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Critique of Capitalist Ideology in Miller's *All My Sons*

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By

Roshan Tiwari

Roll No.: 588

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

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Tribhuvan University
Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

Roshan Tiwari has completed his thesis, entitled “Critique of Capitalist Ideology in Miller's *All My Sons*” under my supervision. He carried out his research from August 2016 to February 2017. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Shankar Subedi

Supervisor

Tribhuvan University
Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences

Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

This thesis, entitled “Critique of Capitalist Ideology in Miller's *All My Sons*” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Roshan Tiwari have been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

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Abstract

The major finding of this research is to expose how the capitalist ideology is called into question in Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. The family is also presented as a unit that can be corrupted and damaged by the actions and denials of its individuals. It is a small-scale example of the way individual actions can corrupt society. Joe goes to the extent of selling defective cylinder heads to cover his huge loss in business. He escapes from the disaster shrewdly with his clandestine plan. But unfortunately his intimated friend is involved. Deever is unluckily imprisoned. Joe is too cruel to send Deever to custody. Joe sacrifices true friendship for the sake of money. Even precious relationship is not higher than money. He takes money and profit from business as the last thing for which he has been living. He also checks every expectation of his son, Chris, and compels him to support his business. Economic concern and other pragmatic consideration have become so pressing and overpowering.

Key words:

Capitalist Ideology, Commercialization, Horoscope, Mischievous action, Culprit, Assault

Critique of Capitalist Ideology in Miller's *All My Sons*

This research is concerned with how the capitalist ideology is called into question in Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. The recognition of the human values in terms of their economic strata in *All My Sons* uncovers how the individuals from the common class background are cheated and deceived. They are alienated, subjugated and thus exploited. *All My Sons* criticizes capitalism as a minority group of people controls the society in the play of monetary virtue. In the play, Joe Keller has given his life to the American Air Force for forty years. He is a sixty year old, uneducated man, and runs a business with Steve Deever.

The two partners represent the middle class and the representatives of the upper class are those who control the American Army. There is a conflict between the two partners on the one hand and the American Air Force and Joe Keller on the other hand. In the third act, addressing Chris, Joe Keller clarifies that "I am in business; a man is in business; a hundred and twenty cracked, you are out of business; the process do not work you are out of business" (71). Tragically, Joe blames himself in terms of selling faulty cylinders to the American Air Force and as a result of the deal twenty one pilots got killed in Australia during the war. In this quotation, Joe reveals information about his serving the dominating class.

It is assumed that the officials of the Air Forces that sign the contract of buying the cylinder heads are involved in the crime. Therefore, Keller's wife, Kate, is responsible for her husband's war-profiteering money and tries to cover the crime. The suffering and the conflict have started since Joe began working with the upper class.

Arthur Miller's *All My Sons* guaranteed his reputation as one of America's greatest playwrights. Chris is disillusioned and devastated. He runs off to be angry at

his father in privacy. Mother tells Keller that he ought to volunteer to go to jail--if Chris wants him to. She also talks to Ann and continues insisting that Larry is alive. Ann is forced to show Mother the letter that Larry wrote to her before he died. The note basically confirms Mother's belief that if Larry is dead, Keller is responsible--not because Larry's plane had the defective parts, but because Larry killed himself in response to the family responsibility and shame due to the defective parts.

Miller describes this play as exploring the "relatedness" of people. Chris often acts as the mouthpiece of Miller's ideals, particularly when he speaks about everything being destroyed around him, but one new thing being made, "a kind of . . . responsibility. Man for man" (31). The kind of responsibility that is born out of a concern for the common welfare, and that binds men and women together in a common struggle, is the same kind of responsibility that will ultimately save us from the kind of destruction that has rained down on the Keller household.

Chris's anger at his father for violating this principle of responsibility, and his hating of himself for being complicit in the violation, brings out more of the ideas Miller is trying to address: "This is the land of the great big dogs, you don't love a man here, and you eat him!" (66). Chris is faced with a choice in that moment, a choice each spectator faces, to deal with the problem head on and try to change the status quo, or to do nothing and live out the rest of his life in shame. Joe's world is carefully constructed of lies to cover up the wrongful deaths caused by his actions. He continues to deny his guilt, and even when he is exposed he rationalizes away his responsibility to the pilots that died.

Joe's attempt to evade the consequences for his actions proves futile, and the choices he made in the past are now coming back to plague him. When Joe quietly acknowledges that "they were all my sons" (68), he recognizes that his priorities were

antiquated, a product of a more barbaric time, and ultimately misplaced. At the climax of the play, Joe Keller kills himself not because he has failed at his works of innocence, but because he finally realizes that he has failed as a father. Again, Aristotle clues us in “Now character determines men’s qualities, he says, but it is by their actions that they are happy or the reverse” (36). The stunning tragedy of this play is that it could happen to any of us. Miller has brought the tragedy down from Olympus and into our own backyard, and has allowed us to see the colossal damage that can be done by refusing to recognize the responsibility we have for each other.

