

## Shall Iron do? "

### OUTLINE

1

#### Introduction

Thesis Statement: The notion of being pure from evils is soothing and enrapturing which in turn influences those who are directly under the shelter of it. However, if one who holds power gets corrupted, it contaminates the whole pond till it smells pungent.

2

How one follows precedents set by the history as a way of living

3

Theoretical perspectives that reiterate that one gets influenced by the precedents or set records and if they are corrupted, they shatters the foundations

a - Existentialism by Sartre

b - Transcendentalism by Emerson

c - Nietzsche's God is Dead

d - Absurdism of Albert Camus

4

Literary depictions that reiterate that if the base of something is weak, it is bound to fall and shatter into pieces

a - Corrupt practices of upper class contaminates the class system

(i) The Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

b - The materialistic viewpoint of life reduces man to a

commodity

(i) Metamorphosis by  
Franz Kafka

c- Marriage based on patriarchal norms is bound to cause misery to a woman

(ii) A Doll House by  
Henrik Ibsen

d- The traditional gender roles gaslights women into relationship

(i) The Yellow Wallpaper  
by Charlotte Perkins

e- The anarchy caused by those in power destroys the social fabric

(ii) The Second Coming  
by WB. Yeats

f- The perceptions around which a life is based on controls the will of life

(i) Waiting for Godot by  
Samuel Beckett

5 Influential personalities who strove their lives to reveal that one must rectify those who are in power lest it wreaks havoc in the world

a- Impact of hypocrisy of clergy in England

(i) Martin Luther

b- Orient ideological

implications in society



Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. (Martin Luther King Jr.) Similarly, the set precedents which are of no use to the present world and as well as those who are in power by lawlessness can only create chaos and anarchy in the world as referred to the darkness and hate in the quote. Whereas only new ideas and influential people - represented by light and love - can save the world. The notion of being 'pure from evils' is soothing and enrapturing which in turn influences those who are directly under the shelter of it. However, if one who holds power gets corrupted, it contaminates the whole pond till it smells pungent. Theoretical perspectives that reinstate that if foundations are corrupted, the block is bound to fall include Sartre's Existentialism, Emerson's Transcendentalism, God is Dead by Nietzsche and Camus's Absurdism concept. Moreover, the literary depictions that reiterate the notion of impact of influential on the followers is uncanny including works of Dickens, Kafka, Ibsen, Perkins, Yeats and that of Beckett. Furthermore, the personalities of Martin Luther, Galileo and Martin Luther King Jr are only few who stamp the claim that one must rectify those who are in power lest it

wreaks havoc in the world. In the end, the global and political events further hotly ignites the claim that if gold rusts, the iron is deemed to follow gold to get rusted. Therefore, one must not conform to the traditional precedents by following blindly, but should strive to attain individuality to escape the fate of misery.

When Greeks contributed to the history of knowledge in multiple disciplines, it became the foundation for what human beings are studying today. This includes multiple subjects like maths, philosophy, gymnastics, political science, literature and so on. Man is bound to follow them. Aristotle was deemed as a sacred man who only spoke truth till the work of Galileo was taken into consideration after his sorrowful death. Then it was realized that it is necessary to attain individuality and <sup>one</sup> must strive to think out of the box. However, the history is witness that people are bound to get influenced by those who hold some sort of power. Thus, if they are corrupted, the whole foundation is doomed.

Among the number of theoretical perceptions that reiterate that one get influenced by the precedents to the point that they shatter the foundations, Existentialism by Sartre remains the crucial one. Sartre in his existentialism philosophy negates the belief that essence precedes the existence. He shuns the phenomenon that man's life is already determined and for this, he easily gets away from his responsibilities. This belief reiterates that man has to get away from the notion of essentialism because it corrupts the very nature of man. It makes man a useless creature who does nothing but wait for God to do miracles for him. Thus, Sartre through existentialism states that if the foundation of the society is based on the ideas of essentialism, that society is bound to suffer relentlessly.

Additionally, Ralph Waldo Emerson, the pioneer figure of Transcendentalism reinforces the similar notion. Emerson states that why one should follow the designated priests to get connected with God. He explains that those who themselves are corrupted would never lead man to his destination of salvation. For this, he reinforces that one should tread a new path of reconciliation with God to get away from the false indulgences of designated people, for they

are bound to corrupt others. Emerson says, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us" (Ralph Waldo Emerson).

