

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the theme through the portrayal of the protagonist in Arthur Miller's tragedy *The Ride down Mt. Morgan*, I would like to draw a conclusion in this chapter. The protagonist of the play is Lyman Felt, a successful millionaire whose moral flaws lead him to face his own downfall. Here, the source of his flaws is his incapability to control his strong desire to have two families at the same time. Lyman's characteristics which are unfaithful, selfish, and obstinate, are said to be the flaws that make him have to deal with the consequence of sticking with those flaws. His desire is to live happily with the affair he commits, but he ends up having nothing in the end.

The theme of the play is derived from the portrayal of Lyman Felt. Lyman's first characteristic, which is unfaithful, is one that is driven by his desire to keep both wives in marriage. It is shown that Lyman likes to go out with other women even after he has got married, which emphasizes his unfaithful personality. Moreover, he even marries Leah, one of those women, without divorcing Theo, his first wife. Lyman himself has actually made a promise to Leah that he will divorce Theo. However, the fact that he does not divorce Theo makes him living inside an affair for nine years. Because of that, Lyman has to pretend

to both of his wives all the time that he is only married to one women, which shows that he is an unfaithful person. He himself also admits that he is an unfaithful person and will continue to be one because he thinks that it is man's nature to be unfaithful.

The second characteristic of Lyman is selfish. Lyman's desire to live together with his two families makes him become a selfish person. Even though he wants to have both of them, it does not make him care about his two wives and his children's feelings because he only cares about his own happiness. For example, soon after the families find out about Lyman's secret, they demand him to make up his mind and continue to live with only one family. However, he refuses to do so because he wants to have them both. Lyman's selfishness is also shown when he can act so casually in front of both his wives by telling them that he loves the two of them and that they are both dispensable for him whenever he feels bored. He also thinks that his wives and children's feelings are not really important, as long as he is able to support them financially. His selfishness hurts his families' feeling, which causes Lyman to be left at the end of the story.

The last characteristic that is analyzed is obstinate. Lyman, who is determined to have both families, does not realize that everything he does is a mistake and is morally-wrong. All he knows is that he wants to live his life the way he wants to because he wants to be honest with himself without becoming a hypocrite like anybody else. Thus, he refuses to change or to compromise even if it can solve all his problems and make things clear between his two families. His obstinate characteristic makes him become someone who is extremely determined about being himself without thinking about the consequences he has to face. Even until the end of the play, he refuses to let go his desire, and still does not understand why his family hates him for what he has done.

The theme statement that I get from the portrayal of Lyman Felt is “one who obstinately follows one’s selfish desire without considering other people’s feeling may be left alone by one’s loved ones.” In the play, Lyman is categorized as a static character because he keeps being the same person throughout the entire play. Lyman is a flawed character who is determined to own everything in his life. He is actually working hard to maintain the thing he really wants in his life, which is having two families by committing an affair for years. However, committing an affair is considered wrong in the society. Thus, it causes problems between him and his families once the affair is revealed. His desire to have both wives and families makes him unfaithful as he has to maintain both families with lies. Moreover, his desire to have both wives ironically turns him into a selfish person. He only prioritizes his own pleasure without thinking about his families’ feeling. At last, Lyman’s desire also leads him to become someone who is obstinate. Despite the mistake he has made, he still refuses to change because for him, if he ever has to change, it is the same as living a hypocritical life. All those flaws make his families lose their love and respect for Lyman. And because of that, they leave him at the end of the play. Furthermore, the problems affect his career as well since he is asked to resign from the company he has built himself. In the end, it is shown that by obstinately following his own desire, Lyman has to face tragic ending of his own making.

After analyzing the play, I can understand that Lyman does not want to change into a person who is considered morally-acceptable in the society, for the sake of being honest to himself and following his own desire. However, as a social being we are bound to the society; we have to consider the fact that there are other people who live with us. In my opinion, it is good to have a desire to achieve something. However, when we pursue that desire, we have to think about other people as well. I also think that it is alright to be ourselves, as long as

it does not cause any bad effects to other people. Moreover, we also have the right and freedom to desire anything that we want in life. And as a social being and as a part of a bigger society, we have to think about the consequences of our action to others.

