

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

The Human Stain is a tragic novel that tells about the relationship between social and private life especially in America in 1990s. This book also shows the reader the effect of the society's norms on private life. The norms are powerful in influencing one's life. It can limit, ruin, and destroy one's privacy. In the novel both Coleman Silk and Faunia Farley live in the society which has an authority to ruin their lives.

The present writer also sees that both Coleman and Faunia are controlled by their past. All his life, Coleman is covering up the fact that he is a black man because he does not want to be treated unfairly as he has experienced in the past. In the past, as a black person, he is never allowed to go into a white kid's house. He also has to get out of the navy because of his skin colour. Steena, whom he loves, leaves him without any reason when she knows his real identity. This is why, he chooses to reject his real identity and creates a new identity as a Jew.

Faunia is also controlled by her past. When she is a child, she is raped by her stepfather and no one wants to believe her because her stepfather's money is powerful. From this experience, she covers up her past and tells everyone that she

is illiterate. In the present writer's opinion, both Coleman and Faunia do this because there are norms in the society which restrict them to do and get the things they want.

However, Coleman and Faunia decide to do different things. Coleman decides to be 'somebody', an important or well-known person in the society. In contrast, Faunia chooses to be 'nobody', an unimportant or insignificant person. They believe that by being 'somebody' or 'nobody' they can get freedom to do anything they want and no one will judge them. By doing this, the present writer finds both of them get what they want and get the freedom.

Yet, the present writer also notices that there are consequences that both Coleman and Faunia have to bear and these are bad consequences. Both of them lose their families and die.

Having taken a closer look at Coleman and Faunia, the present writer is sure that the two characters are lifelike characters. In this world, there are norms in the society that one has to obey. No matter whether the norms have good or bad influences, one cannot be free to do anything. Coleman and Faunia are victims of this condition.

The theme of the novel, "the pressure from the society will bring someone to do anything to get what they want without noticing the consequences", is familiar and understandable. The situation can be found in Indonesia. The minority is occasionally repressed by the majority. The minority as the weak group gets more pressure than the majority. They often get unfair treatments and this can lead them to do drastic things like Coleman and Faunia, who are trapped in their situation and in their learning about themselves.

The present writer thinks that Roth wants to describe a picture of the American society which is ignorant of the danger of the social norms to somebody's private life. He reminds us through the title of the novel, The Human Stain, about the stain in every human being that is always present since anyone must have done something wrong in their lives. Also, he gives us a clear picture that in trying to get what one wants, there are consequences that one will have to face.