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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 .

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

1. **THEME OF RAPE AND ITS EFFECT**

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. Keziah became an emotional wreck and saddled with an unwanted pregnancy, which made her father neglecting her emotionally.

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 as well as depression to the extent of attempting to take her own life, but thankfully wasn’t successful. 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.

1. **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 it’s 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. As seen in the play, the price for cultism is rather high to pay as seen in the life of the characters.

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 consequence of engaging in this act. It serves as a form discouragement in regards to the participation of this activity.

1. **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 derived 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 neglecting 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. As a result, they considered themselves as guilty for his death as K.K. Their irresponsibility towards the morality of Demola cost him his life.

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.

1. **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.

In the short conversation between Inspector Dele and the DPO in Movement thirteen, as we see the efforts put into the investigation and arrest of the cult members by Inspector Dele, it is obvious to readers that the government were putting necessary effort towards the maintenance of Law and order as well as dispensation of Justice to the offenders of the law. 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.The court trial on its own gave a sense of order to the disorders regarding the anti-social vices rampant in the play for the readers strongly. 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 it’s 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

1. **THEME OF PEER PRESSURE**

It can be explained as direct or indirect influence on peers I.e members of social groups with similar interests, experience or social status.From a person’s view, it can be said to be a situation when a person do something or engage in some act, only because the person in question will want to please or be praised by his friends. It is one of the factors that majorly contribute to the introduction of individuals into anti-social vices and activities such as cultism, drug misuse, hooliganism and so much more as seen in the plot of this play “ Good Morning Sodom” .

Dr Edebor Solomon was able to give us a very vivid picture on how the influence of friends and acquaintances grossly influence the character and actions of an individual. Demola is a sole subject of this theme as we can see that the majority of the reasons for the turn-out of his life was caused by the type of friends he was surrounded with.

Demola who was physically attracted to Keziah, was advised by his friends to cajole and drug her so he can supposedly “show her his heart”. They were the ones who persuaded him to rape Keziah, which he immediately regrets because he immediately lost the trust of the woman he loved as seen in Movement six and seven . Also in Movement seven, we also see as Demola confronted K.K about Keziah and what he had made him(Demola) to do . K.K brushed it off stating that he should take drugs so he would no longer be gloomy and sad. We could clearly see his hesitance in collecting the “ white substance wrapped in nylon” but it’s the same K.K that eventually made him to take the drug and become high.

In the eighth movement, we see Demola being initiated into the Red Shadows with K.K and Bentol in attendance. It is safe to assume that they were the ones who recruited him, making him indirectly taking a death ticket. It can be said that it was his bad friends that caused him to die an untimely death in the cult clash at the university.

Dr Edebor Solomon was able to portray how far the influence of one’s friends circle go, bringing reality and present situations in his book. Like Demola, Keziah’s friends were trying to push her into entering a relationship with Demola. Unfortunately, even though she didn’t agree to this advise by her friends, she still ended up as a victim of rape in the hands of Demola. One of Societies greatest motivator of evil deeds is friend cliques or groups with influences the characters, beliefs, morals and principles causing them to act indiscriminately.

