

RESEARCH ARTICLE



CUNNING MEEK BEING DESTROYED BY CUNNING BRUTALITY

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ABSTRACT

Wole Soyinka was "Nigeria's first contemporary dramatist who won the Noble Prize for literature In 1986". He was a poet, dramatist, novelist, autobiographer, script writer and a critic. He blends modern European dramatic form with African elements such as "Yoruba Tribal Myth, Folklore, and Dance and Music".

The play had a great special and significant feature that it followed the "Classical dramatic element of the unity of time" the whole play confined "in a single day with three episodes namely morning, noon and night".

Wole Soyinka viewed in his "The Lion and the Jewel" the cunning mind of the antagonist Baroka and his head wife Sadiku to seduce Sidi the heroine of the play. Lakunle the foolish hero on the other hand unwittingly talked about western education and cultures to unwise African people, who were not able to understand and not even knew it.

Wole Soyinka wrote this play as "Comic Satire" by making the antagonist to act with the mask of efficient gentleman along with supreme physical powers which attracted Sidi's core of heart who willingly gave her to him.

The play the lion and the jewel dealt with "Mime, Song and Music". It clearly showed the atmosphere of village traditions along with the influence of modernity in the African minds which also "Intoxicated Sidi".

The intoxicated Sidi cannot accept or realize the real love and affection of the hero Lakunle as he was poor.

Sidi was very cunning in keeping away the poor Lakunle which in turn she was easily deceived by Baroka "Which clearly proved the cunning would be easily perished by some other mighty cunning beings".

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INTRODUCTION

In the play "THE LION AND THE JEWEL" we can see the ignorant atmosphere of the people in the village of "ILUJINLE" in such village we can saw a "CUNNING WOMAN SIDI" who wanted to attract many men but wanted a husband of royal status who would pay a bride-price for her let as see about it and getting a cunning "RESPONSE FOR SIDI'S CUNNING WISH".

Foolish Lakunle

The people of Ilujinle village called Lakunle the hero of the play and who was the village school master a

fool as he wanted to change the village people "TO COME OUT OF THEIR IGNORANT AND SUPERSTITIOUS WAY OF LIFE". He also spoke many words from his little dictionary which was unknown to the village people he wanted to protect the "VILLAGE FROM THE LION BAROKA WHO EXPLOITED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE AS HE RESTRICTED IN LAYING RAILWAY LINES WHICH WOULD AFFECT HIS BUSINESS THROUGH CART". Though Lakunle wanted to do everything for the

“UPLIFTMENT OF THE VILLAGE” and its people, he was “NOT WISE ENOUGH” to handle it.

Immoral Sidi

Lakunle was a poor village school teacher who had greater admiration for Sidi, “THE VILLAGE BEAUTY WHO WANTED EVERYMAN TO LOOK AT HER SO, SHE MADE A SHOW OFF” when carrying a pail of water, through her way of walking and improper dressing which did not cover the parts of her neck and shoulders. Sidi wanted to attract Lakunle also and “BEING LITTLE INFLUENCED BY HIS LOVE BUT DID NOT ACCEPT HIM FULLY AS HE WAS NOT ENOUGH TO PAY A BRIDE-PRICES FOR HER”.

Passion of Baroka

A photograph of Sidi appeared in the central page and cover of the magazine in which “HER PRIDE WENT BEYOND WITHOUT HAVING ANY LIMITS”. Baroka the antagonist watched the picture of Sidi and wanted her to be his last wife “AS HE WAS NOT ABLE TO CONTROL HIS PASSION”.

Proposal and rejections

Baroka sent his “HEAD WIFE SADIKU TO PROPOSE HIS OFFER TO SIDI” the proposal was rejected by Sidi as Baroka was “63 YEARS OLD” and he was “TOO DARK” but Sidi was “YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL AND SHINE LIKE A JEWEL”. This revealed us “SIDI WAS NOT A WOMAN OF MORAL VALUES TO SUBMIT HERSELF TO AN OLD MAN BUT SHE WANTED TO ATTRACT MORE MEN THROUGH HER BEAUTY AND WOULD BECOME A WIFE OF AN ENCHANTING MAN”.

Evil design

Sadiku revealed the rejection of Sidi to Baroka which enraged his angry “BUT SOON HE DESIGNED AN EVIL PLAN TO SEDUCE HER”. Baroka pretended himself to be a man of impotence which greatly overjoyed Sadiku so see celebrated it by dancing in the middle of the village before the sight of Sidi.

Submerged in the bog

A Cunning mind of Sidi was pleased to hear “THE IMPOTENCE OF BAROKA AND AGREED TO HAVE A DINNER WITH HIM WHO WAS NOT MANLY ENOUGH TO MAKE ADVANCES WITH HER”. Though Lakunle tried to warn and protect Sidi she herself when to the palace of Baroka “TO TEASE HIM INDIRECTLY”, Baroka engaged in wrestling showed his “PRESENCE OF MANLINESS AND HIS FLATTERING WORDS ABOUT SIDI AND HIS OPINION OF PRINTING STAMPS

WITH THE HEAD OF SIDI’S PHOTOGRAPH SLOWLY ATTRACTED HER TOWARDS BAROKA “. Sidi slowly puts “HER HEAD IN THE CHEST OF BAROKA AND THE SEDUCTION TOOK PLACE”.

Preferring experience and maturity

Foolish Lakunle was ready to take back Sidi even after she was seduced by Baroka but Sidi never felt guilty of her position. She wanted to reject Lakunle “WHO DID NOT PAY HER a BRIDE-PRICE AND HE WAS SHALLOW AND SUPERFICIAL BUT BAROKA HAD WISDOM, EXPERIENCE AND MATURITY IN HAVING INTERCOURSE”.

Conclusion

From this play we came to realize
 “BIRDS OF THE SAME KIND FLOCK
 TOGETHER”
 “THE CUNNING SIDI WAS
 DECEIVED
 BY THE CUNNING FOX BAROKA
 WHICH PROVED
 US
 WE SHOULD AVOID THE
 CRUEL CUNNINGNESS
 FROM OUR ENTIRE LIFE
 TO LEAD OUR LIFE
 IN A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS WAY”

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