and Bunmi were all coming from a lecture room before Demola engaged Keziah in a conversation as in the written version but in the film version, only Demola and Keziah were seen engaged in a conversation while Ovie and

Bunmi weren't seen. It is important to note that in the movie version casts(Ovie and Bunmi) were changed in the movie version in this movement.

In the sixth movement, nothing in the parenthesis occurred in the movie as written in the book. This is because in the written note, Demola's house was described but in the movie, nothing was show . He was lying on the bed in the written note but in the movie he was never laid down. Keziah was flipping through the pages of a book in the written note whereas in the movie, she was reading.

In the seventh movement there was no much divergence in the written note and film version except that in written note states that Demola was seated in a lonely corner thinking before K.K arrives whereas in the movie, they were already having the conversation.

In the eighth movement, the written note has it that the members of red shadows cult sang a song but this never occurred in the movie. Also, in the written note three new converts were absorbed in the society but they were only two converts in the movie as Demola was already a member. Lastly, in this movement K.K was the one who gave them the blood in the calabash whereas Jumo removed the blindfold. In the movie, the exact opposite occurred.

It should be noted that the ninth movement in the written version never occurred in the film version.

According to the tenth movement in the written note, "Demola was soaked in the pool of his own blood" but in the film version, he only had patch of blood on his forehead. Also, all what was written in parenthesis after Keziah got to the sight never occurred in the movie. Students carried Keziah out after she collapsed in the film version and no car was waiting as writers in the book.

In the eleventh movement, Keziah's mum was depressed as tears rolled down her eyes but in the written version, she was only sad but never cried as stated in the written note. Also, after she called her husband, her gaze changed to heaven as in the written note but this never happened in the film version.

In the twelfth movement, nothing which was written in the book actually took place. They were different because in the written note, she was taken to her parent's car and as Stella embraces her and leaves. In the film version, Keziah is seen in front of the healthcare in the company of her mum, Stella and the driver. She is taken to the car and as they enter, the driver drives off. Her dad was not a part of this scene in the movie and Stella was leaving in the book but she entered with them in the film version.

In the thirteenth movement, the written note has it that the DPO was a female but in the film version, the DPO was a female.

In the fourteenth movement there was no much divergence between the book and the movie except that the movement in the written note was longer compared to the film version.

In the fifteenth movement, Nonso and Zuwaira weren't the first part of the scene as in the written version although they were later a part of it in the film version. Also, the scene in the book was longer but the scene in the film version was shorter as some things were skipped.

In the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth movements, the divergence of the written version from the film version is very noticeable because a lot were skipped and not said in the film version but was recorded in the written version.

In the written version, the nineteenth movement led to the twentieth movement but this was the opposite in the film version as the nineteenth movement occurred in the twentieth movement.

In the twentieth movement, a lot was skipped as the movement ended almost immediately in the film version but a lot was documented in the written version especially in the parenthesis which never occurred in the film version.

The twenty-first movement in the written version was a scene of remembrance (between K.K and Demola) and Mrs Diran was a part of this movement. It is contrary to the film version as Mrs Diran was already late and buried during this scene in the film version and due to this her role was not played.

It is important to note that the twenty-second movement was the last and final movement in the film version but there was a twenty-third movement in the written version. This means that there was no role of Chineye (babysitting Mouritha) as in the twenty-third movement in the written note.

Also, the film version showed Keziah having contractions and was later rushed to the hospital to be attended to by Doctor Hanson. This was not mentioned in the written version.

It is also important to note that Keziah continues her education in the University of Ibadan as a transfer student was said in the movie at the twenty-second movement but was mentioned in the book in the twenty-third movement.

In addition, in the written note Keziah's daughter was named Mouritha but in the film version she was named Heritage Demola-Diran.

From the list of cast in the film version, there were two Stella characters (young and grown) which was not noted in the film version. Also, DPO was used in the written version but DSP was used in the film version. Not to forget that there was a role of the fisherman in the movie which was not mentioned in the written version.

The various points of divergence in the play underscores the narrative style of the playwright (Solomon Edebor) in exposing and enhancing the thematic structure in the play and how it develops.

The points of divergence in the play shows much more clarity and enhances the readers and audience knowledge of the inherent ideas in the play.

The points of divergence also give the playwright the literary license to more exposition to the insight of the play by structural description of various themes and subject matter in the play such as morality, deception, youthful exuberance and whataview.