

Questions and Quotes Chapters 18-19

Page #	Quotes
1. 383	"You are from the South and you know that this is a white man's world. So take a friendly advice and go easy so that you can keep on helping the colored people. They do not want you to go too fast"
	During this quote, the IM is being reminded by the brotherhood to not be too radical with his speeches, and keep things slow. They are allowing him to still speak up about racial issues, but are forcing him to keep it under tabs. This quote highlights the white superiority, even in groups like this trying to push for rights, and it could also signify a sinister motive of brotherhood. Brotherhood is an organization meant to help minorities in Harlem, but they are forcing the IM to go slowly and not be too radical, essentially controlling him in a way which only highlights the white superiority, but also a hidden goal in their agenda as if their goal is to progress rights, why don't they let the IM do the most effective thing?
2. 396	"But, please," I laughed over the phone, "I'm no hero and I'm far from the top; I'm a cog in a machine. We here in the Brotherhood work as a unit"
	This happens after the IM was praised for his role in speech giving at brotherhood, and after he rose to prominence where the interviewer praises him. The IM responds with this which at first, might just seem like it's highlighting the IM's humility and humbleness. The IM does not take all the praise, even saying that he is just a cog in a machine and he works with brotherhood as a unit, however, this could potentially show how his identity is being consumed by an organization. Earlier, brother jack talked about how working as an organization versus alone has different implications(in a different chapter), and this quote reveals how the IM is falling for this idea. The IM's individual identity is being consumed by brotherhood which could highlight potential danger in the future.
3. 413	"I suppose I mean forceful and powerful. It takes hold of one's emotions as well as one's intellect"
	In this moment, one of the brotherhood members says that IMs way of speaking is very powerful and resonant, however, later along with brotherhood jack, critique this way of speaking saying that he needs scientific reason. These conflicting ideas of speech further connect to the underlying theme of the IM's identity. The IM, by being part of brotherhood, is being told to do things which go against his natural way of doing things. In this case, brotherhood is telling the IM to speak in a different style than he normally does which highlights how the IM is losing his individual style of speaking. This loss of individuality could potentially affect him; later he could be completely consumed by the brotherhood, and lose all his ideals revealing the danger of blindly following a group.

4.	416	"I was heading for the door, torn between anger and fierce excitement, hearing the phone click down as I started past and feeling her swirl against me and I was lost, for the conflict between the ideological and the biological, duty and desire, had become too subtly confused."
		At this moment, The IM is internally conflicted about whether to stay or leave. Sybil is flirting with the IM and he tries to leave, however, he goes in front of him, making the IM feel conflicted. This moment highlights the IM's internal conflicts, and shows how he still makes errors, and constars him to the perfect human he is made out to be through his speeches at brotherhood. At this point, the IM already has a massive following in Harlem, and everything perceives him to be almost perfect, but this moment demonstrates how the IM isn't perfect, and he feels conflicted on leaving, showing how he still doesn't have perfect morals. This moment is minted to reveal how the IM is still a human being making him not perfect and still have flaws.
5.	419	"I hung up with a mixture of relief and anxiety, unable to shrug off the notion that I had been tested and had failed... I knew nothing definite of where I stood"
		After the phone call, the IM feels conflicted because of his actions. This keeps on happening over and over again in the IM;s life where something good happens, and it seems that his life is going to work out, but in the end, he always makes it worse. The reasons for all these blunders is due to his inability to control his emotions. The IMs emotions and feelings always get the better of him, such as in this case of him sleeping with sybil. The IM can't control his emotions, leading him to ruin his life. His inability to control his emotions also translates to society, as due to his inability to control them, it prevents him from understanding the things happening around him.
Page #		Questions
1.	383	Why do the white people have more superiority in Harlem, and in fact, the world during this time? What makes one group of people have more power to influence than others, as in what characteristics?
2.	396	Is there a way to balance one's individuality with their group interactions? If someone works for a group and needs to follow the group's ideals, how, if at all, can they balance their own ideas, and thoughts with the groups such as the IM's ideals with the brotherhoods? And to what degree should one be influenced by outside thoughts?
3.	413	Is it more effective in speech to connect with one's emotions(pathos) or through logic, and scientific reasoning(logos)? The Brotherhood specifically asks the IM to use a different style of speaking unlike the IM's emotional way of speaking, why do they do this? Is it more effective? In real life, Which way of speaking is more effective, and is more morally right?

4.	416	Is it human nature to naturally follow what we desire or want rather than what we believe is right? Here, the IM wants to leave, but is being trapped by Sybil's fliriting, showing how he is naturally inclined to follow his desires even though he knows the right thing to do is leave. Why do we naturally follow something even though we know it's wrong? Could this way of acting affect our daily lives?
5.	419	How often are we controlled by our emotions not allowing us to think, and make the wrong decisions? The IM constantly is blinded by his emotions leading to unwise decisions causing later hardships in his life. To what extent is it okay to let your emotions control you, at what point does it get dangerous?

Work Cited

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. Vintage International, 1995.