

APPENDICES

Synopsis of When Rain Clouds Gather

Makhaya Maseko is a black man from Zulu tribe. Men in Zulu tribe never respect women because they think their position is more superior than women's. This belief becomes his first reason to leave the no-man's-land and go across the Botswana's border fences. Another reason is he cannot marry and have children in a country where black men are called "boy", "dog" and "kaffir." His reasons for leaving are the same reason for hating himself and calling himself 'Makhaya, the black dog.' As an educated person he feels ashamed with his tribe because they like to do terrors of rape, murder, and bloodshed in a city slum; besides, his tribe gives him bad experiences such as alienation and disparagement. That is why his bitterness changes into hatred which makes Makhaya's life become dark. His hatred becomes a barrier to build relationships with others.

In Botswana, he meets Mma-Millipede, Gilbert and Paulina who help him to open himself. Mma-Millipede teaches him to build relationships with others, because it is important, considering all people in this world are brothers. Makhaya learns from Paulina's patience when she faces troubles without blaming others for her own private troubles. Makhaya's first step in his transformation is building relationships with Botswana villagers. He cooperates with Gilbert Balfour to

create a successful revolution in traditional farming methods. From Mma-Millipede and Paulina, he knows the purpose of his life and he believes in God's existence. In the end, Makhaya proposes Paulina to marry him.

Biography of Bessie Head

Bessie Amelia Emery Head, one of Africa's prominent writers, was born in Pietermaritzburg's Fort Napier Mental Institution in 1937. Head is the child of an "illicit" union between a Scottish woman and a black man. She became a journalist for Home Post in 1959. In 1960, she married a journalist named Harold Head. Her marriage ended in a divorce in 1964, and she took her son, Howard to Serowe, Botswana.

In Botswana, Head remained in "refugee" status for fifteen years before gaining citizenship and there, she wrote all three of her major novels When Rain Clouds Gather (1969), Maru (1971), and A Question of Power (1974). Her short stories The Collector of Treasures (1977), and Serowe: Village of the Rain Wind (1981) were published as a historical portrait of a hundred years of a community in Botswana. Her works deal with issues of discrimination, refugees, racialism, African history, poverty, and interpersonal relationships. Head's writing always stressed the threads that connect people regardless of race or ethnicity. Her sensitivity to humanity outweighed her bitterness and anger.

Head died on 17 April 1986 because of hepatitis. A Woman Alone (1990) is an autobiographical writings; Tales of Tenderness and Power (1989) and The Cardinal (1993) were published posthumously. In 2003, The Order of Ikhamanga, South Africa's highest award was given to her for her exceptional contribution to literature and the struggle for social change, freedom and peace. In July 2007, the library in Pietermaritzburg was renamed the Bessie Head library in honour of her.

(A Brief Sketch of the Life of Bessie Head)