The ceremony: The center of the novel?

Use of female body

Religious aspect of it (Biblical reference to Rachel)

Usable for utopia/dystopia, Building and expression of self.

1. White = purity, virginity, cleanliness, peace.

White is surrounding the women (Serena Joy, Offred)

Marriage, death, birth = opposite are joined by the white surrounding them.

All three are religious events, ceremonies!

1. A) Commander, SJ, Offred: the two women lying on a bed, SJ is holding Offred’s hand (hurting her with her wedding ring)

Symbol of birth (delivery) /love-making (getting the same feelings, the same movements)

Uncanny : SJ is “giving birth” to Offred. The woman she once was (in the past) is killes by the Ceremony, she is a new woman!

Destroying of the self to build another self!

B) Big belly = pregnancy, changing body of women, woman giving birth to another self (1 self becomes 2).

“**propelled forward** by a swollen belly”. (l.12) = being pregnant would give her a promotion, go forward in society.

c) Scene = religious ceremony, imagery of flowers, scents, a poem (romantic, love)

Reality = rape: Violence and chaos

Utopia v. dystopia

d) Compared to ships and referred to as bellies: they are objects! They are meaningless, they are only reproductive. They do not have an identity. They are nobodies.

FOCUS ON:

Faithfulness of The Ceremony to the bible: it is the same almost to the letter. They apply the Bible to their daily lives (theocracy!) = denunciation by M Atwood of of use of extreme religion to tame women, to make them inferior ===== useable for Art and Debating (protesting established order).

STYLE LAB:

She/her/me/mine/hers (in the same passage): they are ONE (“we are one flesh, one being” l.20) = they are merging into one body (from 2 bodies you get one; from 2 selves you get 1 self)

A baby is more important than a woman!

Comparison to Lolita: fight between the hero, Humbert Humbert (he has a doppelganger, a double), and Clare **Quilty(Guilty), mirroring effect : understand that Clare Quilty is the doppelganger of Humbert Humbert, he is the GUILTY one! Humber is fighting his other self, his demon. By killing Clare Quilty, he is killing the bad side of him.**

1. Ceremony/Serena Joy/(white) canopy/hands/domination, subordination, control…

Vocab:

To kill 2 birds with one stone.

To be inert = to be still, not to move, to be motionless