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Chapter Five, Order Leads to One Another

“The good plants come from good seeds, and the bad plants from bad seeds. But the seeds are invisible.” In the book, *The Little Prince*, a work of fiction by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, a pilot is stranded in the Sahara Desert as he encounters a young boy named the Little Prince. He is told the Little Prince’s story about planets, society, and companionship, which teaches the pilot about adults and how they perceive the world differently. The universal theme that order leads to one another is explored in chapter 5 through the prince’s contribution towards his planet’s stability, the ethical implications of laziness, and the symbolism of the seeds.

First, order leads to one another through the prince’s contribution towards his planets stability. In chapter 5, the little prince contributes to tending his planet every morning. In this chapter, the little prince explains that if you do not tend to plants the planet will eventually lead to destruction of the over growth of the baobab trees. If an individual continues an order or orders, it will eventually lead to an effect. “Now if you attend to a baobab too late, you can never get rid of it again. It overgrows the whole planet. Its roots pierce right through. And if the planet is too small, and if there are too many baobabs, they make it burst into pieces” (15). This quote tries to reference the problems that the little prince has and he indicates that if he does not tend to his problems quickly in order, then eventually it can no longer be fixed. He contributes to the stability of his planet by exterminating the baobab seeds

that can eventually over take his planet and burst it into tiny pieces. In the book, the little prince also is shown through pictures that the illustrator drew. In page 15, an image is depicted where the little prince is raking his planet and showing an example of his daily routine of maintaining order. His daily contribution of tending to his planet leads to the stability for him to live there. If he did not tend to his planet every day, his planet would become overrun by the problems or chores he did not complete and solve. He would not be able to live there and when he would look back at it, he will eventually only be reminded of his irresponsibility. His contribution is well needed in order for his planet not to go corrupt and by contributing in his daily order, he leads to the stability of living in his own planet and these orders can lead to many impacts both emotionally and mentally.

Next, order leads to one another can be found through the ethical implications of society. In chapter 5, ethics is shown in this part which they discuss about implications of laziness. Laziness can have negative implications when postponing an order that can eventually lead to self destruction. In chapter 5, the prince states, "Sometimes there's no harm in postponing your work until later. But with baobabs, it's always a catastrophe. I knew one planet that was inhabited by a lazy man. "He had neglected three bushes . . ." (16). This shows us that by being lazy it can lead to major problems. This is why the little prince tends his planet on a daily basis so that it doesn't get ruined. On page 17, the author illustrated an image of a lazy man on a planet that was destroyed by three dangerous baobabs. This shows ethical implications of laziness in the man. The man did not tend his planet which led to the destruction of his planet, by the baobabs. Being lazy leads to ethical issues like having your planet destroyed or by having it tended. Also by tending your planet it can show positive effects like having a good place to live on. Some positive ethical issues are having a tidy planet. The seeds show symbolism because it symbolizes destruction to the little prince's planet.

Lastly, order is explored in this book through symbolism. In this chapter, symbolism is used at one very noticeable part in which they discuss the seeds. The prince states, “The good plants come from the good seeds, and the bad plants form the bad seeds. But the seeds are invisible” (14). Therefore, there are different types of seeds that will eventually grow into ‘good’ and ‘bad’ types of plants. These plants represent tendencies of one’s life and how these tendencies will grow into either obstacles or joyful things depending on how they were created at first. With these seeds being ‘invisible,’ it is hard to infer whether it is good or bad. Furthermore, the prince notes, “if it’s the seed of a bad plant, you must pull the plant up right away, as soon as you can recognize it” (14). The seeds are invisible, just like how sometimes in real life you don’t know if something, such as a tendency or action, will have a negative or positive affect. Once you realize your action is causing a problem, you have to do your best to get rid of it as soon as possible before it gets worse, which would lead to catastrophe, like how if the prince does not tend to the bad plants, baobabs, then his planet will be destroyed. Additionally, Novelguide.com states in an article that, “The little prince tries to keep his world in order, and the baobabs, the trees that take all the ground and water for themselves, are the sort of wrong or selfish desires that could destroy the planet, if not kept under control.” This can explain to us that showing how the baobabs are considered the ‘bad’ plants by them being selfish and taking all the planet to itself just like how a negative action would take over if not fixed as soon as it’s noticed. If you don’t try to resolve an issue, it will just get worse and worse over time and cause a huge problem, which connects it to the destruction caused by baobabs. The author chose to use symbolism through a seed because seeds take time to grow and while good and bad tendencies can just plainly be positive or negative, they continue grow until one is aware if they are good or bad. This is very related to plants since they must continue to grow until you can tell if they for example, are a poisonous plant or an elegant rose. This connection of the

seeds to real-life actions shows how symbolism is explored and that keeping order is lead by positive actions and tendencies which are referred to as “seeds.”

To conclude, order leads to one another is elaborated and explained in chapter five through prince’s contribution towards his planet’s stability, the ethical implications of laziness, and the symbolism of the seeds. Real life is greatly symbolized through this book while it talks about tendencies and positive effects leading to order. Through this we learn the ways of life and real-world difficulties. Order can be fragile and can easily lead to chaos with small mistakes, like not tending to your plants. This helps us learn that order leads to one another through different factors that contribute to it.

Work Cited

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