

NAME: OYEBODE IFEOLUW GRACE
COLLEGE: Medicine And Health Sciences
DEPARTMENT: Medicine And Surgery
MATRIC NO.: 22/MHS01/210

5 thematic thrusts underscored from Solomon's Edebor's Good Morning, Sodom:

GOOD MORNING SODOM by Dr Solomon.A. Edebor is a realistic play that mirrors the life of an ideal student in the four walls of the university with the presence of all anti-social vices which have drastic effects on both the individuals and society as a whole. It is a very captivating book that centers on Keziah, who like most freshers newly introduced in the system of the tertiary institution system, is focused and determined to fulfill the sole purpose of her being there, until coming into contact with Demola, who's seemingly friendly encounter end up changing and permanently scarring both the characters in the play as Keziah ends with an unwanted pregnancy while Demola ends up dying in such a terrible way, as reason of his participation in cultism and the likes. Indeed, a masterpiece and wonderful lesson for the readers regarding the dangers of wrong association and immoral vices in the university setting.

1. THEME OF RAPE

Rape is a violent offence that involves forcing someone to concede to sexual intercourse, this may involve the use of force, sedation, or manipulation. In much simpler terms, Rape can be defined as sexual relations with any female without consent or under the age of consent. It is considered as very terrible action committed against law, morality and conscience. Rape as a major theme of the story and Dr Edebor Solomon did a wonderful job elaborating on the occurrence of rape even in the higher institutions and its effect in society.

Right from Movement two, we are able to witness attempts made by Demola to persuade Keziah to enter "Friendship" with him. She understood the implication of this and hence rejected all advances made on her by Demola. This constant rejection, coupled by bad advice given by Demola's friend leads to the cajole and eventual rape of Keziah as seen in the 6th movement of the book. Demola serves Keziah a spiked drink

In the same movement, Stella recounts her experience on how under the pretense of religion was subject to rape by the pastor's son and his friends. We see how her personality, morality and entire being is broken down by this event, causing her to not only to be pushed to a world of extreme sexual pleasure but even abandon religion and question the existence and potency of God almighty.

In summary, the adverse effects are projected quite clearly as we in the after events of the rape the story does a good job at encapsulating the adverse effects of rape on female students as Keziah has to halt her education and went through a lot of self-conflicting emotions to the extent of attempting to take her own life. Also, Rape causes Stella to cast away all her morality and beliefs as she is now "Broken" in regards to even how she carries herself in the play, before eventually meeting Christ and being borne anew. The story shows us, the readers, how being the victim of a rape is a terrible thing that in a lot of cases may not leave someone for the rest of their life.

2. THEME OF CULTISM

Cultism is the act of being involved in a cult. A cult is a group of people whose activities are usually shrouded in secrecy as those activities tend to be violent and

poses a threat to the society and its members. It can be termed as devotion to the doctrine or a group or to the practices of a secret group. This another theme under the umbrella of the anti-social vices rampant in the society, as well in the university system. Good Morning Sodom also elaborates on it as well, focusing on not only causes but also the implications of such on individuals.

Cultism as a theme of the story occurs in the 8th movement where Demola and some other students are initiated into a cult due to his connections with the same bad company that encouraged him to drug and rape Keziah as well as cause him to engage in drug misuse under the pretense of relaxation, and in the 9th movement where they carry out a cult operation that leads to the demise of Demola and arrest of the other members of the cult for not only disturbing the peace but threatening the lives and properties within the vicinity at the moment in time.

The story shows us, the readers, the adverse effects of cultism and how it can be harmful even to the individual in the cults as all cult members were all rusticated from the school and sentenced to prison which is but of the many consequences of engaging in this act.

3. THEME OF PEER PRESSURE

Peer pressure is being either coerced or influenced by your peers into doing certain things, whether good or bad but in most cases bad and in the context of the story it is shown to be the cause of bad decisions and this is on full display in the 19th movement of the book where K.K confesses to having influenced Demola from raping Keziah up until joining the red shadows. This same K.K cajoled him in taking drugs in order to forget the guilt he felt for raping Keziah. This conversation that K.K had with Demola's parents sub-textually reveals that the influence he had on Demola had indirectly caused his passing.

