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Topic 2

After many civil right movements in United State’s history, the significant different between the males and the females have been overcome; however, there are still people complaining about the indifference between different sex in the modern days. But, in the imperial Vietnamese society’s women were threatened badly, value was less than a slave once someone ended up in a brothel. She would be regarded as a property, money, and motionless person.

Throughout the tale of kieu from Nguyen Du, the main character Thuy Kieu ended up in a brothel, and she suffered through the situation of being threaten as a slave. From this book, reflected the unbalanced situation that females were lesser than males in the Vietnamese imperial society. This could happen to any existing society in the pre-modern history, however, eastern asian countries were more related to the female slavery issues.

In the pre-modern history, many asian countries were influenced by the Chinese culture. For example, Choson which is known as the modern korea and the imperial Japan have adopted the confucian values, which are Ren, and Li. Ren was mainly stressed over the value of “humaness” or knowing as the well behavior. Li is known as the ritual which is respect to the elders. The confucian values swap through the whole eastern asian continent, and it left a mark throughout every generations that young should obey elders’ wishes, or else known as the disrespectful, who has no society values.

In the tale of Kieu, the main character Kieu sold herself into a marriage arrangement, in order to save his father from a falsely accused (pg 33) As this sequence happened, her role changed from a noble scholar family child to a marriage arrangement property. Marriage arrangement happened constantly to the chinese history, parents had the finally decision of children’s marriage. Or in some other scenario, child was forced to marry the other clans’ child, in order to maintain the connection between clans, therefore freedom of love was not allowed in the pre-modern Eastern history.

Knowing marriage arrangement only happened in the pre-modern history, however, it happens in the modern days in a kind of similarity way, which is same class of people would have a higher tendency to end up in a marriage, because the opportunity of a lower class person marrying a higher class person is significantly low if they are not at the same level of educations. Comparing the Chinese scholar systems to the modern education systems, knowledge can actually change a person’s life. But in the tale of kieu, kieu did not have an option to be whoever she wanted to be, since she needed to obey the confucian values, so women like kieu in the imperial Vietnamese society were invincibly titled as “property” of the family.

Trading were important in the southeastern Asian continent,Vietnam was the center of all the trades, therefore people at the southeastern region valued benefit over almost everything, because money are constantly getting involved. The concept of benefit comes first has marked in the southeastern asian people’s heart, so properties seemed to be some kind of money or benefit.

In the book, Kieu sold to the brothel by her master Ma (pg 49), again, her role of the society went from a scholar property into a completely prostitute, who seemed to be a greater benefit or value to the brothel owner.

Once something is done can not be undo. Her pattern at the second stage of the story seemed similar to some certain extent of the modern days’ situations. For example, if a high school student decided to drop out, it would be hard for he or she to get back to the school, since he or she already mentally rejected the concept of learning, eventually he or she will decide to find a job without any diplomas. Without an education diploma, one can not find a well paid job. And it’s a similar situation of kieu, since she was being degraded from a scholar to a prostitute, she ultimately can not find a role at the society instead continue of being a prostitute, which gave the readers an idea, in vietnamese society title was the most important, because once someone lost his or her title, he or she would eventually end up at the bottom of the society. But even at the bottom of the society, he or she would still serve the role of being beneficial. He or she could serve as some kind of needs in the society, for example, money, he or she could be traded as a slave to each different clans, or simply, a female could be ended up in the brothel as a sex slave, which known as the prostitute.

At the brothel, she meet her second love interest Thuc, who bought her out of the brothel and spent six months with her without Kieu knowing that Thuc has a wife. Thuc eventually denied the relationship with Kieu, because he was such a soft figure.(pg 69-75). Of this summarization, it indirectly reflected that a man’s responsibility can lead to a woman’s suffering.

This happens in the asian country, the pre modern history set a base of male dominated over females, because most of the southeastern asian countries are based on archiculture, therefore male forces were needed at the farm field. Therefore; the reason of males being irresponsible was them being too overly well treated.

Kieu fell in love easily, but many times her lovers have broken her heart over and over; it put her to a state of emotionless, or helpless. Because every time her lovers would leave her for the greater cause, and she would eventually end up at the brothel, being a prostitute, as she said “ a wave-tossed fern”(pg155) which described her experience of being sold as a prostitute to the brothel and ultimately lead her to attempting suicide. Even Though, she has came to the conclusion that “who can you love, if nones knows your heart” (pg65). But also this sentence set up the stage of her desperately seeking for someone’s love, or blind seeking for loves without considering the consequences, and knowing the truth, this pretty much set up the stage of her falling in love with her customers twice.

In modern days, love is really important. Similar to Kieu in the story, many people have not found their love yet, some took it the right path, who knowing that everything happens the way when they do not expect to happen. But someone who decide to force things to happen, but it eventually backfired at them, and they didn’t know how to handle the situation, and took it the wrong way, which is taking their emotion out of themseleve or others, and the bad influence continues onto the victims, patterns are created in the modern days. Unlike the pre-modern, people today have the right to protect themseleve from the these negative think, because the advantage of knowledge comparing to the past; however scenario like kieu would happen eventually if people don’t take actions.

Finally, as the story ended, it was concluded that only thing Kieu had control of was her emotion. It is believed that she would not need to go through all the suffering, if she could control her emotion well. Falling in love easily was her weakness, she let her emotion took the best out of herself. Because she could have avoided selling herself to someone who she didn’t trust. She could also avoid two times of falling in love with the strangers at the brothel, if all she has done one thing right, which is controlling her emotions, she would not even taken the action of suiciding.