**Good Morning Sodom by Oladeinde Isaac**

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**1) Peer pressure:** Peer pressure was a heavily discussed issue in theatre. Demola's character illustrated this subject by allowing the negative influences he encountered at the institution to coerce him into actions he didn't want to take. In the twenty-first movement, K.K. and Bentol were observed attempting to persuade Demola to drug Keziah, with Bentol even uttering the words "Relax, Demo.

Without need, you are moving ahead of yourself. It's not as horrible as you think it is, and you'll like it, I assure you.

This statement, which Bentol made to Demola, clearly illustrates how people, particularly those at the university, are under pressure to do things that are wrong on the pretext that "It is not as bad as you think," their buddies encourage them to act improperly. Good Morning Sodom goes another mile to demonstrate the negative consequences of peer pressure in a person's life by demonstrating how peer pressure not only destroyed Demola's life but also destroyed the life of Keziah, the woman he professed to love.Keziah herself, who would not have fallen into Demola's trap if she had not succumbed to negative peer pressure from her coursemates, Ovie and Bunmi.

One of the most important role in child grooming is Discipline, Which is neglected in some homes in the generation we find ourselves today .parents nowadays raise their children  in a humdrum manner perhaps through other people especially domestic help in a way that the children has access to excess freedom to the point where it seems they lack control or guidance which may lead to a negative effect later in the future. It has been observed that children  with these kind of grooming get easily influenced by peers and can also get away with various negative actions in their household due to neglect and lack of attention.

**Lack of adequate Parental care:**

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In our world today, some parents neglect the fact that children do not need only financial help but also need love ,support and Discipline  inorder to face the reality of life . In our world today, some parents neglect the fact that children do not need only financial help but also need love ,support and Discipline  inorder to face the reality of life .        This was seen in the diran household in the course of good morning Sodom engr & mrs Demola admitted themselves that in let in raising the mother the overemphasised that ior only focused on the financial aspect of their lives, neglecting all other aspects. The financial aspect of parenting and securing the child's future is very necessary but it isn't enough to raise a child completely, if Demola was well disciplined ,spiritually and morally trained  , he wouldn't have been a victim of peer pressure. Demola's parents succeeded in the financial aspect they focused on .Demola came from an affluent home and had more than enough money to the point where he drew the attention of KK and Bentol and could get his parents to acquire accommodation outside his school with nothing but a lacklustre lie. It was also clear that Demola's parent failed in other parts of parenting. Demola was easily influenced by KK and Bentol because his  moral upbringing wasn't strong ,his parents acted as bank accounts and not parents to him. There is no saying that if Demola had a good upbringing , he would have lived longer and grew up to be a responsible man. It seems like the playwright is trying to show the effect of lackluster parenting can pose on the youths and not just the other issues and influences that exist in higher institutions that they have to strive to avoid inorder to preserve their future. Certain things that occurred in Demola's life would have been avoided if he had a stronger upbringing or had parents that were very present in his life or disciplined so he wouldn't look for parentage outside . If Demola's parents disciplined him enough he would have been resistant to the negative influence of KK and Bentley which led to the charming , drugging and rape of Keziah , getting an accommodation outside the campus to be less monitored , cultism ,use of drugs and eventually led him to his early grave.

**Drug Addiction/Abuse:**

In this drama, we only observe drug misuse by cult members. As far as I can tell, other characters don't use drugs.

Despite what we now know, I don't believe the author was trying to imply that only members of cults take narcotics. In Nigeria's higher education institutions, drug usage and addiction are on the rise.

Yes, it mostly affects those who already partake in sinister activities like cultism, and that was the line of reasoning shown in the play. However, the extent of drug usage in academic settings should not be minimized or curtailed. Many students who consume drugs don't always engage in other sinister behaviors, but they've been exposed to harmful influences and have the freedom and resource to do so without anyone stopping them, or they are having mental difficulty. When talking about drug usage at higher education institutions, all of these things and more need to be taken into account. The play features a drug-abusing character named Nkanga (also known as K.K.). Since he belongs to a cult, I suppose that he struggles to deal with negative feelings and that this is also a feature of his lifestyle and the people and things around him. Demola was persuaded by K.K. to join a cult and take drugs to get rid of the feelings he was experiencing after raping Keziah. We also notice the potential negative effects of drug misuse a little bit. I think that using drugs may a justification for K.K. and other cult members' moral decadence and lack of regret. How can they experience regret when their drugs prevent them from doing so? Yes, criminal practices like cultism must be acknowledged, but it is also important to remember that the drugs that students abuse can either promote or lead to involvement in these nefarious activities.