All My Sons has received positive as well as negative reviews from the critics. Different critics have analyzed the drama from different perspectives which proves the univocal nature of the play. Alice Griffin claims that *All My Sons* distinguishes the many different types of people that exist in a society such as America. He puts:

Monetary aspects should still be a significant aspect of a job, but a person must enjoy their work. Chris has a utopian view of the world that comes from his personality traits of being overtly-optimistic, willing to please, gullible, and narrow-minded. Numerous times throughout the novel, he dispenses with his opinion of how to be successful businessman. He proposes that simple charisma will carry over into real-world gains, which is a hopeless interpretation of how the capitalist system works. (66)

Almost all the plays of Arthur Miller's plays are brilliant critiques of the immortality of capitalism. *All My Sons* is no exception. It is from a true story. Wright Aeronautical Corporation conspired with army inspection officers to approve defective aircraft engines destined for military use, resulting in planes crashing and pilots dying. Miller

had been told of a daughter turning her father in after he had been caught selling the faulty machinery to the army.

Throughout the play of *All My Sons*, Miller uses the literary devices of dialogue, conflict, and characterization to shed light on the fact that the capitalist does not always lead to lives off luxury and happiness. In this connection, Christopher Bigsby views:

For many of the characters, the impacts of believing in a flawed system led to many undesirable ramifications including disillusionment, suffering, a loss of morals, and suicide. However, he also offered another conclusion. For those people that do not throw their well-being into the system whole-heartedly, there is the chance of a good life. It is all about making intelligent decisions and not pursuing very wild goose chase. (3)

Miller's final assessment seems to be that everything should be pursued in moderation or the perils of the capitalistic system will be brought to bear.

The conflicts in a play reveal a lot about the theme that the author is trying to establish. The conflicts in the play, *All My Sons*, seem to be intrinsically linked to the tyrannies of the capitalistic system and the hoax of the American Dream. Scarlet Johnson reviews as:

The main conflict is that of never having enough money and it is brought on almost every single page of the play. The characters are always trying to search for more and more of the lucrative green paper that apparently makes the world go round. The interesting observation about their desire for riches is that they do not even realize how often they broach the subject. (1)

The characters notice its presence on the surface level meaning that they acknowledge that their plight keeps getting worse but they do not realize how often they invent extraordinary schemes to get-rich quick, complain about the state of affairs, converse about the growing debts, and reminisce about a time when money came easier and in greater volume.

John Watson says that Miller blends subjective human passions with the imaginative power of characters. Miller hardly makes use of characters belonging to the upper level of society. He is interested in examining how the lower working class people are affected by difficulties and problems of daily lives. Watson delivers the following point:

Miller's work, which was unequaled in passion and imagination by any of his contemporaries' works, was a barrage of conflicts, of the blackest horrors offset by purity. Perhaps his greatest character, Chris, the heroine of *Ann*, has been described as a tigress and a moth, and, as Mr. Joe created her, there was no contradiction. (45)

Female characters in almost all the plays of Miller are prone to the same sort of psychic or corporeal challenges. Female characters are beset with almost the same problems. They are not depicted as those fragile female beings that are crushed by the burden of family bickering and hardships of daily life. But the style in which the playwright shows their desire for transcending the barriers of mundane and monotonous life is superb and commendable.

Frank Rich admires Miller's use of biblical and symbolic words in the utterances of almost all the characters of this play. The docile characteristics are flatly subverted in the play. The pattern of allusions puts the gap in the structure of readers'

collective anticipations. Rich makes the following statement as to Miller's rationale behind the elements of obscenity:

The play's dialogue is sometimes cryptic and dubious. Sue uses obscure words numerous times and both Chris and mother use the word 'mystique' quite loosely. Miller's profanity is not employed for shock value, but is rather an integral component of his characters' dubiety, which, according to frequent collaborator, worked the iambic pentameter out of the language of snobbish upper class people. The characters' sometimes dubious lexicon, moreover, may be seen as psychologically necessary armor against their brutal environment. (14)

The frequent use of confounding elements generates shock. The only way to get rid of the bondage is through the shock tactics. Readers are compelled to face the morally shocking concept and precept. They hardly become aware of the freshness of doubting and defying tradition. The last alternative approach to handle sidetracked life is to doubt, defy and dismantle these values.

Smith Mailer takes Arthur Miller as the most reliable critic of the then degraded materialistic trend of twentieth century America. Mailer keenly exposes the power of Miller's funny sense of satire. Mailer makes the following point as the mildly trenchant nature of Miller's work:

The core essence of the play, *All My Sons*, is directed against the obsessive preoccupation of the middle class people. Ann exemplifies this side of the mid twentieth century America. Her ideal is devoid of any concern for the suffering and seclusion of other people. It seems her emotions and genuine feelings are dead. Only the violence, exemplified by Ann, can revitalize mother's sensitivity. (41)

In this world full of loneliness, it is futile to seek the grain of sympathy and communicative attention. The satirical vein of this play *All My Sons* lies on this thematic component. The assault launched by George over Joe is farcically fruitful enough to knock the American society.

