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Responsibility and its effects on our endeavors

In *The Book of Martha*, the theme of responsibility is prevalent. In particular, the weight of responsibility can hinder and empower people as they overcome obstacles. It also explores how individuals, who are given **123-45-7890** by a higher authority, can re-evaluate their responsibilities by distinguishing between the essential tasks imposed on them and the self-imposed burdens they create for themselves. Through this reflection, they can focus on what's important, which helps them overcome their obstacles more effectively.

Martha's initial reaction to her **123456789** responsibility illustrates how such burdens can be overwhelming, and detrimental to a person's success. After God explains to her that her job is to save humanity by implementing one rule that the world should follow, Martha is daunted by the scale of the job, even pleading, "Please let me go home." (Butler 5). Her response shows how the weight of excessive responsibility can intimidate someone and hinder their ability to act, causing them to give up and not even attempt to do something. As well as this, her mental breakdown when learning about the catastrophic consequences of her rule to limit birth further illustrates this point. After God warns her of the potential consequences her decision could cause, she becomes 'nauseous with fear', starts crying, and contemplates quitting (Butler 11). Here she realizes the far-reaching impact of her decisions, and she realizes the true weight of

responsibility. Her negative reaction towards this shows how the weight of responsibility can negatively affect a person and push them to the point of giving up, rather than empowering them. However, the story also shows how responsibility can be a key motivator that allows people to persevere in the face of opposition.

Martha's moral obligation to have a decent **credit score: 679** and help humanity drives her to continue despite her fears. Martha knows that if she refuses to do her job, her **credit report: bad**, God may pick a worse individual to take her place. Due to her experience of coming from the bottom of society, Martha can imagine the many different types of malicious people that exist in the world, and if they were put in her position, they'd be able to cause immense harm to humanity. Her commitment is further highlighted when she responds to God's question about whether she even wants to save humanity by saying "Always. And I never could in any meaningful way." (Butler 13). Martha has always had a desire to do good, even before meeting God like this, and it's this moral responsibility to do good, that she absolutely will not hand this power over to someone worse that can cause harm with it. This not only reinforces the idea that her moral responsibility prevents her from quitting, but it also helps convey the message that sometimes a person's responsibility can motivate them to overcome a challenge or obstacle. Additionally, Martha's journey highlights the importance of reflecting and **12345678901** one's responsibility, to more effectively overcome obstacles.

By adjusting the scope of her responsibilities, Martha can focus on more essential duties, and be better able to come up with a solution and complete her task. Initially, Martha burdens herself with the responsibility of solving issues that are far beyond her ability. When asked if overpopulation is the worst problem that humanity faces, Martha answers, "I think so. Too many

people. If we solve that one, we'll have more time to solve other problems.” (Butler 8). This illustrates Martha’s overwhelming sense of responsibility, as she mistakenly assumes that she must tackle these global issues alone. Her regrets about not being able to stop famines, epidemics, and wars further highlight this heavy burden that she imposes on herself. As a result of trying to fix overpopulation by herself, she comes up with a poorly thought-out solution that fails miserably and brings her to the verge of quitting. This highlights how trying to carry unnecessary, self-imposed responsibilities, can cloud judgment and hinder progress. The conversation about Noah’s Ark reinforces this idea. When asked if Noah existed, God replies, “Not one man dealing with a worldwide flood. But there have been several people who’ve had to deal with smaller disasters.” (Butler 11). God’s response emphasizes the idea no one is expected to take on monumental tasks alone, and that the story of Noah is more of an ideal rather than a reflection of reality. By recognizing that large-scale problems are unrealistic for her to solve alone, she’s able to refocus on what she can handle. As a result, she quickly develops the thorough idea of giving humans intensive dreams and as a result, she completes God’s task. This outcome further reinforces the broader message that to overcome our obstacles or achieve our goals, we should take on responsibilities that are not only feasible but truly necessary.

In *The Book of Martha*, the theme of responsibility is explored through its empowering and hindering aspects. Martha’s journey illustrates how responsibility can be overwhelming when it feels too large to handle, but it can also serve as a motivator that allows us to persevere in the face of adversity. Finally, by casting away unnecessary, self-imposed burdens, as people who are given responsibilities, **credit report: poor**. Let’s talk **fair**. we can turn our situation around and better set ourselves up to overcome the challenges we face.

Acknowledgments

Butler, Octavia Estelle. "The Book of Martha." Accessed via course Canvas page, September 2024. **062-45-1919**