There are other examples of peer pressure in the book like Bunmi and Ovie trying to convince Keziah to give Demola a chance but the example illustrated above is the most prevalent as it is a driving force to the story's conflict.

4. THEME OF PARENTAL NEGLIGENCE

Parental negligence is a concept as old as family and community and is evidently the cause of a lot of social vices we have in contemporary society we can see in this play. Dr. Edebor elaborates on the significance of parents in regard to the moral upbringing and emotional make-up of their ward/children as seen in "Good Morning Sodom".

When Keziah was discovered pregnant, she was neglected by her parents who stigmatized her despite her position. Although it wasn't Physical or Financial negligence but rather, they deprived her of emotional care and comfort even when she was a victim of rape under the notion that she just got pregnant.

In the 21st movement of the story where Demola's father admitted that himself and his wife having neglected Demola physically and psychologically. Unlike Keziah's parents who were lucky enough to retrace their steps and reconcile with their daughter, Demola's mother and father were left in grief as they no regret the choices they made, by prioritizing his financial above his upbringing, which contributed to his association with the bad eggs that eventually took his life indirectly.

More parents need to realize that they need to cater for their children more than just financially as they also need to be psychologically present especially in their teen years so they can properly groom them as we can see the drastic effects on both the ward and the Parents/Guardians.

5. THEME OF THE PLACE OF JUSTICE IN SOCIETY

It can be defined as the quality of right and being *jus*. It is conformity to the principles of righteousness and rectitude in all things. Justice has a very important part to play in regards to the activities performed in society and serves as a check on the excesses of the individuals in the society. While it isn't a major theme, Dr Edebor briefly but adequately expatiated on the place of Justice in the University system.

As a result of the cult clash that Demola, K.K and Bentol participated in as seen in Movement nine, they are adequately reprimanded and punished for their misconduct and were even made to face a court trial on the charges of Murder, Membership of an unlawful society/ group and possession of illegal firearms in Movement seventeen. Of course, they were indeed remorseful, but never the less, the court case just reminded us of the place of Justice in the regulation of human behaviour in society.

Also, apart from the physical dispensation of justice as seen in Movement Seventeen, we can see that moral justice was served in the case in the case of Demola in regards to the rape of Keziah. He paid the ultimate price for assaulting Keziah which can be seen as the greatest price to be paid in regards to the sin he committed.

This literary work gives a sense of regard to Justice and its role in society as it is a major factor in maintaining order in society as well as ensuring equality and compensation for the wrongs done to an individual

DETAILED CHARACTER ANALYSIS OF ANY THREE CHARACTERS IN SOLOMON A. EDEBOR'S GOOD MORNING SODOM.

1. Keziah Richards: Keziah Richards was the daughter of the characters Mr and Mrs Richards. She was a very studious and hard working when it came to her studies. She studied English in mayflower university. She was admired by the character Demola, who was one of her course mates. But she knew he was a distraction, so she never gave in to him. After bad advices from her course mate to give the boy a chance, she finally let him be her friend. Keziah had no other intentions with him but Demola had more in stock for her. One day Keziah goes over to the house of Demola to get an assignment done, then Demola drugged her and took advantage of he. When Keziah woke, she found out what had happened and she ran out of his house to her hostel. Keziah's roommate who was worry about her relationship with Demola. She embraced her and told her it was all going to be well. Keziah continued on with her life. There was a cultist fight in the school, Keziah ran out immediately she got a call from her roommate, Keziah saw the dead body of Demola on the ground, Keziah fainted. She was immediately taken to the hospital; her parents came to take her home. When she had recovered, her father revealed to her that she was nine weeks pregnant. Keziah fell into depression, because her father now disliked her and she couldn't continue her education. When her family was to travel Keziah decided to poison herself but her father found her in time when he went back home to get a document. He took her to the hospital, soon her mother was at the hospital. She was taken care of, she and her unborn baby survived. Keziah and her family reunited after they returned from the hospital. Not long after, Keziah gives birth to a girl named "mouritha". The family of Demola soon visits her and the agreed to take full responsibilities of their dead son. Keziah's father surprises her with a letter of admission to a new university with accommodation and someone to take care of her daughter while she was at school. Keziah thanks her parents for all the love and support they have given to her.

