



ADITYA ENGINEERING COLLEGE

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND BASIC SCIENCES Lecture Notes

THE PROGRESS

(*Saint John Ervine*)

1. Explain the summary of The Progress?

Saint John Ervine, full name is **Saint John Greer Ervine**, was born on Dec. 28, 1883, Belfast, Ireland and died in Jan. 24, 1971, London. He was British playwright, novelist, and critic, one of the first to write dramas in the style of local realism fostered by the Irish literary renaissance.

Introduction

“Progress” by St. John Greer Ervine is a successful specimen of a one act play. It has not only a unity of theme (the abolition of war) the unities of time; place and action are also meticulously maintained. Thematically, “Progress” is written against the *background of the First World War* in which thousands were butchered and many more became disabled for life.

St. John Ervine's *The Progress* is a deeply moving anti-war play. It presents before us the crudeness of war and its aftermath. The play in itself carries a war waged against the scientific progress that is happening all over the world to shatter human kind, into pieces.

Professor

Throughout the play, we could find Prof. Corrie busy with his experiments, formulae and mumbles. Prof. Corrie is engaged with his new invention so that he forgets the rest of the world. He forgets to bring his sister, Mrs. Meldon from the railway station; he forgets to listen to the knocks at the door by the servant, Hannah. He even forgets to talk with other persons.

His regular activities are to give a slight laugh, to murmur and to feel happy about his new invention, a powerful atom bomb. Prof. Corrie never refuses to give away his stand of scientific view of the society. He is a strong believer of war as a means to peace.

Mrs.Meldon

Mrs. Meldon, even before she appears on the stage is said to be mourning. She feels sad about the loss of her son, Eddie, who was killed at the age of 19 in the First World War. Her mind is fully occupied with the third anniversary of her son's death. That is the reason she orders a wreath.

She refuses to come out of the past. She feels very bad about her loneliness. She also refuses to accept with Prof. Corrie's thoughts. In short, we can describe Mrs. Meldon as a sensitive woman, who is filled with emotions and motherly love.

The War between Corrie and Mrs. Meldon

Corrie and Mrs. Meldon are poles apart in their view of life. In the play, we could see Corrie to be

happy for his new invention, whereas Mrs. Meldon is sad for the same reason. Corrie compels her to take a broad point of view and look at war in a new patriotic manner. Mrs. Meldon does not accept to Prof. Corrie instead she views the world and war as a mother.

Their conflict rises into a pleading. Mrs. Meldon requests Prof. Corrie to destroy his new invention. She feels afraid that Corrie's new invention would destroy several young chaps like Eddie. Prof. Corrie is under the belief that he would have a best deal with the government and earn lots of name and wealth. He does not care for human life instead; he wants his name to be written in the history of wars. Mrs. Meldon stabs Prof. Corrie in order to bring peace in the world.

Conclusion

This play realistically portrays the rough hands of war and about the loss of human life in vain.

DIAL 000

Barry Rosenberg

1. Explain the summary of Dial 000

Barry Rosenberg is a long-time journalist specializing in aviation, technology, and issues of national defense. He has written for respected industry publications such as Aviation Week & Space Technology for the past twenty years. Barry has focused on advising clients in the medical technology and health care provider sectors. He has been quoted in the New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

Barry Rosenberg draws our attention to the significance of confrontational therapy in drawing out a young man of disturbed mental state from his frustration and depression. The story is a satire on the mechanical modern life, racial and regional bias, call center culture, and ill feeling between the cricket lovers of Australia and India. The personal vices like weak relation between husband and wife, insecurity at work place is focused.

A satirical story could focus on many things, and could make readers think over the issue.

Doug Wood telephoned the police to inform that he is going to commit suicide. His wife left him and he lost his job. He was unable to get back and hence developed suicidal tendencies. It was the only thing he could do. He couldn't see the person on the other side and hence he showed his anger by cursing and looking seriously at the mobile.

When a person commits suicide, the suicide section traces the name and address of that person. It doesn't actually ask for it when someone phones. This is done to divert his attention. As per the human psychology, we tend to avoid mishaps.

Doug has subconsciously taken the hint given by his mind, though he's ready to commit suicide. Being in a state of depression is black mood. His depressed mood is now turned to a furious anger which is denoted as red. 'Black mood turning red' is switching to anger from a depressed mood.

Doug has so patiently given the address but the person on the phone was cracking jokes irrespective of the situation and he said that he was unable to find the address on net. It made Doug furious.

Doug has low opinion on Indian cricketers. He is filled with regional feeling and hence thinks critical of India and its people. Govind started to irk Doug right from the beginning. When he understood that Doug has low opinion on India and Indian cricketers, he hooked him at the point.

Sergeant Govind discussed with Dough about Straight shooting means to play skilfully and honestly. Straight bribing is to bribe someone without hesitation to achieve what one wishes to.

He made use of confrontational psychotherapy. Under this therapy, the patient is indulged in a confrontational talk and is finally pulled out of his depressed and frustrated mood. Both the psychologist and the Sergeant could be credited. Psychologist, for encouraging to use the therapy and the Sergeant, for having successfully implementing it.

2. Why did Doug wood telephone the police?

To inform him about his suicidal tendency.

3. Why did Doug develop suicidal tendencies

Mary had left him and he had also quit his job.

4. Why did Doug savage and glare at his mobile?

Doug was irritated continuously with unending questions by Govinda.

5. Did the suicide section really need the name and address of Doug? Substantiate your answer.

To stop Doug from his suicidal attempt, the suicidal section used confrontational therapy.

6. Why did Doug hastily step back when he stamped his foot and a rock sailed down?

Doug was bent on committing suicide but his soul did not accept his decision and so he stepped back unknowingly when a rock sailed down.

7. What do you understand by the expression 'black mood running red'?

Black mood – State of frustration and disappointment. Turn Red – angry, annoyed. Mood of disappointment and frustration turned to angry.

8. What made Doug's black mood turn red?

Doug's mood turned red when he was continuously irritated by Govinda.

9. Why was Doug so Critical of India and the Indians?

A kind of ill feeling developed between the cricket lovers of Australia and India. The ill feeling that developed between the two countries' made Doug critical of India and Indians.

10. What you understand by 'straight shooting' and 'straight bribing'?

Straight shooting- loyal, frank and honest. Straight bribing – disloyal, cunning cheating others.

11. How did sergeant Govinda succeeding persuading Doug against committing suicide?

Sergeant Govinda engaged Doug in his hostile talk and succeeded in changing Doug's intention of committing suicide.

12. Which psychotherapy did Govinda us on Doug?

Confrontational therapy

13. Who can be credited for the success of confrontational therapy--- the psychologist who suggested the use of therapy or the sergeant who used it in away? Give a logical answer

Sergeant used confrontational therapy to stop Govinda from his attempt. So he can be credited for the success of confrontational therapy.