Although all these critics and reviewers examined the play, *All My Sons*, from different points of view and then arrived at several findings and conclusions, none of them notice how the capitalist ideology is interrogated. In the society where commercialization and industrialization have gained massive foothold, the fate and future of financially weak people remain bleak. Even the prosperous people are devoid of any affection, emotion and charm of humanity. Everything is cast into the mold of monetary values. It is the adverse situation created by economic hardship that compels people to exchange feelings and emotions with monetary worth. Since the topic of the critique of the capitalist ideology is untouched and unexplored; the researcher claims that it is the fresh, new and original topic. It is clear that this text yielded multiple interpretations.

Terry Eagleton says that “Marx’s dialectical approach to it insures that his fuller subject is always capitalist society. The actual changes that occur in history are seen here as the outcome of opposing tendencies, or contradictions” (54). Marx’s dialectic is materialist. Marx was primarily concerned with capitalism as lived rather than as thought about, but people's lives also involve consciousness. Marx's materialism puts ideas back into the heads of living people. In this interaction, social conditions and behavior are found to have a greater effect on the character and development of people's ideas than these ideas do on social conditions and behavior.

The night Ann Deever returns to her old neighborhood to visit Chris Keller and his family. The tree was planted as a memorial to the older Keller son, Larry, a

fighter pilot. He was lost in World War II. The morning after the storm, family members and neighbors gather in the yard to chat, to read the newspaper, and to discuss Ann's return. Ann's father is in the penitentiary for having allowed cracked cylinder heads to be shipped, which caused the deaths of twenty-one pilots. After the neighbors leave and while Ann is still inside the Keller house eating breakfast, Joe and Chris discuss Larry's tree falling and the effect it will have on Kate, the mother.

Chris also tells his father that he asked Ann to visit because he wants to ask her to marry him. Joe responds that his mother will not like the news because she still thinks of Ann as Larry's girl. Chris explains that if he is to stay with the family business. He will need his father's support in convincing Kate that Larry is not coming back from the war and that Ann and he have the right to be happy. When she enters the backyard, Kate tries to downplay the significance of Larry's destroyed tree, but she notes the coincidence of Ann's return. She reminds the two men that she is sure Larry is not dead and that Ann must share that sentiment.

Chris tries to reason with her. But she insists that it is possible that Larry is still alive. She mentions that a neighbor is working out Larry's horoscope to establish whether or not Larry's plane crash could have occurred on one of Larry's "lucky" days. Once Ann joins the Keller family in the yard, the talk turns to old times and ultimately to Larry. Ann makes it clear that she is not waiting for Larry, but Kate tells her that she should listen to her heart. Their talk also turns to Ann's father in prison. Ann reveals that her sympathy for him came to an end once she heard of Larry's crash. Joe explains that Steve is not a bad man, just the type of weak man.

Keller goes on to say that in spite of Steve's claim, he allows Steve come back to the business, not as a partner but as a worker. Ann marvels at Joe's kind nature, and Chris agrees that he is "a great guy." After the group makes plans to go out for a

celebratory dinner, Chris and Ann talk seriously. Chris explains his feelings for her, and Ann assures him that she wants to marry him. Chris also confides his guilt in having survived the war, explaining that in combat he realized his responsibility for others. He wonders whether there is any meaning to all the suffering and destruction and whether his actions and participation in his father's business since the war are admirable or self-serving.

Ann's brother George calls after having visited their father in prison, and he announces that he needs to see the Kellers. He does not say why, and Joe begins to worry that he might want to stir up old trouble. In anticipation of George's return, Kate makes his favorite grape drink and tells her husband: "Be smart now, Joe. The boy is coming. Be smart"(23). Ann challenges Chris's complete acceptance of his father's innocence, and Chris asks: "Do you think I could forgive him if he'd done that thing?" Later that afternoon, George arrives. He tells Chris and Ann that his father charged Joe with having given him the go-ahead to ship the defective cylinder heads and with lying about his role in the crime when he claimed to have been home, sick in bed.

Chris and Ann are able to calm George. Once Kate greets him and reminds him of all the good times in the old neighborhood, George accepts the Kellers' dinner invitation. Joe appears in the backyard and greets George. Eventually the conversation turns to Joe's remarkable good health. Kate carelessly mentions that he has not been sick a day in his life. Joe interjects with a reminder that he had the flu during the war, but George catches the Kellers in the discrepancy and he openly charges Joe with having let his father take the blame. George storms out, and Chris confronts Joe, asking him what he did with the 120 cracked engine heads.

