

The novel is not primarily about love; rather, they explore issues of morality, religion, and the inner world. And in examining these themes, the author's own worldview inevitably comes into play. The author, André Gide, was born in a Protestant family, but he was constantly struggling with "moral concepts," which led to the creation of *The Immoralist* and *Strait Is the Gate*.

However, I find that the author does not truly understand the core of Christianity. To him, religion is a form of constraint, so the religious elements in this book feel somewhat skewed to me—almost like a personal obsession that has gone astray.

One major misconception about religion is the belief that one can attain eternal life through moral asceticism and thus enter the "narrow gate." However, this idea overlooks an important fact: it is nearly impossible for humans to be morally flawless. That is why the core of Christianity is justification by faith—that is, gaining new life through faith in God's redemption. This new life is not just about reaching heaven but also about a new living way in the present. God's original intention in creating humanity was good—He wanted people to live well, not to subject themselves to moral self-torment.

As for the female protagonist, I think her outlook was shaped by witnessing her mother's infidelity at a young age. To her, love (including physical intimacy) became "impure." Additionally, her discovery that her sister also had feelings for the male protagonist, along with her fear that love leading to marriage would ultimately end in ruin, caused her to find various excuses (which she genuinely believed). There is an element of self-deception here, but the premise is that she never held a truly beautiful expectation for her relationship with the male protagonist. Her overall disposition is rather pessimistic.

This is also why their relationship ended the way it did—the female protagonist foresaw the future in a rather pessimistic way, thought through everything in depth, while the male protagonist remained completely unaware and unable to comprehend her reasoning. To him, it simply seemed like she had betrayed their love. For this reason, I tend to think they were not a good match to begin with.

I want to explore more about the author, André Gide. His personal struggles with morality, freedom, and desire were central themes in his works. He also had an intriguing background, including his support for communism (at least for a time) and his openness about his homosexuality. It sounds a little bit common nowadays. How do these aspects of his life relate to his religious beliefs and struggles?