

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE LESSON

I. It was nearly midnight. As Andrew was returning home after having a disappointing evening with Christine, his girl friend, he was met by Joe Morgan at the surgery. Joe Morgan was a driller and his wife were expecting their first child after twenty years of their married life. Joe Morgan had been anxiously waiting for the Doctor and expressed relief as soon as he saw the Doctor. Now, Joe entreated the doctor to attend to his wife as she needed Doctor's help. Andrew who was deeply absorbed in his thoughts, recalled from the thoughts, sets out with Joe fetching his bag from his room.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Why do you think Andrew obliged to go along with Joe?
2. Do you think the case from Joe Morgan and his family's view is crucial? Why?

II. It was a cold night and Andrew had no clue that this case he was going to attend was turning out to be an unusual one and still less that it was going to influence his future as a Doctor in that place. When they reached the house, Joe preferred to stay outside as he was in anxiety. But expressed his complete trust in the doctor that he would do everything well. The house, though poorly furnished was neat and clean. There was Joe's mother a seventy year old, grey haired woman and a midwife near Mrs. Morgan. Andrew perceived that it would take some more time. Seeing this the elderly woman offered him a cup of tea. Andrew understood woman's intention and assured her that he will not run away.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Why did Joe prefer to stay outside?
2. What do you infer about Andrew's character when he stayed back though the case was getting delayed ?

III. After drinking tea, a queer lethargy of spirit came upon him, and he decided that he would only leave after he had finished everything. His thoughts were heavy and muddled as he sat before the fire. The episode that he had witnessed at the Cardiff station with Christine his girl friend still pained him. He was forced to reason about marriage. Examples of failed marriages of Bramwell and Edward Page flew before him. But his heart believed that marriage was idyllic state. It was this dilemma that left him confused. He remained like that for long time, until he heard the old woman.

DISUSSION POINTS:

1. What was the conflict in Andrew's mind?
2. Does his personal affairs had any impact on the job at hand ?

IV. The old woman wished to know if he could operate without the anesthetic. This was the plea of Mrs. Morgan as she feared that it would harm the baby. The old woman also told how eagerly they were all expectant about the child. Andrew reassured her that anesthetic would do no harm. It was at 3:30 am that he began the operation. Almost an hour elapsed. Then as the first streaks of dawn entered the room, the child was born, lifeless. A chill of horror passed over Andrew as he saw the dead child. He remembered his promise to Joe Morgan. When that thought occurred to him, he chilled suddenly, though he was sweating.

DISUSSION POINTS:

1. Do you think it was important for Andrew to keep his promise? Why?
2. Why were they all expectant about the child ?

V. There was no time for him to contemplate. The mother herself was in a dying state(pulseless) and the child was still without any life. Involuntarily , Andrew handed the child to the nurse and plunged into action to save Mrs. Morgan. It was like a frantic race. If he would delay even a minute it would result in the death of Mrs.Morgan. He quickly loaded a syringe and gave it to Mrs.Morgan and worked unsparingly to revive the mother. After his feverish efforts, her heart strengthened and she was out of danger. Andrew now asked for the baby, which the nurse had kept under the bed thinking it was a dead child.

DISUSSION POINTS:

1. If you were in Dr.Andrew's place, what would you do?
2. Why did Andrew ask for the baby ?

VI. Andrew kneeling down fished among the papers under the bed and brought the child out. The child was perfectly formed but no life. He resembled a tallow. When he studied the lifeless child in his hands , he could conclude that it is asphyxia or pallida. His unnaturally tense mind, raced back to a case he once saw in Samaritan. Immediately he was on his feet and ordered the nurse to bring hot water and cold water quickly. He laid the child on the blanket and started giving artificial respiration. Frantically he splashed cold water into one basin and warm water into the other basin. Like a crazy juggler he dipped the child simultaneously into cold water and hot water basins. He did this for fifteen minutes but no breath came out of the child. His frantic efforts left him exhausted and sweaty. A sense of defeat overwhelmed Andrew. All hopes about the child were dashed.

DISUSSION POINTS:

1. The special treatment through cold and hot water was unconventional. Why didn't Andrew hesitate to administer such treatment?
2. How do you think Andrew appeared to the Midwife at this moment?

VII. But the doctor ventured for one last attempt to resuscitate the child. He pressed the little chest of the infant trying get breath into it. And then as by a miracle, the chest gave a short ,convulsive heave and soon started gasping. Exquisitely came the child's cry. The nurse sobbed hysterically and the old woman who was watching the scene in shock was now praying silently. Andrew handed the child and gulped water at the scullery. Outside, he simply said to Joe that everything was fine and set out to his room. Already few miners were out from their shift and few were resuming their duties. As Andrew walked along side the miners, a strong feeling of accomplishing something for the first time in his life came over him. Birth of him and the child.

DISUSSION POINTS:

1. "Hope against hope" Explain the relevance of the idiom in the light of the above incident?
2. In what way, it was the birth of Andrew also?