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

1. Keziah Richards: It can be said that she is of the two main characters in Dr Solomon Edebor’s play “ Good Morning, Sodom”, by which he envelopes the effects of anti-social vices on an innocent individual in the University setting. Keziah Richards was the only daughter of the characters Mr and Mrs Richards. She was a very studious and hard working when it came to her studies as seen in the early Movements of the play, while pursuing her degree in English in Mayflower University and was held in high regard by both her parents and her friends. 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 advises from her course mate to give the boy a chance and a push from Demola, she finally dropped her guard around her and allowed him be her friend.While Keziah,since their first encounter, had no other immoral intentions with him, Demola, on the other hand, had more in stock for her otherwise. One day Keziah goes over to the house of Demola to get an assignment done, then Demola drugged her and took advantage of her. When Keziah woke she found out what had happened, she became immediately Horror struck about the treacherous . deed Demola committed against her and she ran out of his house to her hostel in tears and sadness. It was the advice of Stella and recount of her( Stella’s) experience that brought Keziah some level of comfort and consolation, even while she was gravely devastated. Keziah continued on with her life in school, until she was told of the news of Demola’s death by her friend and even saw his deceased state for herself . She fainted and was taken to the hospital until she was ran out immediately she got a call from her roommate, Keziah saw the dead body of Demola on the ground, Keziah fainted and was immediately taken to the hospital with her parents contacted and eventually taking her home. When she had recovered, her father revealed to her that she was nine weeks pregnant and Keziah fell into depression, because her father now disliked her and she couldn’t continue her education. This depression pushed her to the extent of suicide as when her parents are gone on a trip she attempted suicide, and would have succeeded if not her dad came back for the document he had left. At home. 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 some one 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. Keziah can be seen as the better of the two main characters as she had a better ending than Demola. We can see the adverse effects of Peer pressure and the experiences of a rape victim as she can be seen as a triumphant character that rose from her problems that caused her to stumble on her journey.
2. Demola: The second of the main characters in Dr Edebor’s Good Morning, Sodom. He is the son of Engineer and Mrs Diran and is a friend of K.K and Bentol. He is the boy who is seen pestering Keziah in Movement two and three, asking for a personal relationship where they can “ .. reason together…find a way around their academic problem, together” which Keziah strongly disagrees and constantly pushes him away, despite his advances and persuasion from her friends. Eventually she softens up and agrees to go to his house off-campus and following the advice of K.K and Bentol, he drugged her and raped her. This leads to hatred for him and regret for ever crossing paths with him (Demola) as seen in Movement seven. When K.K eventually meets with Demola, He expresses his displeasure regarding the regarding Keziah’s rejection, blaming it on K.K’s advice. Rather than console him, he offered him drugs so that he’d be high and forget about the whole situation with Keziah. It can be said that it was K.K and Bentol, that led him to joining the ranks of Red Shadows and engaging in their raid so as to revenge for the death of their comrades, which he ended up dying in. He is a good example of the fate of those who move with the wrong company and even had a worse fate than those who made him indulge in those anti-social vices as recounted by K.K when trying to seek redemption from the parents of Demola. As seen in the flashback, he hands Demola the handkerchief which he used to induce Keziah to sleep so he would be able to “…show her his heart…”. He also admits that he was the one who made Demola live off-campus and he influenced majority of his life choices he made on campus. Of the two protagonist, he can be said to be the tragic protagonist, because unlike Keziah who had a second chance at redemption and eventually had a happy ending, he ended up deceased as a result from engaging in the raid. He is the character Dr Solomon uses to expatiate the theme of parental neglect and negative effect of peer pressure. His parents gave little attention to his moral and academic aspect of his life while providing for all his material needs which contributed to his unfortunate demise, as they didn’t really pay attention to their child. Also as for the theme of Peer pressure, he was also the major individual who portrayed this, as every advice given to him in the course of the play, he did them accordingly with the aim of getting that feeling of belonging to the clique of K.K and Bentol which eventually led to him raping Keziah, which brings to light another major theme in the play as we can the negative effects of the act on both individuals as Keziah is burdened with an unwanted pregnancy and Demola suffering from the psychological impact in form of guilt for raping her and spoiling their blooming relationship. As said earlier, he is indeed a tragic character in “Good Morning, Sodom” whose life choices provide lessons from his experiences and mistakes made in this literary text.
3. 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. She is also another individual who broadens the theme of Rape and its adverse effects even deeper as we see how she is being deeply affected psychologically, morally and even in the religious sense as it pushes her to even begin to doubt the existence and potency of God. In her discussion with Keziah, she admits that this act of rape pushed her further into engaging into other forms of sexual gratification in order to both make herself feel better and to spread this same feeling. This is a usual effect seen in the world today as the victims of rape today when not properly attended to are the ones likely to continue the circle of violation because they’ll abuse others that come that way. As in the case of girls, they lose control of their libido and will begin to sleep with anything in trousers, while pushing themselves further down. She also brings to light the theme of Redemption as she was able to come out of her abuse and constant sexual sins after both of her encounters in her dream and the message of the pastor that caused her to retrace her steps back to God. This theme in particular gives us a feeling of hope and gives us the message that even if rape or other bad events come into our life, there is still hope for a second chance as seen for Keziah and Stella.

**Comparasion of the film and the play of Good Morning Sodom by Dr. Solomon Edebor**

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 peak 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 spike 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 plead 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.