

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing the theme through the portrayal of the protagonist in Arthur Golden's *Memoirs of a Geisha*, I would like to draw some conclusions. Sayuri, the protagonist, is sold to be a geisha because her parents cannot take care of her anymore. Because of her mistake, she loses her chance to be a geisha and becomes a maid, and owes an even greater debt. She can repay her debt only by being a maid as long as she lives. When she has lost all her hope and purpose of life, the Chairman comes and brings into her life another purpose. She wants to be together with the Chairman. She works her way up from being a maid to being a geisha.

After analyzing the protagonist's characteristics in *Memoirs of a Geisha*, I get the theme "In order to achieve one's goal, one has to struggle to achieve it." Sayuri, the protagonist, is portrayed as a strong-willed, brave, persistent, persuasive and resourceful girl. Sayuri has faced some difficulties in her life and she overcomes the difficulties in her life with those characteristics.

Sayuri's characteristic of being strong-willed helps her become determined in achieving her goal. When she sets her new goal after her encounter with the Chairman, she works very hard to achieve it. As she goes through a very hard training and a painful process of being a geisha, she finds a way to practice her skill amid her hectic schedule as a maid and as a student of a geisha school. With this characteristic, she lives her life doing everything that she can to achieve her goal. She goes through all of the process of being a geisha and finally she achieves her goal.

From her second characteristic, being brave enables her to overcome the obstacles that occur in her way to becoming a geisha. She endures the risk of wearing a poisonous makeup, she lets someone apply a hot wax on her hair although it is painful, and sleeps with a cradle that supports her neck. She does anything just to get herself a step closer to her goal. Being brave helps her to do things that are painful and dangerous for her. She endures the pain of being a geisha because she knows that being geisha is her only way to be together with the Chairman. Her bravery helps her to encourage herself to do things that are painful and uncomfortable in order to improve her career and make herself a step closer to the Chairman.

Her third characteristic is persistent. It helps her to focus on her goal. Even when Nobu is already fond of her, she does not take her eyes off from the Chairman. She knows that Nobu is a fine and nice man, but she does not love him. She wants something more than just kindness and she can get it only if she is together with the Chairman. Therefore, every time Nobu proposes to be her danna, she turns him down. She knows that Nobu's kindness would not make her

happy. She keeps on chasing the Chairman because she knows that she will be happy if she is together with the Chairman.

Being persuasive makes her easy to ask for help from the people around her. Her way to being together with the Chairman is not easy. There are a lot of problems that she has to deal with. She cannot solve her problems alone; therefore, she needs help from others. Pumpkin, her friend in the okiya, helps her when she needs to go out. Pumpkin also tells her what Hatsumomo has done to ruin her career. It shows that in achieving her goal, Sayuri needs help from other people. Her ability to persuade people makes her get the help that she needs in order to achieve her goal.

Her last characteristic is resourceful. It helps her to find a way to resolve the problems that come her way. For example, she seduces the man who has an interest in her by using the scar on her thigh. She uses her femininity and acts so innocent in front of Dr. Crab. She knows the fact that the doctor loves buying geisha's virginity and probably will buy hers too. She uses her scar to sexually attract Dr. Crab. From this quality of hers, she can find a solution to deal with her problem. Although they are only two men who bid on her virginity, Dr. Crab pays an outstanding amount of money for her virginity.

The protagonist, Sayuri, is portrayed as someone who is different from other geisha girls. They become geisha because they do not have any other option. All geisha girls go to parties and try to make themselves acknowledged by the rich men who come to the geisha district. The geisha receives expensive gifts, jewelry, extravagant kimono and anything that they cannot afford from the men who are fond of them. If they ever get a patron, they will be even more famous. Sayuri

sees her being a geisha as a stepping stone for something greater, not as a dead end. By becoming a geisha, she can get closer to the Chairman. When she has become a geisha, she works hard to achieve her dream. I believe that the author wants to tell us that we have to work hard if we want something and do whatever we can to achieve it. Do not get stuck by what other people say, but do what matters to us. Sayuri sees being a geisha as a chance to get closer to the Chairman.

In my opinion, the author has succeeded in creating a detailed story about the life of a geisha. He has spent so much time studying the life of a geisha and writing it down in his novel. The author also combines his fictional character with historical events in World War II. After fifteen years of hard work, he can finally get his novel finished. His novel becomes a bestseller and has been translated into thirty-two languages. We can see both from the author and the protagonist that we are able to achieve something if we work hard for it.

After analyzing this book, I believe that the theme can be applied to our daily life. The five characteristics that I have mentioned above can help us to struggle in our life. While working towards our goal, we will face some difficulties. We have to compromise with other people, we have to be able to sell our ideas, and we have to find the best way to deal with our problems. We can use Sayuri's characteristics in our own life to solve our problems. We can also learn from Sayuri to not give up easily on our way to achieve our goal.