

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

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CHAPTER –V

CONCLUSION

Having studied the novels of Aye Kwei Armah in general and the two novels selected for this study namely *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* and *Fragments* in particular; the researcher has recorded certain impressions and findings in this chapter with regard to the element of disillusionment depicted in the select novels.

The strong element of disillusionment is one of the themes in the select novels. It is treated on both physical and psychological level by Armah. To begin with, the researcher has found that the feeling of disillusionment in the contemporary Ghanaian society is an outcome of political, social and cultural anarchy created in Ghana after independence. On the one hand, it is mainly due to corrupt leaders and bureaucrats and failure of the government systems to fulfil the needs and expectations of the people and on the other hand, it is the result of the excessive materialism in the society in general.

People are highly obsessed to get luxury and other materialistic pleasures. Their failure to obtain these things ends in frustration and disappointment on the part of one person or a community. The post-Ghanaian Society for instance bears all these factors responsible for the emergence and rise of the feeling of disillusionment. Nevertheless, the researcher has found out other socio-political factors such as corrupt political leaders and the government elected by the countrymen, insensitive and irresponsible bureaucrats, betrayal of ideals and trust by the native leaders and elite class people, political instability, economic and cultural slavery, shift from community to

family centred society are chiefly responsible for this ill of disillusionment. The two novels is a case in study.

Secondly, as far as the character study in the select novels is concerned, it is interesting to see that in *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*, Armah sketches an unnamed character called 'The Man', whereas there is a named character Baako Onipa in *Fragments*. Both of them symbolise common citizen in the country and both are the victims of disillusionment. The Man, straightforward and honest clerk watches the careless, negligent bus driver, corrupt conductor and the helpless passengers and is disillusioned by the disorder and chaos whereas Baako is shocked to see the growing expectations of his near and dear ones from him as returns homeland from the West. One is the part of the system there and the other's dream of embracing the native culture by getting rid of the culture of the West is shattered by his close ones. All the honest, sensitive and responsible persons like the protagonists feel trapped in the polluted atmosphere and eventually suffer from helplessness, isolation and disillusionment.

Armah has successfully projected them as disillusioned characters in spite of the fact that they ceaselessly make a peaceful protest against their own countrymen. This protest is not merely against their men but against their political leaders and the men in power who are not ashamed of exploiting their subjects.

The titles of both the novels also are also appropriate and symbolically convey the feeling of disillusionment. In the title of first novel, *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*, the word beautiful is intentionally spelt as 'beautiful'. Here the writer symbolically suggests that the people with beautiful minds who can make the

country truly and completely independent are not yet born. The title of the second novel, *Fragments, covertly* conveys that the contemporary Ghanaian society is fragmented between traditional and Western culture.

As far as the use of language is concerned, Armah uses abusive language as it rightly suits the desirable setting and serves his purpose in the first novel. However, nowhere he seems to cross its border line in the second novel. Spontaneity of expression and effective use of imagery jolts and awakens the readers.

Thirdly, the impact of disillusionment is widespread. It has not only affected the life of the few selected people but also almost all countrymen. The novels narrate the stories of exploitation and suffering of the common people in the country. On the other hand, they continue to make a peaceful protest against it. The problems which the characters face are both cultural and political. Political in the sense that besides independence the people feel as if they are still under colonial rule and they face cultural problems due to the corrupt and affluent class in the society that is enjoying materialistic pleasures and has given up the native culture and adopted the culture of the West. Armah is worried about it. The impact of disillusionment is two-fold. The citizens either surrender to the situation or they protest against it. Majority of them prefer to be meek and silent and a few protest. However, their protest is non-violent and peaceful.

Yet, Armah does not forget to suggest a few realistic solutions for the removal of this personal turned social ill of disillusionment. Firstly, he asks his countrymen to revive and embrace their own pre-colonial pure, indigenous native culture and oppose the culture of the

West. Secondly, he appeals them to contribute substantially to the mission of uprooting the evil of colonialism in all forms and see that their dream of real independence comes true. However, he emphasises the need to educate them and make them aware of the forthcoming dangerous impact of neo-colonialism. Finally, his idea of protest is non-violent and peaceful like that of Gandhiji and Nelson Mandela. He asks fellow Ghanaians and fellow Africans to continue to protest untiringly against every form of exploitation of the fellow citizens by their own government. In other words, Armah is hopeful about rise of new Ghanaian society and country where the people will have a free breathing of real freedom in their own welfare state.

Like any other writer who believes that literature is a powerful tool of social reformation, Armah through these novels has made a constructive effort to instruct the people in order to transform the Ghanaian society into an ideal one.