Therefore, Emerson reminds that if one follows the corrupt practices of 'influential people,' the chaos are inevitable in the world.

Furthermore, Nietzsche, the most misunderstood German philosopher, reinstate the following notion that one should find a new path to get oneself saved from the atrocities of influential people. Nietzsche did not negate God rather for him, the death of God was a liberating force. He rejected the old cultural values, because he wanted people to embrace the different colours of life which they themselves choose through their creativity and individuality. For this, he says, "God is dead. God remains dead. We have killed Him." (Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, 1882) To sum up, Nietzsche says that following the old values would lead man nowhere other than his doom.

Last but not the least, the philosophy of absurdism follows the similar goal that says that our orthodox beliefs are inevitable to lead us to our doom.

Absurdism, as explained by Albert Camus, reinforces the belief that our set notions that someone like Messiah would come in

our lives to save us from the absurdity and nihilist view of life is altogether an absurd notion to believe. Albert Camus says that there is no point of life in which man tries to make sense out of miseries of life. He relies on some external force to come and save him which eventually does not happen and eventually the man gets disappointed. To conclude, Albert Camus reiterates that it is true that if the beliefs that man follow are absurd, the downfall and downside are bound to come.

Literature is the reflection of the life. It depicts social, political, economic, psychological and prevalent norms belonging to that era. Similarly, literature has also been used to reiterate that if the base of something is weak, it is bound to fall and shatter into pieces.

To begin with, literature has been used to reveal that the corrupt practices of the upperclass contaminates the whole class system. Charles Dickens, in his masterpiece novel, *The Great Expectations*, paints the grim reality that Pip who wanted to achieve social mobility moved to a city to live with Mrs. Havisham and Stella who lived in upper class environment. However, he could not



decipher the fact that how immoral the upper class was which in turn polluted his own pure heart. Pip could hear the pain of his heart shattering when he says, "In a word, I was too cowardly to do what I knew to be right as I had been too cowardly to avoid doing what I knew to be wrong." (Charles Dickens, *The Great Expectations*) To conclude, Dickens says that if the base itself is weak, how long it can support the whole weight.

Second, literature also explains that the materialistic viewpoint of life reduces man to a commodity. Franz Kafka, in his renowned novella, *Metamorphosis* draws the character of Gregor Samsa - a man who holds the responsibility of his whole household - who falls the victim of materialistic world. Samsa felt his heart crumble into pieces which was further stomped by his family, because he turned into cockroach and could no longer support his family. He was devastated to know that his sole worth was how much money he was making. Samsa, with slumped shoulders and grim voice says, "I cannot make you understand. I cannot make anyone understand what is happening inside me. I cannot even explain it to myself." (Franz Kafka, *Metamorphosis*) To sum up, Kafka reiterates that man is doomed to

fall if the ideals of society are wrong.

Additionally, literature also reveals that marriage based on patriarchal norms is bound to cause misery to a woman. Henrik Ibsen, in his novel, *A Doll House* explains that the foundation of marriage back then was very bleak and strictly following of gender roles was appreciated. This demeaned the value of woman who was always considered as weak and illogical. Nora goes through the same fate where her life was dictated and she was supposed to be a doll to follow the instruction of men around her life. To her utter disappointment, Nora realizes this and says, "I feel my life unspeakably empty. No one - to live for anymore." (Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll House*) Thus, Ibsen reveals that if the foundation itself is weak then how can it support the huge weight.

Furthermore, literature also reinforces the idea that traditional gender roles upholds women in a relationship. Charlotte Perkins says in her short story named as 'The Yellow Wallpaper' that women were trapped into the vicious cycle of traditional norms where they were expected to follow what they were taught by society - to be quiet, shy and

domesticated. To her utter dismay, the protagonist of the story says about her husband that, "John laughs at me, of course, but one expects that in marriage" (Charlotte Perkins, The Yellow Wallpaper). Thus, Charlotte Perkins stamps the claim that if the foundation is wrong, one should never expect the things to go right.

