

A STUDY OF THE MAIN CHARACTER'S RESPONSIBILITY DEPICTED IN STEVEN PIZIKS NOVEL "EXORCIST:THE BEGINING"

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Abstract

This research discusses the responsibility depicted in Steven Piziks' Exorcist: The Beginning. This responsibility is described through the role of one of the main characters, Chuma, pertaining to this close relation to his boss, Merrin. The analysis is divided into two sections i.e. responsibility for duty and responsibility for friendship. The former is related with the discussion on how Chuma works with Merrin, and whatever he does that gradually gives rise into the beginning of their friendship. The former describes more about the internal friendship between Chuma and Merrin. This results indicate that the responsibility in a working circumstance could bring about an everlasting friendship between a boss and his worker. Then, Chuma as Merrin subordinate and close friend fights to defend Merrin from a Turkana soldier's attack that it finally takes Chuma's life. This description, therefore, shows a friend in need is a friend indeed.

Keywords: main characters, responsibility, novel

Abstrak

Penelitian ini membahas tentang tanggung jawab yang digambarkan dalam Exorcist: The Beginning karya Steven Piziks. Tanggung jawab ini digambarkan melalui peran salah satu karakter utama, Chuma, yang berkaitan erat dengan bosnya, Merrin. Analisis ini dibagi menjadi dua bagian yaitu tanggung jawab atas tugas dan tanggung jawab untuk persahabatan. Yang pertama terkait dengan diskusi tentang bagaimana Chuma bekerja dengan Merrin, dan apa pun yang dia lakukan secara bertahap memunculkan awal persahabatan mereka. Yang pertama menjelaskan lebih banyak tentang persahabatan internal antara Chuma dan Merrin. Hasil ini menunjukkan bahwa tanggung jawab dalam lingkungan kerja dapat menciptakan persahabatan yang langgeng antara bos dan pekerjanya. Kemudian, Chuma sebagai bawahan Merrin dan teman dekatnya berjuang untuk mempertahankan Merrin dari serangan tentara Turkana yang akhirnya merenggut nyawa Chuma. Deskripsi ini, oleh karena itu, menunjukkan bahwa teman yang membutuhkan memang benar-benar teman.

Kata kunci: tokoh utama, tanggung jawab, novel

1. INTRODUCTION

In the social life, responsibility is one of the human characteristics. Responsibility is very important for human, individual, group, or society. Responsibility can be seen from someone's action or behavior. However, if the responsibility is excessive, it will turn to loyalty. Therefore, every human being is basically, demanded to be loyal, and not to be treacherous. Responsibility is not only needed in marriage, or nation, but it also needed in friendship or between the foreman and the boss. As depicted in the novel *Exorcist: The Beginning*, such responsibility belongs to Chuma. He is a responsible local driver who is assigned by British to accompany Merrin, his boss, who later becomes his friend in an excavation. He honestly shows his responsibility in any moment and any case to his friend that eventually results in his death. The reasons for choosing the topic are:

- a. The analysis of the main character's responsibility gives a description to the writer's mind or his mental state that responsibility appears not only because of an obligation, but also care. This matter, then, noticeably interests the writer to do an analysis.
- b. Responsibility itself can be considered to be a phenomenon in a community that may turn into loyalty. This phenomenon gives rise to a need to provide necessary distinction.
- c. Responsibility' could. invaluablely' bring about possessiveness in mind and soul that may guide us in the right way. We, therefore, should have a further understanding about it.

The main purposes of this research are described as follows:

- a. To give a comprehensible description about responsibility.
- b. To show that responsibility always emerges in a certain relationship such as, friendship, and working circumstances.
- c. To clarify that the subject matters embedded in the topic are significant enough to be kept in mind as invaluable picture of life.

The focus of discussion is only on the main character's responsibility which happens to Chuma. It will explain about the definition of responsibility and type of the main character's responsibility that will be brought up in this analysis. This focus is offered to avoid the writer from a too wide explanation that could probably confuse the writer and the readers as well.

2. METHODOLOGY

In collecting the data for this research, the writer uses the library research. As George says library research means 'to collect ideas, theories and reported empirical data, within the context of the scholarship in 'the library'. With this concept, the data can be taken from some books to be used as the man contributions especially for this study. The writer, therefore, collects the data from primary and primary and secondary sources. The former is the novel itself, and the later is from any related books which deal with the topic to be discussed. This study will also use descriptive method. All the data collected will be described without having any statistical procedure. In other words, everything that will be discussed in this study only shows the description of what are implied in the topic. Clarifies the writer was given a chance to make an interpretation to every aspect proposed in this study, and to verify that this study only described the defined subject matters.

3. FINDINGS AND DISUSSIONS

3.1 Responsibility for His Duty

Responsibility is one thing that is important in our life, especially in a work circumstances. People who have no responsibility will not stay long in any kind of work, because there is no boss who wants to employ this kind of man. So, responsibility may also be regarded as an important condition to get job. Like responsibility that belongs to Chuma, one of the main characters in the novel.

Chuma is a responsible local driver. He works for British military. He has an obligation to take and pick up his partner, an archeologist who afterwards becomes his friend to Derati village in south Africa. Chuma is given a work by the British military because he is a responsible person and he is the only Turkana who knows English. So, his work is not only as a driver but also as an interpreter. It can be seen in the following quotation :

“I suppose we should get on pur way, then” merrin said.” The sooner, the better

“Of course,”Granville agreed not looking up from the butterfly.

“chuma, your foreman, is waiting out back with a lorry. when you to Derati, you’ll want to talk to

Trenton Jefferies. (Piziks, 2004 :
29)

The quotation above shows that Chuma works for British military, led by Major Granville, as a driver to take his partner, Merrin, to work.

