

4th Year- Drama

The Quotations' Comment

Look Back in Anger

1) Page 15 Jimmy to Cliff

Jimmy is concerned to live a real, emotional and zest life. The desire for emotions expresses itself in his anger towards his wife and their domestic existence. There is a reference to a black gospel religion which Jimmy associated with things such as jazz music. The use of religious phrases is compared to his antagonism towards traditional English beliefs that he rejects. Most of the play's events occur on Sunday to suggest his anger as he attempts to find the kind of real life that traditional religion seeks to convey for its believers.

2) page 17 Jimmy to Cliff

Jimmy is considered as a character of not of his age. There is a reference to the Edwardian age in which Britain is great and rules the world. Jimmy becomes angry when he looks back to the past which is a glorious and great period despite of its short time. In comparison, the American age is a dreary, meaning that the fashion and culture of the previous age has been wiped away by the rise of America as a super power. He believes that the world around him does not understand the passions and motivations of young generation. He sees that the man is devoid of his simplest rights unless he becomes an American. Only by being an American, man and even his children can get whatever they want.

Because they are Americans, they have everything in time others have nothing.

3) page 27 Cliff to Alison

Cliff talks about himself. He feels sorry for living this difficult life and having no job. The lack of money prevents him from living simple and respectable life. Therefore, he considers this world as the

worst one for not offering any better things for its people. This world offers only suffering and depravation.

4) page 37 Jimmy to Alison

Jimmy used to express his anger in a vicious way. This quotation is considered as a foreshadowing for the future as Alison will lose her baby. For Jimmy, Alison is an incomplete person because she does suffer. She cannot not understand the meaning of life and other's feeling unless she suffers through losing something important and close to her. He sees her as a woman of incapable of true emotions and life since she does not have the ability to express her feelings or react to others.

5) page 42 Alison to Helena

The loyalty is very important thing to Jimmy as it a result of his character. He sees that the relationships between people are devoid of reality for that reason he refuses secularism completely. Through attacking the corruption in the society, he becomes very angry. He criticizes violently rich people for being away from poor people. They only think of themselves and ignore others. This means that those hypocrite people behave the same in all the times, in the past, present and future. His situation is also the same, nothing changed whether in the past or the current time and even in the future.

6) page 53 Jimmy to Helena

Through using biblical language, Jimmy expresses his anger. He used the word blood several times in the play to describe his relationships with others. He feels that he has sacrificed much of his life with Alison. He feels that he has shed his blood for his dismal and gloomy life. The use of blood shows the deep psychological but not physical violence that both Jimmy and Alison committed to each other.

7) page 58 Jimmy to Helena

He confirms that since his early age he learns only how to be angry all the time in addition to the sense of being helpless meaning that he finds no one to help him or his family to get rid of their pain, sadness and suffering in their lives. Since his childhood, he knows the

meaning of love, death, betrayal, sadness, suffering and pain more than Helena's knowing these senses all her life. This means that throughout her life Helena knows very limited things in comparison to Jimmy's knowing as he spends most of his life living without rest in a complete sadness and deprivation from any kind of happiness.

8) page 67 Colonel Redfern to his daughter Alison

Since previous generations, people are married because they love each other. The Colonel believes in that strongly but in the case of his daughter's marriage he finds the opposite. They used to quarrel with each other and instead of loving and respecting his wife, he treats her so badly. Moreover, he used to insult and despise her. This behaviour is due to the social discrimination that dominates the society and from which Jimmy suffers a lot. In the modern world, marriage is based either on interests or revenge. Instead of loving each other, the wife and the husband challenge each other.

9) page 84 Jimmy to Cliff

Jimmy expresses his hatred against women specifically Alison's mother as she rejects him to be her daughter's husband and used all possible means to prevent this marriage and to end their relation but failed. He associates women with the idea of blood. He feels the idea of shedding blood for love and women has replaced the idea of shedding blood for a noble sacrifice. His hatred for Alison's mother makes him attack women in general. He not only attacks Alison's mother but Helena as well accusing her of being a hypocrite because she is an actress which means that she has freedom in time she wants to go to the church. He believes that his miserable situation is because of women.

10) page 84 Jimmy to Cliff

Jimmy used to compare between the past and the present. He sees himself as the product of the past, the Britain which is a great state and glorious in contrast to the present that is so bad. The past's wonderful age has been replaced by a dreary American age. He

idealizes the past of his country and his loving for it causes his anger and dissatisfaction about the present.

11) page 93

Jimmy to Helena

Jimmy attacks Helena as she decides to leave him. He needs love and a real life in order to feel real human being. For him, people not only escape from the troubles and problems of hard life but from love as well. By leaving him, he will be with an ill wife after losing her baby. Alison becomes a woman whom he likes, a suffered woman as she knows the meaning of life after the horrible event she faced. For him man cannot be a real human being and knows the meaning of life unless he suffers. His concentration is on love and understanding.

12) page 95

Alison to Jimmy

Allison expresses her anguish feeling for the loss of her child. She admits her wrong belief that this baby will be in safe because he is in her body. This shows that nothing is safe in this world. Everything is under threat due to the horrible situation in which man lives. The sense of safe and peace are absent in not only in present time but in future as well. After losing the baby, Alison becomes the woman he preferred, meaning a suffered woman. Here, her passivity is clear since she becomes what Jimmy wanted from her.

13) page 96

Jimmy to Alison

Due to their difficult situation, Jimmy and Alison reverted to their fantasy world of bear and squirrel. Only through being animals, they can no longer face the pain and suffering of their real life. Jimmy used to call it the pain of being alive. It is clear that escaping is the only way left for them. The imaginative world is the only stable option within which they can live in peace without quarreling. Because of the difficulties of life, they cannot live as real human beings in this world. Only by pretending to be animals and by creating their imaginative world, they can feel as really human beings.