Joe explains that a slowdown in production would have been costly for the business and that he let the shipment go. But he did not think that the defective parts would be installed. He concludes by saying that he did it for Chris. Chris yells back at him and pounds on his father's chest before he leaves. At two o'clock the following morning, Kate and Joe discuss the situation and wonder what their son will do with their secret. Ann enters the backyard where they sit and says that she will do nothing about Joe but that Kate must accept that Larry is dead so that she and Chris can marry. Kate balks and Joe goes into the house. Ann produces a letter from Larry written on the day he crashed, in which he tells of knowing about his father's part in the shipment of defective engine parts and that it is his intention to crash his plane.

Gramsci grounds his Marxism in the lived experience of subaltern classes, a spontaneous common sense out of which "emerges a good sense that grasps the totality and its transformative potentialities. Organic intellectuals, through their close connection to a revolutionary class, elaborate the good sense out of the common sense" (77). Traditional intellectuals, who think of themselves as autonomous and above classes, "serve to stultify the good sense of the revolutionary class. Whatever their self-understanding, intellectuals are never outside the struggle for hegemony or above classes" (66). Hegemony is a contestation among or reconfiguration of ideologies.

When Chris returns, he announces that he is going to leave home and asks his parents what they are going to do to make the situation right. Joe, still unable to comprehend, asks why he is considered "bad," to which Chris responds, "you're no worse than most men but I thought you were better. I never saw you as a man. I saw you as my father" (54). Chris reads Larry's letter aloud to his father and asks him if he

understands his moral obligation. Just before going back into the house, Joe haltingly admits that the deaths of the twenty-one pilots are his responsibility.

Joe Keller is totally immersed in business. He is of the opinion that business is the part and parcel of life. He does not give importance to any other things except, money, business, and profit accruing from any trick. He takes delight in his son's involvement in business. The free choice and individual longing of his son are not important to Joe Keller. Rather, the business practice which his son is being familiar with is the most pleasing to him. This typical nature of Joe reminds us how greedy he is for the sake of money and any unethical business venture. The following extract is suggestive of the rapacious and crooked temperament of Joe Keller who is perceived by others as a minatory force to the foundation of normative social practice and ethically suitable business practice:

Chris: I will get out. I will get married and live someplace else. Maybe in the New York.

Keller: Are you Crazy?

Chris: I have been a good son too long, a good sucker. I am through with it.

Keller: have got a business here. What the hell is this?

Chris: The business! The business does not inspire me.

Keller: Must you be inspired?

Chris: Yes. I like it an hour a day. If I have to grub for money all day long at least at evening I want it beautiful. I want a family. I want some kids. I want to build something that I can give myself to. Annie is in the middle of that. Now.... where to find it? (9)

Due to the disparity between the viewpoint of Chris and Joe, conflict arises. Chris wants to marry. He wants to marry Ann. He loves to have a family. Unlike his father, he does not waste his youth in rogue business. For the sake of business, he does not want to sacrifice all of the normative practice of life. He loves to have his dignity and individuality intact from the constant pressures of business. Once Chris comes to know how his father practices business dishonestly, he gets disenchanted from the same spirit and enthusiasm which his father had for business.

Terry Eagleton throws spotlight upon the doctrine of Marx. Eagleton's view is mentioned in the following way:

Marx argued that the economic situation, the form of the productive system, is the most important determinant of all other aspects of the society. Matter has sovereign role in the determination of consciousness. Matter exerts pressures on the mind. Marx hardly imagines about the transcendental or autonomous consciousness.

Hence Marx is said to be a materialist. Marx rebelled against Hegel's philosophy in which ideas were taken to be the important determinants of history. (54)

The main types of society Marx distinguished are primitive, slave, feudal and capitalist. In a capitalist society capitalists own and control the productive resources, workers own only their labor and work for capitalists, who then own the product and sell it at a profit. The key to understanding a society at any point in history is to focus first on the mode of production. In feudal society land was the crucial productive factor and the feudal lords owned and controlled it. In capitalist society capital, machinery, mines, factories etc. are the key productive factors and these are owned and controlled by capitalists.

Chris's mother is in complicity with his father's dishonest business practice. She knows that it is Joe, her husband who is involved in the untimely death of twenty one pilots. To save himself, he shifts blame on Ann's father who used to work as Joe's business partner. Due to the pressure of her liaison in her husband's corrupt business practice, she suffers mentally. Even years after the death of her eldest son, Larry, she still believes that he is alive. Though it is officially proved that Larry is dead, she continues to believe that one day he would come. Her psychic degeneration is an instance of the impact of Joe's corrupt business practice. The following extract is illustrative of this point:

Chris: (Looking at Keller) what was it, Mom? Did you dream?

Mother: More, more than a dream.

Chris: (hesitantly) About Larry?

