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**ASSIGNMENT ON LITERARY APPRECIATION: GOOD MORNING SODOM BY DR. SOLOMON A. EDEBOR**

**TITLE OF PLAY: GOOD MORNING SODOM**

**PLAYWRIGHT: DR SOLOMON ADEDOKUN EDEBOR**

***SYNOPSIS***

The play is a thought-provoking one that tells the story of a female university student named Keziah and the challenges she faces in her academic pursuit as well as the consequences of her choices. Keziah is a diligent student who is engrossed in her books and determined to make her parents proud. She is encountered by a guy on campus named Demola who offers a hand of friendship to which she refuses. Demola adamantly nags Keziah until she finally gives in. This is also partly due to pressure from her friends, Ovie and Bunmi.

Along the line, Keziah is deceived into going to Demola’s room outside campus for pair-studying where she is drugged and deflowered by Demola. Keziah expresses her hatred for and anger at Demola for taking advantage of her as she is deeply hurt by the experience. Frightened by how they might react, Keziah decides to hide the incidence from her parents. Demola, on the other hand, seemingly feels very guilty and remorseful over his evil deeds and partly blames his friend, Nkanga Nwoko (KK), for pushing him into committing such evil, especially against Keziah. Subsequently, Demola joins a secret confraternity on campus still due to negative influence from his friend. Demola is killed during a shooting spree between his cult group and a rival cult group. On hearing of Demola’s death, Keziah becomes unconscious and is found bleeding. She is rushed to the hospital where she is confirmed pregnant after a series of tests is carried out. Her parents, especially her dad, do not exactly handle the news well initially. Dr. Aworawo Richards, Keziah’s dad, even disowns her, thereby leading her to attempt suicide. Fortunately, she receives prompt medical attention and is rescued alongside her unborn child. Her dad regrets his actions and apologizes to her and her mum for being insensitive and unsupportive and they have a family reunion.

Keziah is safely delivered of a baby girl. Her parents decide to support her by transferring her to a new school so she can have a fresh start. Meanwhile, the other members of Demola’s cult are apprehended and sentenced to jail. While in jail, KK invites Demola’s parents, Engr. And Mrs. Diran, to apologize to them for leading Demola astray and all scores are settled. In the same vein, Demola’s parents apologize to Keziah’s parents and agree to take responsibility for the child accordingly.

***THEMES***

1. Anti-social vices: The play exposes the anti-societal ills especially rampant in the higher institutions, such as examination malpractice, prostitution, cultism, drug abuse, to mention but a few. The consequences of such vices are evident throughout the play especially where the list of offenders and their offences and sanctions were displayed on the university’s bulletin board to be beheld by all students. Some were rusticated, some suspended, some expelled. The really unfortunate part of it was the fact that some of the students whose names were shortlisted were already in their final year, thus, bringing their education to an abrupt halt and somewhat truncating their future.
2. Hope: The play shed light on the fact that when there is life, there is hope. Keziah’s story was not ended as she still had hope for a better life ahead in spite of her mistake. One could also have hope inspired by the story of Stella, Keziah’s roommate, who was sexually abused at the age of fourteen, but eventually had a renewed hope for a greater future ahead. The reader should learn not to give up or abandon their dreams but to have hope no matter what.
3. Peer pressure: Keziah and Demola were both victims of negative influence from their friends and this led to an end that was unwished and unplanned for. It is crucial for one to have good friends around them who would constantly spur them on to do good, instead of commit evil. It is noteworthy that evil communication corrupts good manners.
4. Negligent parenting: Demola’s parents failed to adequately monitor their son and check on him consistently. They were not completely invested in his total wellbeing and thus, did not know they were being deceived by him. This gave room for the negative influence of which he fell victim. Similarly, the ignorance of Stella’s parents and the pastor and his wife posed a threat to Stella. Parents should learn to look after their children and not just focus entirely on their work and career. They should ensure to be a great part of their children’s lives so that they do not feel the need to hide anything from them as parents.
5. Forgiveness: The beginning of healing for most of the characters involved in one circumstance or the other was forgiveness. It was not until Stella forgave her perpetrators, Keziah forgave Demola and herself, Dr. and Mrs. Richards forgave their daughter, and Engr. and Mrs. Diran forgave KK, that they all truly began to heal from their respective wounds. The importance of forgiveness and letting go cannot be over-emphasized. Forgiveness has a more positive impact on the offended and really has little to do with the offender, though it is also very important to obtain forgiveness from anyone against whom an offence has been committed.
6. Divine intervention: The play points to God as being ultimately supreme and able to heal anyone from any sort of pain they might be experiencing if only they would come to Him. God’s immense love and patience is shown as He continually uses people to speak to Stella about His love for her which chases her down until she returns to Him as her Father and friend. God is able to give a meaningful and purposeful life to anyone who accepts His love no matter how shattered they may be.