**Justice:** "Fiat justitia ruat caelum" (Let justice be done even though the heavens fall). The seventeenth movement of the piece depicted this idea. This movement allows us to

Watch as the defense attorney tries to persuade the court to balance justice with mercy, but the prosecution attorney persuades the judge by saying, "Our sympathy must not cloud our judgement." The judge voiced his dismay at the high number of social vices among students and stated that punishing criminals appropriately is a method to deter others from engaging in these vices, which would lead to a healthier society.

**Cultism:**

This is a huge epidemic in Nigerian higher institutions. Cult groups are practically in every university in Nigeria at this point both public and private. A cult group can be defined as a relatively small group which is typically led by a charismatic and self-appointed leader, who excessively controls its members, requiring unwavering devotion to a set of beliefs and practices which are considered deviant. A cult group is depicted in the play by the name of Red Shadows Confraternity and Demola and K.K. are part of the cult group’s members. In a play about moral decadence in Nigerian higher institutions, cultism has to be depicted because of how far it has spread. The dangerous effects of cultism are also reflected in the play. Like the definition I gave says, cultism usually requires an unwavering devotion to deviant beliefs. So, cult groups are characterized by violence and antisocial activities such as drug use and addiction. We saw this in the actions of the Red Shadows Confraternity. The group membersmclearly abuse drugs- K.K., a prominent member of the cult groupwas clearly on drugs and encouraged Demola to use them as well, along with another cult member Bentol, to get rid of negative emotions. They were also involved in violent actions as we saw from the shoot out, they had with a rival gang that led to the loss of Demola’s life. Cultism is clearly painted as a negative activity in the play because we see the consequences the members paid for their actions. Demola lost his life and K.K. and the other cult members faced their respective prison sentences, with K.K. being given life imprisonment. All members were also expelled from the school even though some were already about to complete their programs. With the consequences faced by the cult members for their actions and the negative effects their actions had on them, the institution and their loved ones, it is clear that the playwright is urging all students in higher institutions to endeavor to stay away from cultism.

**2)** **Stella:** Stella was Keziah's greatest roommate, as seen in movement 1 when Keziah told her mother that Stella had helped her much while asserting, and I quote, "the rest are something else." Do you still recall what I said to you previously? I'm talking about the kind of life they lead.

Even though Stella experienced her fair share of misery in the wake of being raped, having her clothing burned, and making an attempt at suicide, she ultimately devoted her life to Christ, demonstrating her emotional fortitude. Keziah's friend Stella was there for her always, even after she passed out, and it was Stella who phoned Mrs. RichaRDS

**K.K.**

We saw the state of K.K.’s mother during his trial. We found out that she is a widow meaning that K.K. is fatherless. He may have been fatherless for his whole life or from a young age. Being fatherless could affect any man in terms of being discipline and guidance or could also cause him to lash out due to his grief or loss. His mother is also poor-roasting plantains on the road side just to send him to school meaning K.K. is from a poor home. Their home could have only become poor after K.K.’s father’s passing as well meaning the home was once affluent and there was a drop from riches to rags. The first thing that comes to mind when we see how poor. Nkanga’s mother is, is that he is a cruel boy to misbehave in school knowing how his mother is struggling to afford his education but there is also the line of thought of him being poor as well and his struggle with that. Nkanga must have gotten to school poor and saw other students with better means and privileges leading to envy and greed. This could be one of the main reasons he joined the cult- Red Shadows confraternity. His love or strong attraction to money is proven by him singling out Demola and aiming to get closer to him because he noticed Demola was from a rich home. He said this in his account of their friendship to Demola’s parents (Engr. And Mrs. Diran). We see during the course of K.K. and Demola’s friendship that K.K. is on drugs. K.K. probably got into drugs after joining the cult or even before in the cult aided his addiction. Drugs wash away any negative feelings he must have felt about the loss of his father, coming from a poor home etc. We could see that he saw drugs as what to do to no longer feel any negative emotions when he told Demola to take them to wash away his guilt for raping Keziah. It can be deduced that K.K. had probably been using drugs to wash away negative feelings as well from this. Drugs are expensive and require a large amount of money or a steady flow of a good income to keep up an addiction or dependence. Being in the cult life must have provided a boy from a poor home like Nkanga with the financial resources or access to keep up his drug dependence. K.K's cult life must have seemed to provide him with a good life and all he could seem to want especially compared to his humble origins. Being a cult member would also give K.K. power, the type of influence on campus or “big boy” lifestyle that he could have never had otherwise. He had power, money and drugs. Living this seemingly glamorous and comfortable lifestyle, the consequences for his actions would have most likely not even been given a second thought. It is even apparent that K.K. had become extremely morally decadent, before his consequences hit him, when we see him encourage Demola to rape Keziah under the influence of drugs and charms (which he provided). His conscience and morals clearly no longer had a stronghold or control on his life anymore. He simply did whatever he wanted with no regard for others. He was clearly any led by one feeling, pleasure. His conscience only came back to him after he did an action that directly affected him, accidentally murdering his best friend, Demola. After he faced the consequences for his actions, we see that remorse has finally hit Nkanga as he is recounting all the evil he did in influencing Demola wrongly, leading him down a wrong path and then to an early grave. From KK we can learn that one will always face consequences for their actions no matter how long it takes and we should not get caught up in the temporary joys that bad actions give us especially if such actions cause evil to others.