Moreover, literature also explains that anarchy caused by those who are in power destroys the social fabric of the world. WB Yeats writes in his poem 'The Second Coming' about the implications of the decisions taken by those in power on the common people. He says that people made destructive technologies to wreak havoc in the world through wars and this would destroy the serenity of life and brutally affect the people. Yeats says, "Turning and turning into widening gyre / The falcon cannot hear the falconer / Things fall apart; the center cannot hold / Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world / (WB Yeats, The Second Coming) Thus, Yeats reiterates that if those in the power themselves are not pure, what kind of precedents they leave for others to follow.

In the last, literature also reveals that the perceptions around which the life is based on controls the will of life. Samuel Beckett, in his absurdist novel, *Waiting For Godot*, writes that the perception of waiting for a messiah for the purpose of salvation in life is futile, because life itself is absurd and meaningless. He draws the characters of Estragon and Vladimir who wait for Godot all their lives, only to get disappointed at the end. He says, "Nothing happens. Nobody comes, nobody goes. It's awful!" (Samuel Beckett, *Waiting For Godot*) Thus, Beckett reveals that even if the thought process and perception of a person is wrong, one cannot make right decisions in his life.

From Greeks to the present day, there were influential personalities who strove throughout their lives to reveal that one must rectify those who are in power lest they wreak havoc in the world. These people stood the tests of the time and remain magnanimous.

To begin with, Martin Luther belonging to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, revealed the impact of hypocrisy of clergy in England. Martin Luther reiterated that those people who are in clergy are in real hypocrites and they use people for their own

materialistic aims. Martin Luther led the foundation of a new sect of Christianity named as Protestants who revolted against the illegal practices of church who took bribes and indulgences from people by playing with their feelings. To sum up, Martin Luther was among few people who understood that one must control the people of authority and power from getting involved in corruption, because they directly impact the people.

Second, Martin Luther King Jr. was also among those influential personalities who understood this phenomenon and stood the test of times by revolting against it. He understood the orient perceptions of white people who never let black people to have same rights and dignity as theirs. He led the Civil Rights movement in USA and became the leading voice of the Black people. He revealed that how orient philosophy is detrimental to the world and strive to condemn it. To conclude, Martin Luther King Jr. reveals that must revolt against corrupt practices of those in power, lest they destroy the world.

Along with them, Galileo was also an influential man who revealed the impact of precedents left by revered Aristotle. Galileo, the father of Astronomy, was never acknowledged for his work let alone give respect. He realized the need to shun the concept of Aristotle as only right philosopher and gave his philosophy. However, he was condemned to exile till he breathed his last. Galileo revealed that if the foundation is not made right, the people would blindly follow them till it leads to doom just like Galileo was doomed.

Global and political events also reinforce the belief that if those who hold authority are indulged in corruption, the rest is bound to follow them to doom.

To start with, the failure of United Nations to make a ceasefire in Gaza is example of the fact that if those who are in power are not controlled, they can lead even genocides. The United States, the superpower of the world, decided to close its eyes about the genocide of Gazans and vetoed the resolution of UNSC ceasefire reveals the notion that even global upheavals reveals that if the upper layer is rusty,

It would destroy the whole thing. Thus, one must understand through the example of UN's failure that if powerful people is corrupt, the nation is bound to fall into tatters.

In the last, global genocide of Palestinian also reveal the failure of muslim Ummah to stand for the cause of muslim brotherhood. Other than Yemen, Lebanon, Iran, no muslim nations shove and took concrete steps to fight against Israel and this gave a full-fledge blanket check to Israel to continue plummeting the innocent Palestinian people. To explain, muslim nations today work for their own benefits and would not help Palestinian out of Muslim world. To conclude, the disintegration of muslim Ummah reveals that ~~we~~<sup>men</sup> are bound to fall if the foundation is not strong.

In conclusion, the concept of being pure from evils, malicious and vicious acts is satisfying because they influence those who are under them.

However, if one who holds power gets corrupted, it destroys the whole social fabric into shambles. Theoretical ideas that reiterate the same claim include those of Sartre, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nietzsche and Albert Camus. Furthermore the literary depictions of Dickens, Ibsen, Kafka,

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Perkins, Yeats and Beckett illustrate that if foundation is weak, the rest is bound to crumble. In addition to these, the personalities of Galileo and Martin Luther of 16th century and of Civil Rights movements further intensify this claim. Additionally, the global events like those of genocide, the USA's role in it along with fragmented bond of Ummah reveals the claim. However, all is not bleak and one can always strive to do good as Shelley says, "If winter is here, can spring be far behind?"