***CHARACTERIZATION***

1. Keziah Richards: Keziah is a 200 level student of Mayflower University who is in her late teen years. Keziah clearly has parents who love her and care for her a great deal. She is a disciplined student who is focused on her studies and creating a good future for herself. She is diligent and studious and spends most of her free time in the library. She is strong-willed and is not easily swayed by Demola’s sweet talks, but has her eyes on the prize she is set to attain as she is convinced that all that boys really want is the thing between girls’ legs. Unfortunately, she is caught in the web of deception and negative pressure from her friends and ends up being raped by Demola, after which she is very angry at him and regrets ever accepting his hand of friendship. Keziah loves her parents so much and hates herself for disappointing them so she attempts suicide but luckily is snatched from the jaws of death by a whisker. She eventually gives birth to a healthy baby girl and goes on to pursue her dreams with love and support from her parents.
2. Demola Diran: Demola is also a 200 level student of Mayflower university who comes from a very wealthy family. He hangs out with bad friends who deceive him and use him to get what they want. Demola constantly pleads with Keziah to be his friend and is not happy that she keeps o refusing him. He is very stubborn and continues to disturb her even at that. His friend encourages him to take advantage of Keziah and sleep with her when she goes to his room for a supposed reading session. He is obviously very easily influenced as he heeds to such bad advice from his friend without much hesitation. Later on, his friend also lures him into drug abuse and cultism. Demola dies as a result of his wrong choices and his parents are left burdened with the responsibility of his and Keziah’s child.
3. Stella: Stella is Keziah’s roommate who has quite a story of her own. She was brought up in a Christian home where she was taught the fear of the Lord and godly virtues were instilled in her. At a young age, she was passionate about the things of God and had a heart that pants for Him. All this is brought to a halt when Stella is sexually abused by her pastor’s sons and their friends when she is left in their company by her parents for a while. She then becomes full of hate for God and in angry at Him for letting such a thing happen to her. She begins to live a very wayward lifestyle and dabbles into all forms of immorality without minding that she is doing wrong and she even sees her admission into the university as a means to go all out in her promiscuity. A while after she is admitted into the university, she encounters God who changes her life for good and helps her to heal from the trauma of her past. She is the quintessential example of a good friend and roommate who is always looking out for Keziah and starts to get worried when Keziah begins to get closer to Demola as she does not want what she went through to also happen to Keziah. After Keziah is disvirgined by Demola, Stella uses her story to encourage and spark hope to her.

***POINTS OF DIVERSION BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED AND FILM VERSION OF GOOD MORNING, SODOM.***

* In the second movement, the published version gives an account of a discussion between Keziah and Demola taking place outside and ending there, but in the film version, Demola follows Keziah to the library where the discussion is continued to the end.
* In the third movement, two students came late for Dr. Yusuf’s class, thereby distracting the class, in the film version but the published version records no such disruption.
* In the fourth movement, Stella was not pacing when she was with Keziah and she did not go over to any window side in the film version, but the published version accounts for those motions. Also, when Stella was narrating her story to Keziah, the flashback in the film showed that Stella was outside spreading her clothes when Emmanuella came to speak to her, whereas in the published version, Stella was just waking up from a horrifying dream when Emmanuella knocked on the door of her bedroom and came in to speak with her.
* In the eighth movement, there were only two blindfolded young men kneeling and getting initiated in the film, as opposed to the published version which records that there were three men. Also, the song sung in the film version was different from what the published version said. Furthermore, Demola was among the men getting initiated according to the published version, but he was shown to already have been a member of the cult in the film version. In addition, KK gave the water of covenant to the new initiates and Jumo untied their blindfolds according to the published version but in the film, it was someone else (perhaps Jumo) who gave the water of covenant while KK untied the blindfolds from the initiates.
* The ninth movement in the published version was not acted out in the film.
* In the thirteenth movement, the DPO was a woman in the published version whereas the position was held by a man (Femi Joseph) in the film version.
* In the fourteenth movement, the book says that Mrs. Richards was in the sitting room from the beginning when they (Keziah’s parents) called Keziah after finding out she was pregnant, but in the fil version, Mrs. Richards came to join Dr. Richards and Keziah in the sitting room much later.
* In the twenty-first movement, the published version shows Engr. Diran with his wife, Mrs. Diran, sobbing beside him in the presence of Keziah and her parents, as Engr. Diran (Demola’s father) recounts to them all that KK said to him and his wife concerning Demola and apologizes on behalf of late Demola. In the film version, it is shown that Demola’s mother, Mrs. Diran, was actually dead at that time.