Mother: I was fast asleep and (raising her arm over the audience) Remember the way he used to fly low past the house when he was in training? When we used to see his face in the cockpit going by? That is the way I saw him. Only high up. Way, way up, where the cloud is. He was so real I could reach out and touch him. And suddenly he started to fall. And crying, crying to me. Mom! Mom! I could hear him like he was in the room. Mom! It was his voice. If I could touch him I knew I could stop him, If I could only. (11)

Chris's mother develops illusion. She fails to perceive the gap between appearance and reality. In the prime of her youth, she goaded her husband to do business badly. Both husband and wife were involved in corrupt business. They did not care for the value of family, children, social obligation, humanity, fellow feeling and professional loyalty.

Bourgeois society, at least in developed countries, has always paid "primary attention to its political framework and mechanisms, for historical reasons into which this is not the place to go. That is why political arrangements have become a powerful means for reinforcing bourgeois hegemony" (Gramsci 15). So that slogans such as the defense of the republic, the defense of democracy, or "the defense of civil rights and freedoms, bind rulers and ruled together for the primary benefit of the rulers; but this does not mean that they are irrelevant to the ruled" (66). They are thus far more than mere cosmetics on the face of coercion.

Chris's mother knows that Ann's father is honest. She knows that Joe is responsible for bringing bane in the life of Ann's father. When she Ann comes suddenly at her home, she invents several gimmicks to hide the reality. Yet she still thinks that Ann is Larry's beloved. So she wants to save Ann from the romantic overture of other boys including Chris too. Ann is too slow to perceive the reality. The following dialogue between Ann and Mother represents how much their relation is under the veil of illusion:

Ann: (to the mother) do not let them bulldoze you. Ask me anything you like. What do you want to know, Kate? Come on, let's gossip.

Mother: (to Chris and Keller) she is he only one is got any sense. (To Ann). Your mother, she is not getting a divorce, heh?

Ann: No, she is calmed down about it now. I think when he gets out they will probably live together. In New York, of course.

Mother: That is fine. Because your father is still. I mean he is a decent man after all is said and done.

Ann: I do not care. She can take him back if she likes. (15)

Both Joe and his wife are terribly hypocritical. Joe is a murderer. He hatched a conspiracy in which a huge number of pilots died. The blame is put on the shoulder of Ann's father. To cover his business loss, Joe goes to the extent of implicating an innocent man. It is a sort of crime for securing financial gain and averting loss in business. The greed to extend business makes Joe and his wife forget ethics and professional loyalty. The shocking fact is that Joe's wife puts gloss on the hideous acts and intrigues of her husband.

According to Althusser, the economic dominance of the ruling class involves coercion, violence and force. When people are subjected to institutions like the police, the army and the court, they are compelled to certain actions by the use of direct force. The following extract throws light on this aspect of his view:

Conversely, the Ideological State Apparatus operates through a discourse on ideology where the family, the school, the religion, etc. naturalize the process of subjugation to certain rules, ways of life and thought processes developed and sustained by the dominating classes to ensure their position in the society. While the institutions involved in the Ideological State Apparatus appear to be very different from each other, they are unified by the aim of operating through and reasserting the ideology of the powerful class. (27)

It is the system that gives rise to the possibility of various deceptive practices. The greed for money, hunger for profit and lust for material prosperity are so strong in Joe that he is capable of any type of hoax, intrigue, brutality and conspiracy.

The conversation concentrates on the revelation of who the murderer is and how the conspiracy is hatched. The following extract is expressive of how truths about the conspiracy are revealed:

Ann: The last thing I remember on this block was one word.

Murderers! Remember that, Kate? Mrs. Hammond standing in front of our house yelling that word? She is still around, I suppose?

Mother: They are still around.

Keller: Do not listen to her. Every Saturday night the whole gang is playing poker in this arbor. All the ones who yelled murderer taking my money now.

Mother: Do listen to her, Every Saturday night the whole gang is playing poker in this arbor. All the ones who yelled murderer taking my money now.

Mother: Do not, Joe. She is a sensitive girl, do not fool her. (To Ann)

They still remember about Dad. It is different with him. (Indicates Joe)

He was exonerated, your father's still there. That is why I was not so enthusiastic about your coming. Honestly, I know how sensitive you are and I told Chris, I said. (17)

Steve Deever is in prison. He was imprisoned on the charge of supplying defective cylinders for American Air Force. He is made the victim of false accusations. Deever is shrewdly implicated in the conspiracy. On the day of the sale of defective cylinder, Joe remains absent hoping that he could put the blame on Steve Deever wholeheartedly. But before Deever's daughter, Joes acts solicitously. He appears to be genuinely affected by the plight and predicament of Deever. He goes to the extent of shedding tears on Deever's tragic fate. At times, he declares that he is willing to play the role of her father in situation demands. Bogus show of kindness and dreadful reality expose Joe as a wolf in sheep's clothing.

