

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the present writer would like to give the conclusive evidences of the theme that is ‘The mind needs to be purified from the shadows or evil though in order to make the soul see the reality of life,’ as the result of her analysis in chapter two. Having analyzed Iain Pears’ novel, The Dream of Scipio, the present writer concludes that the three major characters who live in different periods of time, deal in a lot of philosophical words. The author sends the theme of his novel to the readers through the portrayal of the three major characters and philosophical words. Since the portrayal of the three major characters is prominent in revealing the theme, the present writer would like to bring out the author’s important message through them.

The first major character is Manlius Hippomanes. Manlius loves and appreciates The Old Learning or Greek philosophies. Unfortunately, his love of learning is not capable of releasing his soul from the shadows of the world or evil thoughts. When he heard for the first time the idea of releasing the soul from the shadows of the world, his mind has already been contaminated by the shadow itself. He misunderstood the shadows as love, friendship and the other important values in life. These evil thoughts come to him because he used to think based on the needs of his body that is possessions and physical comforts. He is eager to save his own estate from

depredation of barbarian attacks. Then, when he has a chance to save it, he combines his power and ability of dealing with politics and diplomacy to reach what he desires almost from the beginning of his life.

Unfortunately, Manlius tries to defend his possession and physical comforts by betrayal act, murder, slaughter, deceit and some more ignoble acts. The result of his ignoble acts happened when he loses his soul. It is said that Manlius feels satisfied by gaining his desire to give his body all physical comforts it needs but he pays everything by losing his soul. His soul is consumed by corrupted mind which is greatly influenced by his body. Manlius cannot see that his acts are so bad for his soul is still in blindness. Not only does he regret his ignoble acts but he is also proud of his successful goal by writing his corrupted thoughts of philosophical form in his essay, The Dream of Scipio.

The second major character is Olivier de Noyen. Olivier has quite better characteristics than Manlius. As a poet and an ordinary man, he used to think in simple pattern. When he does something wrong according to his heart, he will realize and regret it. Olivier always tries to bring the need of his soul and the need of his body into equilibrium. If he does something bad, he will do the restitution for it. Although Olivier could clearly understand the differences between the need of his soul and the need of his body, the evil thoughts finally come to him through his love feeling.

It is told that Olivier makes a great effort to save his love, Julia, and his philosopher teacher, Gersonides, from death. Olivier, who appreciates friendship, especially between him and his older friend, Althieux, has changed his personality

unconsciously because of his love for Julia. Olivier betrays his master, Ceccani, and it means that he runs against his own principle to be a loyal adherent to his patron, Ceccani. Again, as a human being, Olivier could not get rid of his weakness that is his corruptible mind. Olivier's thought is fully dominated by possessiveness towards Rebecca when he is forced by a difficult situation to choose between saving the woman he loves and the Jewish friend or showing his loyalty to his patron. Like Manlius, Olivier's soul could not be freed from its prison. The shadows of the world follows Olivier's thought up to the end of his life; as a result, Olivier does not regret his betrayal act to his master owing to the fact that his possessiveness which comes from the need of his body has poisoned his mind.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there is the third major character namely Julien Barneuve. Julien is a lonely man who has a very patriarchal father. The strict discipline that is imposed upon him since his childhood has made him live in solitude. It is why he is having a lot of affairs with women; he tries to cover his lonely feeling with those affairs. When he meets Julia at the cocktail party on the ship, his heart begins to feel something different. Furthermore, Julien gets involved with her and they become intimate lovers. At this stage of life, his love for Julia is so great that he cannot see anything but her. Finally, he can see clearly the reality of life after he loses Julia forever. Despite the fact that Julien has done everything to save Julia including betraying Bernard, his friend, of the Resistance group, he cannot save her life. At the end of his life, Julien's soul is awakened by the reality that he has done wrong. He has exchanged one person's life in order to get his love back as the only important possession of his. The decayed condition of his own mind makes him aware of his

blind soul. He will not possibly release his soul forever from its prison, that is evil thoughts, as long as his soul unites with his body. The different needs of those two important parts of human being is not possible to live together. His body and his soul will always fight to defeat each other and Julien decides that he does not want to experience a great suffering any longer by the needs of his body. Afterwards, he decides to commit suicide in order to release his soul from the shadows of the world.

From the portrayal of the three major characters above, the present writer understands that the mind needs to be purified from shadows or evil thoughts in order to make the soul see the reality of life; nevertheless, it is difficult to release the soul from evil thoughts as long as the soul is still united with the body. The human mind will never be released one hundred percent from evil thought because of the tendency to follow physical comforts and physical satisfaction; still, human should not let the whole mind be corrupted by the evil thought because it would kill the soul and make the human no more than animal that lives to satisfy its physical needs. The Dream of Scipio has given the evidence of the fact related to the statement mentioned before that somebody should try to save his/her soul from being consumed by shadows of the world but it is not as easy as it is said since the body and the soul are two different parts which have formed human characteristics and could not be separated except by death.