

P. 35: "It takes a little time.....included you"

Comment fully

This passage is extracted from "All My Sons", written by Arthur Miller. The play depicts the American society during the World War and the Great Depression period. People have become more materialistic. The only thing they care about is money and how to bring it. The play also discusses the idea of survival. Each person wants to survive on the expense of the other. The American dream has become something ridiculous to be fulfilled and nobody cares about it anymore.

These words are said by Chris to Ann. Chris is talking about sacrifice during the war. Each one sacrifices his own life for the sake of the others. He says that if any of these soldiers has been more selfish, he would have been alive till that moment. Everything has been destroyed. Responsibility towards others is the only thing that is made out of war. After going back to work with his father, he feels ashamed. Nobody has changed. Everybody is selfish and cares only about himself. Chris feels that it is wrong to be alive in this strange ugly world. People are dying in war, when he uses his bank-book, drives his new car and uses his new refrigerator. He says that when he drives his new car, he feels that he has come out of war and the love man can have for another man. He wants to be better than that, or else, his money will be covered with blood and he does not want to take it anymore and this includes Ann.

Chris is Keller's son. He is totally different than his father. Chris is a kind of a man who is always worried about people. He is willing to sacrifice in order to make people feel happy. Chris feels a kind of responsibility towards people in the war. He feels that everything he owns has come out of the blood of people who have died in the war. He feels somehow guilty that they are living happily while other men are dying in war. He is not used to this kind of life. He wants to sacrifice for others but not to live this luxurious life. Chris is a kind of an ideal man in a wrong world that lacks idealism. He still cares about fulfilling the American dream. He wants to feel responsible towards his family. This kind of idealism is not present anymore.

This passage sheds light upon one of the main themes of "All My Sons" which is responsibility towards others. During the war, each one feels responsible for others. A man is willing to die for the sake of another man. This kind of responsibility is not present among ordinary people. Each one wants to survive

without caring about anyone else. For instance, Keller throws the whole responsibility upon Steve. As a result, Steve has gone to prison instead of Keller who has ignored all about that case and has become a successful business man. This shows that war has changed everything and everyone. It has made man sacrifices with another man for his own sake and without caring about anything else.

P.45: "Let's face it ...the truth"

Comment fully

These words are quoted from "All My Sons", a play written by the American playwright Arthur Miller. Throughout the play, Miller attempts to introduce several important themes such as; the father-son relationship, idealism, materialism and the American dream. The play is generally about how people try to build themselves in order to fulfil the American dream regardless the means they take. In addition, the play also deals with issues of abstract moralities.

In the extract, a conversation takes place between Sue, the wife of Doctor Jim Bayliss, and Ann, the daughter of Steve. They talk about Chris and his idealism and how he does not know the truth of his father. Sue looks for her husband and Ann informs her that he has gone to the airport to receive his brother, George. Sue is in a real fix; she is worried about her marriage. Jim has made a statue and a great example of Chris. She is afraid of Chris owing to his great sense of idealism and that he makes people believe in his idealism as him. She feels that idealism is sometimes an illusion. She also points out that her husband feels uncomfortable and that the trouble with him is the influence which Chris exercises upon him.

Furthermore, her husband is a doctor, but he cannot afford his job, because of his marriage. She believes that if he becomes idealistic, he may divorce her and therefore she worries about destroying her marriage. Sue tells Ann that Chris works with his father and gains money out of his father's business. She reveals the truth about Keller's crime. He manages to free himself from prison as an innocent man. Sue hates to live beside this family as they do not commit a crime. She sarcastically describes them as the holy family. Joe Keller has ruined a man's life who is his partner, Steve. Sue believes that he is guilty.

Sue, the wife of Doctor Jim Bayliss, is worried about her marriage. Her husband is a doctor and may divorce her if he becomes idealistic. She as well hates to live beside this family as she describes them as a holy family as they do not commit a crime. Chris has a great sense of idealism and makes people believe in his idealism. Yet, his idealism can be poisoned by values, emotions, experiences and dreams that can never take shape in reality. He also has great respect and admiration for his father. He has not thought of him as a criminal; he is not aware of his crime. He has to sacrifice not only for the living but for the dead as well. In other words, he has great sense of self-sacrifice.

In the extract, the idea of idealism is clear in Chris' character. He has an exceeding sense of idealism, so he makes people believe in his idealism. In spite of Chris' idealism, he is not aware of the truth that his father has committed a crime. He wants Jim Bayliss to be idealistic as well as him. Jim loves and admires

him, so he turns Chris into a great example to be followed. Sue resents Chris' idealism and worries about her marriage.

Toward the end, the names of the protagonists of the play are very significant. For instance, "Joe" is a popular name, but if "Keller" changes into "Killer", the name will suggest his crime. Moreover, "Chris" is another example. If "t" is added to the end, this suggests the character's idealism and his moral uprightness.

To conclude, Miller is very successful in conveying his themes and expressing Chris' idealism and Sue's anxiety about her marriage.