The involvement of organized crime reaches all aspects of the business.

Companies are officially licensed to dispose of waste to those which earn contracts with public or private organizations. It displays the dynamic of a specific partnership between the official economy and organized crime. Organized crime offers a service to legitimate business and receives in exchange opportunities for entrepreneurial development. When John Landesco describes “the structure, cultural background and operations of organized crime in Chicago, he highlights the ties of mutual interest that mobsters established with the police, entrepreneurs and customers for the goods and services they supplied” (117). Such ties often become manifest at weddings, funerals, political banquets and other occasions that brought the community together. Landesco remarks that in death one cannot avoid disclosing them. Landesco puts the following view:

Additionally, at other venues such as political meetings and banquets, the politics-business-crime nexus was visually inescapable, with the City Hall attaché drinking next to racketeers, businessmen and police officers, all discussing ways of helping each other in their respective entrepreneurial efforts. However, even this unedifying description is superseded by the case examined above. (126)

Landesco’s analysis confirms that often the official economy and organized crime are engaged in an exchange of services and a mutual entrepreneurial promotion. The former suggests that the term ‘organized crime’ should be abandoned altogether in favor of the term illegal enterprise. The latter concludes that organized crime consists of businessmen, politicians, and a minority formed by members of criminal syndicates.

Corrupt procedures, incompetent administration, criminal entrepreneurship and corporate profiteering all overlap as contributors to outcomes of severe offences and public health hazards. Different combinations of these elements apply but the problems of ineffective response and avoidance of responsibility are common to all. Even where regulations and controls are operating and asserted, these drives create profitable enterprises to bypass them. They are unable to change values and incentives that favor ethically bad outcomes. A certain scale of transactions, is very largely organized nowadays by criminal groups or networks as a rule engaged in many other forms of activity. They may specialize for a while, but each specialized activity tends over time to become associated with the others in a comprehensive range of illicit or criminal activities: drug trafficking is one earner among many, though a particularly lucrative one in recent decades, as the consumption of these products has risen. These associations differ from situation to situation and from one world region to another. The same groups may act both as major players in the above-board local economy and as major drug traders. In the case of the next phase of drug trafficking, the recycling of the profits and the money laundering are carried out through financial institutions and within the official economy.

As claimed Friedrich Jameson, “Late capitalism has had such catastrophic consequences for American society as a six year depression in the 1870s, the depression of 1893, the compromising of public health through unsound food processing practices and medical quackery” (76). Other additional instances of deceptive means of cheating are the great depression, “periodic pauperization of investors and periodic assaults on the public purse through incidents such as contractors overarching the U. S. military and the collapse of banks and savings and loan companies” (86).

Social life and politics are everywhere increasingly market-driven. This is in part the result of the impersonal pressures of the global economy. It has been well said that neoliberalism's ascendancy has been associated with the political construction of markets. It coupled with the deliberate extension of competitive logics and privatized management into hitherto relatively socialized spheres. Non-market areas of social life are transformed into markets. This involves commodification and profit-making. This marketization involves a series of transformations. Goods or services are reconfigured so that they can be priced and sold. People are induced to want to buy them. The motivation of the workforce producing or providing them is redirected from collective aims. It is orientated to the service ethic to profit-seeking and market discipline. But if politics is ever more market-driven, the market is, in turn, politically driven. Neo liberalization is itself state-sponsored when capital moves into a previously non-market sphere.

Inequality, of resources and power offers an illuminating perspective within which to revisit some of the examples of markets. What is important here is commodification of interpersonal relation chiefly marriage. It degrades the personal value of women and causes the woman to lose her scarcity value. Viewed superficially, truncated prostitution combines loyalty and transaction together.

Althusser tries to explain that ideology is not just a phenomenon that exists and functions in the minds of human beings. Rather, ideology has a "material existence and even though ideas precede actions, ideology is always present in apparatus and the practices associated with it" (77). Althusser traces the reason behind certain beliefs of people in the presence of some or the other Ideological State Apparatuses. These beliefs are in turn governed by the institutions that form the material apparatuses. Thus, it can be said that for Althusser, ideas are "the

consequence of the situations of the individual subjects in a society within specific Ideological State Apparatuses" (26).

George is a lawyer by profession. He is Deever's son. When George matures in his profession, he visits the jail where his father is imprisoned. He is keenly interested in the case in which his father is implicated. After much contemplation and scrutiny of the case, he jumps to the conclusion that there is something wrong in the case. He intuitively guesses that his father is implicated false in the conspiracy. He doubts the honesty and accountability of his father's business partner, Joe Keller. So he comes to conduct an inquiry into the case. When Joe's wife comes to hear that George is coming, she could not help reminding her husband that it is necessary to deal with George delicately because he is a lawyer and he can open the case. The scheming and intriguing disposition of his wife proves how far she is dedicated to the callous business practice of her husband:

Keller: What for?