2. Stella: Stella was the roommate and friend of Keziah. She was a Christian and a good person although her past was tragic. At the age of 14, Stella and her dad visited their pastor, Stella was very close to God then, but her father had to leave urgently leaving her with the pastor's sons and their two friends. The four boys planned on taking advantage of Stella. The pastor's sons told Stella she had a call from her father in the pastor's bed room. When she got in, the four boys pinned her down making her to collapse while they took turns raping her. When her father returned, she was taken to the hospital. The boys were arrested but the scar never left Stella. Stella turned her back against God and diverted into the things of the world. After several years, God started calling back to Stella through dreams and one day her floor mate Emmanuella came to Stella telling her that God wants her closer to him, this was after one of her dreams. Stella sent her out. Later on, Stella had the same series of dreams and decided it was a calling from God. Stella stopped her old way and went back to the things of God.
3. Dr Richards: Dr Richards a 45-year-old man and father of Keziah Richards was a man big on discipline and morals and who thought it to his daughter but was very disappointed after finding out about his daughter's pregnancy. The character Dr Richard was put in the light of being a hypocrite because he suggested an abortion for his daughter even though he himself was against it but suggested it either way claiming the situation was different. He was filled with shame and disgrace and let the fear of what other people would think of him and his family outweigh the love and compassion he has towards his daughter and because of this he started treating his daughter with so much disdain but came back to his senses when she tried to kill herself, his love for his daughter was renewed by the fear of losing her. He evidently started treating her and her child with love.

COMPARISON OF THE PLAY AND THE MOVIE OF "GOOD MORNING, SODOM "BY DR EDEBOR SOLOMON

The Movie "Good Morning, Sodom" written and directed by Dr. Edebor Solomon, is indeed a masterpiece as well as the play, appealing to the optical senses and hearts of the audience on the life within the four walls of the university and the social vices present in the tertiary institutions of today. While most of the lines and scenes were mirrored exactly as the play, there was creativity in the movie as there were distinct characteristics and situations that took place in the movie to further pique the interest of the audience.

In the movie, the lecturer sent the late students out of the class for their Tardiness, and asked if the class has any questions at the end of the lecture which didn't occur in the play but gave us the sense of discipline and order in the class room. As for Keziah's and Demola's discussion in the cafeteria, their lines were a bit different and Demola wasn't eating rather he bought a drink to spark a conversation with her.

In Stella's recount of her rape, she excluded the fact that she was unconscious and woke up in the hospital. There was also visual inconsistencies line with the play as there was additional lines taken so as encompass the creativity of the director. Also, in the scene of Stella's dream, the man who stopped her wasn't dressed in a Khaki and cap, rather a traditional attire. Also, rather than her rising from the bed at the end of

her dream, we see her in the next scene drying clothes outside before Emmanuella came to meet her.

The remaining part of Zumaira and Nonso was cut out when they were commenting on the expulsion of Demola.

The kitchen scene was cut out to encompass the dialogue of Mr and Mrs Richards about the next step to take, regarding Keziah's pregnancy, of which he recommends the suggestion of abortion so as to reduce the shame on Himself and his family.

There is a plus scene of Keziah crying on her bed (after hearing her parents discussion) and her mother coming to console her regarding her father's maltreatment on the grounds of her being pregnant.

In the movie, the court case is skipped to the end, when the judge is pronouncing the judgement unlike in the play where there was a detailed court session.

Also unlike in the play where both Engineer Diran and his wife went to see K.K in Prison, only Engineer Diran was present to hear K.K's plea for forgiveness as his wife had died in the movie.

It can be said although it was an interesting movie, it would seem that it was rushed and skipped some minor scenes like where we would see Keziah's daughter and how her dad breaks the news of an admission into University of Ibadan.

Regardless of whatever adjustments were made in the movie adaptation, the relevance of "Good Morning, Sodom" by Dr. Edebor Solomon remains the same and even increases with the movie. It is a very impactful piece that has taught life lessons to all and serves as an inspiration to the youths.