

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

PERSONAL RESPONSE (16-20)

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A mob's always made up of people...

When Atticus said this, it gives me a hard pang. I think we assume bad people to be unpleasant all the time. If deep in our heart, we don't give opportunity for those people to repent or change, what makes us think that we will really apply it in our daily life? At the end of the day, the number of bad people who aren't given chances to change and think will increase. Those people are still human to begin with.



"They don't belong anywhere. Colored folks won't have 'em because they're half white; white folks won't have 'em cause they're colored, so they're just inbetweens, don't belong anywhere..."

I could relate what Jem said to one of the poems in my school magazine, written by an Indian student. That anonymous Indian student said that she is half Malay and half Indian. However, she looks like a typical Indian girl, but unable to speak Tamil. Malay friends were very aware of her presence and would treat her very nicely, but she knew, it was a form of courtesy. When she tried to mingle with Indian friends, the same thing happened. For me, living in a society which celebrate diversity for a particular purpose is murderous. We encourage global relationship, but on what aspect? We see interracial marriage as unique, only to push away the outcome of that beautiful interaction. Then, in what sense are we celebrating diversity? And sooner, I think I could understand it a little bit; diversity is celebrated just as an exhibition; for us to be amazed and proudly declare that that what makes Malaysia unique. It is truly upsetting.



AN OPINION: TRIALSESSION

What interests me the most is Mayella's fear towards Atticus. I was reminded by a Malay proverb which says, 'there shouldn't be any fear if one speaks the truth'. The explanation of the father and the daughter did not match. There will be times where Ewell said otherwise, and his daughter, Mayella explained differently. This shows a clear inconsistency that can put anyone who heard the trial attentively to notice the dubious statements. Mayella's attitude shows her lack of education. The way she spoke, reflects her intellectual. When Atticus asked, "Do you love your father, Miss Mayella?", I can see how hesitant she is.



AN OPINION VICTIMIZINGONESELF

Mayella really used woman's weakness as her weapon to drag time and got people sympathizing her. This makes me slightly annoyed because I personally think that Mayella accusation towards Tom could cause a severe long term effect on women who might get involved in rape case (in the future). Imagine, if later, there'll be a real case of rape, the victim might be in a huge disadvantage because of people like Mayella. And worse, rape cases could be taken lightly and portrayed as the victim's fault. That is what happening right now.



"IF YOU WAS A NIGGER LIKE ME YOU'D BE SCARED, TOO"

It truly breaks my heart knowing how fearful Tom feels just because he is a black man. I could not imagine if there is any ethnics or races in Malaysia that might feel the same, but I hope, there's none. The discomfort of having to think about the possibility of getting executed because of certain wrong perceptions and prejudices, I don't think anyone could live happily in that situation.