Mother: I do not know. (She speaks with warning) He is a lawyer now, Joe. George is a lawyer. All these years he never even sent a postcard to Steve. Since he got back from the war, not a postcard.

Keller: So what?

Mother: (Her tension breaking out) suddenly he takes an airplane from New York to see him. An Airplane!

Keller: Well? So?

Mother: (trembling) why?

Keller: I do not read minds. Do you?

Mother: What do I care what Steve has got to tell him that he takes an airplane to see him? (24)

The mother is in collusion with Joe in the imprisonment of Steve. She is too shrewd to remind Joe that George is eager to expose the conspiracy hatched by Joe. Intuitively, the mother smells the rat. She guesses that George has come to conduct an investigation over the alleged case of disaster. As a result, both husband and wife are astounded by the case. They are both inhuman and brutal for the sake of safeguarding their business.

Humans are fooled to believe in their own exclusive identity. He emphasizes that all humans are made to live in a false reality through the interpellation of ideology. However much people may want to believe that they have total control over their existence and the way their identity functions. The most simplified examples of this can be noted in first, how in patriarchal societies it is pre-decided that even an unborn baby will get the father's name. In the Christian Ideological State Apparatus it is God who acts as an exclusive and unique subject. It is based on whom the Christians try to shape their lives. Althusser also highlights that the subjects also act as real subjects in terms of obedience and subjection to the higher model placed in front of them.

The rumor that Joe is guilty of getting Deever entangled in disaster is tacitly spreading in the community. Girls like Sue already suspect that Joe is guilty. Like her many people in the sector of Joe are aware of the probable implication of Joe in the conspiratorial crime which is not officially and authentically implicated. Outwardly Sue talks gently with Chris but inwardly she hates not only Chris but Joe and the entire family. It is Ann who is aware of this fact. She shares this truth with Chris in Conversation. The following dialogic part exemplifies this fact:

Chris: (Sensing something wrong but still smiling) Doing what?

Ann: As soon as you get to know somebody you find a distinction for them. How do you know she is a great nurse?

Chris: What is the matter, Ann?

Ann: The woman hates you. She despises you.

Chris: Hey. What's hit you?

Ann: Gee, Chris.

Chris: What happened here?

Ann: You never. Why did not you tell me? She hates you. (28)

People around Joe and Chris are not ignorant about Joe's selfish, treacherous and cruel nature. For the sake of money, profit and materialistic gain, he can go to any extent. But in the absence of any strong explicit evidence, nobody raise the finger against Joe. Despite this, people like Sue do not hesitate to speak their mind. Ann is puzzled to know how people like Sue badmouth Joe and his so-called honesty and integrity.

With his expertise as a lawyer and subtle nuance of reasoning, George is almost sure and certain that Joe is a hand behind the disaster that claimed the lives of twenty pilots. While selling cylinders, which were defective, George's father had telephoned Joe. He intended to inform Joe. But Joe did not appear. Next morning Joe was out of contact. Since transaction is already fixed, Deever is compelled to sell. Outwardly, he is implicated in the disaster. So, he is imprisoned on the charge of selling defective cylinder heads. While facing Joe and his wife, George openly questions Joe's integrity and honesty. He pinpoints Joe's explicit involvement in the disaster. George is firmly convinced with the available evidences that now are the time to expose the legend of Joe. The following extract is suggestive of this point:

You cannot know, you would not be here. Dad came to work that day. The night foreman came to him and showed him the cylinder heads. They were coming out of the process with defects. There was something wrong with the process. Dad went directly to the phone and called here and told Joe to come down right away. But the morning passed. No sign Joe. So Dad called again. By this time he had over a hundred defectives. The army was screaming for stuff and Dad did not have anything to ship. So Joe told him on the phone he told him to weld, cover up the cracks in any way he could, and ship them out. (33)

George comes as a redeemer in the play. He eventually knows that Joe is a real culprit. He had arranged the conspiracy in which Deever is trapped. After Deever's imprisonment, Joe never tries to liberate his friend from false charge and accusation. Friendship, loyalty in relationship and genuine sense of love and affection are nothing to him. Only profit, business and transaction are important to him. This outlook makes Joe a roué merchant capable of any type of tension and torture.

Moving into the second act, George enters wearing a hat. In a brief exchange, George has just started wearing it today. Ann has previously confessed that she has never written to nor visited her father in prison. She seems surprised that George would be wearing it. He has only recently taken to wearing a hat. The hat is his father's, lets us know that it has a specific meaning to George. The contrast in attitudes toward their father points the audience toward a possible broader significance than what it means to Ann or George individually.

