

CHAPTER SIX

C O N C L U S I O N

Clyde Griffiths' earliest background is the most elemental cause for the emergence of his dreams of worldly and material success. Born as a pagan, ambitious, selfish and evasive son of a trivial and unimportant family of street preacher, Clyde is discontented to the poverty and triviality of the family while outside, the temptation of the glittering materialism of the society has tempted him to the bone.

In addition to the poverty that surrounds and strangles him, Clyde himself can see how useless the religious work and the sterile moralism of his parents. For Clyde, they are only functioned to enhance the miserable poverty and difficulty faced by the family. On the contrary, the outside world seems so bright ornamented with the beauty and glittering light of worldly pleasure, things that has nothing to do with the parents' religious and moral teaching.

This kind of environment has contributed a great deal in the building of Clyde's dreams and desire to have and enjoy worldly pleasure. In turn, Clyde's fear toward the poverty and religious and sterile moral teaching that comes along with it, has shaped him into a personality only knows money, material succes and sexual gratification as the ultimate end and goal for everything.

It is an irony for religious teaching and strict moral conventions which is supposed to give happiness to the people, on the contrary, even gives Clyde misery and unhappiness.

Hence the conflict begins.

Clyde's social and psychological conflicts can not be separated from the effects sought by his early environment and basic characteristic. Obviously, the traumatic experience and fear toward the poverty has become the ultimate cause for Clyde's social and psychological conflict.

As an intense and active social climber, Clyde becomes a man that defies material success, for it is only this kind of man that can be somebody in the society that gives great emphasis to worldly success.

However, the society does not give him enough chance to aspire himself to the world of the 'rich and powerful' -- at least in the beginning -- hence Clyde tends to be rebellious at the time.

The rebellion -- in the form of an illicit relationship that causes pregnancy for Roberta, Clyde's poor lover -- proved fatal and damaging for each other in facing the society that still highly regards moralism and strict religious conventions.

All the while, Clyde's inner self can not overcome the temptation of the glimmering dreams and desires, it always surrenders to the force of the social will.

Clyde struggles severely to aspire himself to the grandeur world, he even uses sex as a double edged knife to support his efforts. On one hand, sex is used to project his rebellious feeling toward the indifference force of the society, but on the other hand, sex is also used as the means to assist him aspiring into the grandeur world.

For Clyde is a self-centered character with so little to center. His fear and calculation along with his snobbism always force anything spontaneous within him to surrender to the force of the social will. Hence it is logical to assume that even if Clyde tends to rebel, on the other side, he has in him a lifelong fear to the force of the society in general.

This way he can only pick the criminal mean to escape from the blandishment. Nevertheless, Clyde's fate is obviously trivial amidst the heavy machinery of social legal forces. He is trapped inside, punished and destroyed, just like that without considering any causes that has stimulated the criminal doing. He is a fate-driven criminal punished severely and unjustly by the court of destroying social force.

The conflict in the story is significant since it explicitly illustrates the triviality of human being in the face of fate. No body can resist the hands of fate, one important thing should always be remembered .

It is also significant in the way author tells about the tragedy of human failure. There is nothing in the dreams of delight and worldly success, and they are as empty as a gas balloon.