

ESSAY QUESTION

“Oppression breeds misery and conflict.” Basing on betrayal in the city, write an essay in support of this statement.

The leadership of kafira is oppressional & dictatorial. The government in a bid to perpetuate its continued stay in power, has resulted in silencing its critics. The educated elite in particular pay the heaviest price for being at the forefront of criticizing the excess of Boss’ regime.

Assassinations, arrests, imprisonments & torture of prisoners are the order of the day. Boss must always have his way and will eliminate anyone who appears to be in a stumbling block to his schemes. He does not entertain any freedom of expression of whatever kind. For example, the academic staff members should not weep in public for whatever reason, & if they do, they end up in prison like Mosese.

Freedom of expression is curtailed. Jere says, “The outside of this cell may be the inside of another.” Prisoners cannot ask questions. Doing so will only make one’s life more unbearable. Whenever questions are asked, a thorough beating follows, as in the case of Jere.

Food is denied to prisoners and only those who co-operate with higher authorities get to enjoy certain privileges. Jere is denied tea whereas Mosese is presented with a cup of tea. At Adika’s funeral, Mosese says of the orders from the government, “the funeral could not take more than ten minutes, the coffin could not be carried by students and weeping in public was illegal for the academic staff.” When Mosese protested against this high-handedness, he is arrested and imprisoned on trumped up charges of possessing illegal drugs.

In a bid to secure conviction for Mosese, his sister (Regina) is subjected to beating by soldiers as people watch, forcing her to testify against him. She loses hearing in one ear as a result of the beating. Doga and Nina are murdered after protesting the government’s decision to prevent them from conducting the shaving ceremony for their deceased son Adika.

Tumbo and Nicodemo know that Mulili took Kabito’s life but they keep quiet about it. “Like caged animals we move, but inside the cage.” (Pg. 62)

Boss’ regime has established research stations meant to rehabilitate perceived opponents of the state before they are re-integrated into the society. Askari tells Jere, “You see we have research stations dotted all over the countryside.” (Pg. 17)

Jusper is told by Boss that when he goes back to the university he should tell the leaders that it is in his (Boss) duty to decide on the magnitude of Kafira’s Africanization programme and that they have no right to chant about it.

When the students protest against the influx of expatriate personnel, Boss warns that the result will always be the same i.e. deaths and imprisonment

Jere protests the mistreatment of Doga and Nina by the government. He successfully tries to convince Mulili to allow them to conduct the shaving ceremony for their son Adika. An altercation ensues between him and Mulili when he insists that the ceremony will go on as planned resulting in his arrest and imprisonment.

Jusper's unstable peace of mind can be attributed to the physical as well as psychological suffering he has undergone. He has been arrested twice, first during the burial of his brother Adika and second the murder of Chagaga who killed his brother. Doga says, "Then they came and took him away...when they brought him back after three months he was no longer the son we knew." (pg. 4-5). The death of his brother took a heavy toll on him and he could not come to terms with it.

FOOTNOTES ::

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