

LESSON NOTE ON LITERATURE-IN-ENGLISH WEEK 4

SUBJECT: Literature-in-English

TOPIC: African Poetry: "Raider of the Treasure Trove" by Lade Worsonu

CLASS: SS2

WEEK: 4

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

The poem "Raider of the Treasure Trove" speaks to the reader about two important human emotions; love and hate.

Part One

Man's pursuit of happiness

The poem begins with the poetic persona stating in very clear terms what should be the worthiest pursuit of every living person. To him, that which one must focus on in this life are dreams (goals). The poet emphasizes the emotions that must drive the dreams for any life worth living. These emotions are: love, joy and compassion.

He admonishes his readers to make these qualities/emotions take the centre stage in all their endeavours. To the poet, man must strive for happiness (the treasure trove) in this life. This, he is apparently suggesting that it is not good enough for one to just hang around while still alive, hoping and waiting for a certain heaven or happiness but at the same time, this heaven-on-earth destination can only be attained when one lives by the higher and purer emotions of love, joy and compassion.

Part Two

In the second part, the poet calls for a rejection of all emotions that will undermine one's happiness here on Earth

Here he says that rage, anger and hatred only serve to deprive the individual of the things he most desires. Rage is a raider, in other words, rage is a thief, always lurking around the corner to rob us of our dreams for a life of contentment. It eats away the treasures (happiness) that humans work so hard to achieve.

In effect, all human suffering can be attributed to man's inability to rid himself of dark emotions like: anger, jealousy and hatred to replace them with good emotions.

Part Three

In this part, the poet explains further the causes of these negative emotions in individuals.

He said that the only source of rage and other negative emotions is how one perceives the challenge

that inevitably comes one's way. The nature of thoughts that you form in your mind produces like effects on your actions and results.

The poetic persona admonishes his readers to be mindful of what they think of life's circumstances. He advocates positive thinking in all life's situations.

Part Four

The poet concludes that he is ever ready to choose love in place of rage in order to realise his own heaven here on earth.

SETTING

The setting of the poem is said to be universal in the spatial sense and eternal in the temporal sense.