

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

All this time there are many people who have misunderstood when they have to describe Shaw. Shaw was oftenly described as an atheis because he admitted that he had rejected the Christian God. Yet, a close examination on his life will show that he was actually a religious man.

For Shaw religion was very important. Otherwise, he wouldn't wrote much about it. He knew well the role played by religion in human being's life. So many people trusted themselves in religion and surrendered to be guided by it. Therefore, it was always necessary to be sure that this people trusted themselves in a good religion. For good religion would bring goodness also. It would encourage its believer to progress and the believers would become enlightened through it. Whereas, bad religion would lead its believers into darkness and stupidity. Therefore, when Shaw found the absurdity of the Christian faith, he didn't keep it for himself. He wrote much about it in his plays - including these four ones.

Here, in these four plays Shaw wrote much about what he really thought of the Christian God and also Christianity as an established religion.

From the setting and character analyses the writer notes that there is one similarity among the heroes of these four plays. The similarity is that all the heroes were having problem with Christianity. All of them thought that there was something wrong with Christianity. Richard Dudgeon and Blanco Posnet were having problem with the God of the Christians. Richard thought that He was mean and indifferent. While Blanco thought that He was an absurd God. Joan The Maid was having problem with the Church. She was a religious girl who was bitterly attacked by the Church because she had acted unconventionally which was considered endanger the Church. Lavinia and Androcles had to suffer from their Christian faith.

Apparently, Shaw wanted to say something through the problem of the heroes. Through Richard's and Blanco's Shaw wanted to show that the God of the Victorian convention was mean and absurd. Through Joan's, Lavinia's and Androcles' he wanted to show us that there was something wrong with the Church. It was now not at all a religious institution. It had been changed into a secular institution whose job was to controll ideas, tastes, and

policies in Christianity according to the Church conventions and traditions.

From each problem that had to be faced by the hero of each play the writer concludes Shaw's opinion on Christianity. There are three points of it. First, Shaw thought that the Christian God was that of the mean and absurd figure. Second, he thought that the Church was only a secular institution based on conventions and traditions where ideas, tastes, and policies in Christianity were controlled. And third, he thought that Christianity had lost its spirituality and now become merely a conventional religion.

Shaw wanted the readers of his plays to realize that the God of the Victorian convention was not at all the One that the Bible revealed. He wanted them to realize that they had worshipped the wrong God all this time. Shaw also wanted the readers took the example given by his heroes, that was to seek the real God. He didn't want the people to be fooled by the fake God created by the Victorian Church.

When Shaw talked much about the Church in a minor tones it didn't mean that he hated the Church. In fact, he was in sympathy with the problem faced by the Church. Through

Saint Joan and Androcles and the Lion Shaw wanted to show that heresy-hunting was not at all the right answer to problem raised from them who were doubt and uncertain about the Christian faith. What the Church should do was to give the freethinkers space, renew its old concepts, and reform itself.

Thus, we can conclude here that Shaw employed Christianity in his plays so that his readers - and also the Church - could realize that there were many things wrong in Christianity that needed to be corrected.

The writer herself has learned many things from these four plays during her study on them. To tell the truth, the writer herself firstly thought that Shaw was an atheist. But, after she did this study she began to see clearly that actually Shaw was not at all an atheist. She sees that Shaw was a person who really longed for a religion that he could believe undoubtedly.

In all his life, Shaw always tried to search the real god to whom he could surrender his life. He could not do it to the Christian God as he thought that He merely a false one who was mean and absurd. Then, he began to create his own god who was suitable with his idealism. Yet, he admitted that he could not finish it until the end of his life.

The writer thinks that the Christian world should thank Shaw for what he had done through his writings. May be it is true to say that his view on Christianity was wrong yet, we still have to admit that he really concerned in what was going on in the Christian world at that time. Apart from right or wrong he had showed that he concerned about Christianity. We ourselves should consider his harsh criticisms as something positive for us. Since it enables us to make ourselves better.