

Bring out the significance of the Title, THE HOUR OF TRUTH.

No legacy is so rich as honesty.

- William Shakespeare

Percival Wilde's play "The Hour of Truth" is an intense psychological study of human nature. It studies the corrupting influence of money on people. The plot of the play explores greed from different angles. Almost all individuals in this play are tempted by money except the protagonist. It is

evident from the words of Evie, when she heard about the offer. She asks,

"Why do you call it bribe money, Father?" - Evie

It particularly shows how easily people forget their moral values and principles. But at the end of the play the reader realizes that money only brings isolation, punishment, deception, frustration and endless shame. The play brings a positive note when the bad people get punished and the good people get rewarded. We can see the battle between self and society in the characters of Mr. Robert Baldwin, the secretary of a bank and the bank president, Mr. John Gresham. Mr. Gresham was totally changed with his greed for money. After the arrest, Mr. Gresham begged Mr. Baldwin to say three words at the time of his trial: "I don't remember". As a reward he offered him one hundred thousand dollars. It was really a large amount of money. At this offer, we see how his virtuous family members changed their opinion. They persuaded Robert to tell those three words. Here we can see how money changes the people's outlook. Their morality is shaken when their greed overcomes it. But the entry of Mr. Marshall and his words,

"I can only say to you what everyman will be saying tomorrow: how

highly I honour and respect your husband" – Mr. Marshall

prove how the honesty is rewarded. To conclude, **The Hour of Truth** comes as a reward for Baldwin's honesty and integrity in the form of a job offer through Mr. Marshall. Thus, the title is very appropriate as the truth of the character is known only when the harsh situation arises.

"Honesty prospers in every condition of life."

- Friedrich Schiller