The hat is both a symbol of their feelings, as well as an icon representing Steve Deever. The hat becomes Steve's presence on stage. When George puts on the hat, he takes on the mantle of his father. George, through a hint in the stage directions,

sets himself at odds with Kate, Chris, and Ann over a glass of grape juice. The following extract is expressive of the distorted sentiment and false sense of gentility on the part of those who are engaged in rogue business practice:

Chris: (Turning to George.) How about some grape juice? Mother made it especially for you.

George. (With forced appreciation.) Good old Kate. Remembered my grape juice.

Chris: You drank enough of it in this house. How you been George? –
Sit down. (44)

The grape juice may represent a token of Kate's affection for George. George's hesitant manner signifies that he feels differently about it. Again, the audience is drawn, however briefly, to examine for themselves the significance of the grape juice. The pattern that Miller has established begs the question. In addition to its arbitrary symbolic meanings, the grape juice can be seen as an icon representing blood. It is closely tied to blood in both color and cultural significance. Kate attempts to reconcile through an offering of grape juice, but all George can think about is the blood on the Kellers' hands Miller presents the final object through Ann. She carries the letter from Larry explaining his intent to commit suicide.

The pattern continues. For Ann, who has done her best to achieve her goals through other means? It may represent the last echo of Larry's voice. For Chris, it is ironclad proof that his father's choices were not only wrong, but ultimately killed his son, regardless of the fact that Larry "never flew a P-40." For Kate it is the severing of her last strand of hope, and the end of her family. For Joe, it is the complete crumbling of his faulty ethic, proof of his failure as a father, and reason enough to die.

The politics of interpellation can be found in how the entire system makes people work and act as subjects all by themselves. They easily become a part of a particular Ideological State Apparatus, live according to its practices and never question them because they cannot see the sham in the idea of themselves as free agents. As Althusser writes, "the individual is interpellated as a (free) subject in order that he shall submit freely to the commandments of the Subject, i.e. in order that he shall (freely) accept his subjection, i.e. in order that he shall make the gestures and actions of his subjection all by himself" (44). There are no subjects except by and for their subjection.

Althusser points out that although a society's ideology consists primarily of the ideology of its dominant classes, nevertheless the dominated classes also produce ideologies, which express their protest against this domination. Althusser also sees them as platforms where a constant class struggle is always taking place: first, between the former ruling class and the current ruling class and then, between the current ruling class and the class being ruled. It is precisely this kind of complex interplay of power struggle between these classes which Althusser finds affirmative. In his view if people realize these ongoing clashes between different classes then it is possible to resist the working of ideology.

Due to Joe's nature to treat every human feeling, affection and social norm in terms of money, his son, Chris, deserts him. The moment Chris comes to know the real face of his father, his hatred towards him. He cannot imagine supporting his father in business any more. He decides to live separately with Ann as his wife. Owing to his rapacious devilish nature, even his son stops loving, supporting and treating him respectfully. The following extract is a classic example of how a son hates his father following the disclosure of Joe's legend:

Chris: What? Do I raise the dead when I put him behind bars? Then what will do it for? We used to shoot a man who acted like a dog, but honor was real there, you were protecting something. But here? This is the land of the great big dogs, you do not love a man here, and you eat him! That is the principle; the only one we live by. It just happened to kill a few people this time that is all. The world's that way, how can I take out on him what sense does that make? This is a zoo, a zoo!

Ann: (to Mother) you know what he has got to do! Tell him!

Mother: Let him go.

Ann: I won't let him go. You will tell him what he has got to do. (49)

Chris is so shocked that he condemns the world dominated by rogue business practice as a zoo. A sort of extreme hatred wells up in his heart. A few moments ago prior to the revelation of his father's antics, he was keenly interested in marriage, settlement, separate identity and family comforts. But the impact of his father's rogue and inhuman collusion makes him disenchanted not only with his father but with the entire social practice.

Joe's single most idea of getting desirous thing at any cost without caring for public response or moral effect is the basic ideological underpinning of rogue capitalism. This ideological bent is sharply called into question in Miller' play. The neglect of social norm, cultural decency, and moral dignity in the course and campaign for materialistic goods is the bane of human existence.

To conclude, this play, Keller lives with his mischievous actions. Keller sees himself as answerable only to himself and his family, not to society as a whole. This means due to the capital society all people have used plenty of unknown and unidentified forms of domination and exploitation. Direct forms of exploitation and

suppression are not effective and applicable in the shifting horizon of late capitalist status quo. That is why the defenders of the present capitalist system bring into application the new methods of silencing rebellious voices of people. The rebellious attention of people is diverted by the cult and ritual of hunger game. This attitude is reflected in his blind trust in the practice of rogue capitalism.

Keller's narrow-minded worldview allows him to discount his crimes because they are done for the family. But it cannot be justified in any way. The principal contention is that Keller is wrong in his claim that there is nothing greater than the family. There is a whole world to which Keller is connected. But he is irresponsible to this side. He wants to achieve things he intends by fair means or foul.

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