Chuma is the one who always serves Merrin owing to the fact that it is his duty. He never feels tired in doing anything that Merrin orders. It proves that he is responsible for his duty, and as a foreman, he knows what he needs to do. Due to this reason, Chuma becomes the most reliable person for Merrin.

When Chuma is assigned to accompany Merrin to enter the church, he actually fears for being inside the church because his tribe claims that the church is cursed. Moreover, he respects his fairness and accompanies Merrin because he realizes that it is his duty. It can be seen from the following quotation :

“How do we get inside in
the meantime?”

“ we don’t,” Jefferies
said. “Chuma’ll take
you in through the roof”

“Yes Mr. Merrin, I’ll., I’ll
take you.”

Chuma said briefly and
doubtfully.

“Why you seem doubtful?”
Merrin wondered.

“My tribe believes that the
church was cursed. Chuma
explained. “So how do you
think?” Merrin continued
his next question. “I don’t
know, but this is my duty to
take you in.” Chuma said to
make it short. (Piziks, 2004
:74)

The quotation above indicates that Chuma deems to be responsible for his duty. Though he finds the difficulty to avoid such a condition, he is still able to do his best for his

boss that is primarily his own duty. His struggle to fight his fear is one thing which could prove his real responsibility.

When Merrin finds the strange thing happened in that church, he asks Chuma for the answer. Merrin chooses Chuma as the one, because he trusts Chuma more than anybody. This matter can be seen from the following quotation:

“So what did you find?”

Jefferies shrugged.

“A puzzle.” Merrin fixed

Jefferies with a

hard stare. “I mean that it's

clear someone has

been inside this church,

and recently.”

“Chuma, did you know
about these?” “I give not,”

Chuma said promptly, and

Merrin believed him.

(Pizikis, 2004:86)

The quotation above shows that Merrin believes Chuma more than anybody there, because he realizes that Chuma is very responsible to him. Though he asks Jefferies first, he still asks Chuma to confirm.

Though Chuma is Merrin's foreman, Merrin always respects him, because he knows who Chuma is. Trust and respect are the feelings that exist in their minds. These are the things that make them care each other. And their relation is not only as a foreman and a boss, but also as friend. Wherever Merrin goes, he always asks Chuma to accompany him.

3.2 Responsibility in His Friendship

Responsibility in a friendship is also an important matter in life, because it is the thing that may keep a relation concord. Furthermore, a relationship, whether it is in a friendship, a marriage, or working circumstances, should be filled with a responsibility. It is because without responsibility, a relationship will not run well.

As portrayed in the novel, the relation between Merrin and Chuma is firstly between a boss and foreman. Fortunately, it anyhow changes into a friendship. Wherever

Merrin goes, Chuma must be there. Moreover, trust and respect between them run in their ways which appear in their deeds and feelings. What they feel in their heart gradually develop into much care for each other.

When somebody has the feeling of care and belonging to someone or something else, he or she will be ready to do any risky thing for dependence. This arises from the feeling of responsibility that cannot be separated from his or her soul. It also happens to Chuma, as verified in some cases below.

When Merrin is observing the church, a group of crows fly around him. It looks as if they explode from their perch. They rush through the air, moaning and croaking. Their wings beat against Merrin's head and shoulders. When Chuma sees that Merrin is injured in some parts of his body, and undeniably he seems to be in danger, he then shouts for help. This unanticipated occurrence can be seen in the following quotation:

“We should go back up,”
“You need to see Dr.
Novack.” “Help!!” “Get
ready to take Mr. Merrin
up!!! Chuma called “He has
minor injuries.” “You go
first,” Chuma said. “How
about you?” Merrin asked
while sweeping his bloody
head. “I’m right behind you.”
Chuma answer it briefly.
(Pizikis, 2004:84)

It is portrayed that Chuma cares of Merrin's safety considerably. Though he is scared being inside the church, he lets Merrin out first. It also proves Chuma's responsibility in his friendship including his duty.

Chuma's tribe, the Turkana people, actually dislike that the church is being discovered. though they are the workers for that excavation. They believe that the church will bring trouble for them, because evil is waiting inside the church. They' work there because they need money.

When the church is fully discovered, they begin to be scared. It is added by the weird death of Turkana leader's baby whose body is full of worms just after his birth. Chuma, as a Turkana people, is placed in a hard position when his partner, Merrin, comes

to the cremation of the Turkana leader's baby. In one the other side, he wants to save his friend because he cares about him. This unfavourable moment is depicted in the following quotation:

“You shouldn’t be here,”
Chuma said. Merrin didn’t
stop, or even slow down.
“Please tell sabituana that I’m
sorry for his loss,” Merrin
said. “You are not welcome
here,” Jomo said in words
brittle and sharp as broken
glass. “Go!! Quickly,” Chuma
tugged on Merrin’s sleeve,
urging him to live. (Pizikis,
2004:166)

This quotation show how Chuma wants to save his friend while the other Turkana dislike him, He knows that he has to be loyal to his tribe who consider that all the white people bring trouble to them, while Merrin, his friend, is 21 white people. However, he also knows that he has to be responsible to his friend because he is the only one who knows who his friend is. The bravery of Chuma to save Merrin, though in a hard position, proves his responsibility.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The study have been conducted indicate that there are several points to be concluded. They are inferred in the following:

- a. Responsibility often occurs to someone who care about gaining the feeling of care, what should like it, whether it is a work or some kind of relationship, because like feeling turns to care feeling then grows as responsibility.
- b. Responsibility in friendship is very important, because this is the thing that may keep the relation concord and well , and so responsibility in working circumstances.
- c. Responsibility can only be seen from the action, not only spoken.

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