**Demola:**

This character is a good example of what indifferent parenting and peer pressure can do to someone especially a young student in the university. The way Demola’s parents went about their parenting he could do anything he wanted to do, all he had to do was lie and they didn’t check him enough or even know him enough to knowif he was lying. His parents didn’t know him well because like they said themselves, they prioritized the financial aspect of parenting over all other expects at the expense of these other aspects. While they were securing Demola’s financial future, which of course is still a good thing, they were neglecting all other aspects of their parenting responsibilities and raising their child. So, it is safe to assume that Demola had a shaky or weak moral orientation that could be easily influenced due to his childhood and the way he was raised. If he has a stronger moral foundation, it might have been harder for K.K. to influence him. Demola fell to peer pressure and had the financial means from his parents to take things even further- he could get a nice place off campus so he was even less monitored and he could afford drugs or even help the cult financially. I believe Demola could have just been looking for a sense of belonging, like K.K. told Demola’s parents, he became Demola’s parent in the way his parents were not. K.K. influenced Demola to do horrible things like rape Keziah and use drugs, actions that may not have been in Demola’s original character. Demola paid for the actions he let himself be influenced to do with his life and left a child he forced into a girl’s life behind. We can learn from Demola’s life that parents cannot allow the financial aspect of their lives as parents to overshadow all other aspects as they are all just as important in raising a child. To raise a complete child that will do well, all the aspects involved in raising a child must be giving enough attention. And that it doesn’t matter if you do something because you wanted to or because you were influenced to, the consequences are all the same. Demola claims to not have really wanted to rape Keziah, that it was his friend’s influence that made him do it but he raped and impregnated her all the same. He also showed resistance in the scene where Nkanga told him to use drugs but he still fell to the pressure and used them. He also might not have wanted to be a violent cultist and only joined the cult for K.K. but he was a cultist all the same and this led him to his grave. SSThe irony that the same person who led Demola down this path (K.K.) being the same person to kill him is also not lost on me. It can be said that the person who leads you down a bad path leads you to an early grave. In Demola and K.K.’s case, the playwright, Dr. Solomon A. Edebor simply made the saying literal .

**3)** DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BOOK AND THE MOVIE

● According to the movie Keziah's daughter was named heritage Demola-Diran but in the book she is named Mouritha.

● According to the movie Demola's mother was dead while in the book Demola's mother was still alive. ● The 19th movement was not shown in the movie

● In the movie 2 people burnt her cloth in the book 4 people burnt her cloth.

● In the book Emmanuella entered Stella's room to speak to her while in the movie Emmanuella came when Stella was packing her cloth.

● In the book Stella explained the full story of her rape in the bed room with Keziah while in the movie it was explained both in the room and while walking.

● The 9th movement was not shown in the movie.

● In the book 3 cultists were apprehended in the movie 4 cultists were apprehended.

● In the movie the DPO is a man in the book the DPO is a woman.