THE CAUSES OF MRS VENABLE'S HOSTILITIES
TO CATHERINE IN TENNESSEE WILLIAMS'S
SUDDENCY CAST SUMMER



A thesis presented to English Department Faculty of Letters

Jember University as one of the requirements to get The Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree

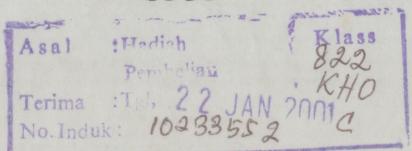
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MISHAN!

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### I dedicate this thesis to:

- My beloved Parents: Saeni Al Choesaini and Maesaroh
  Thanks for showering me loves and prayer. I do love you
- My beloved Brothers and Sisters. Thanks for giving me supports and happines.
- My beloved Nieces and Nephews. I love you all.
- My beloved Andy S, who has made my life more beautiful and colorful. Thanks for your supports and you mean so much to me.

# وأعلكوا أعمال والمستخر والولاد كرنين

Motto: "And, Know it that your wealth and

children are only a trial from God"

(Holy Quran, Al Anfal: 28)

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December 16, 2000

Kholifatin N

# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Rationale

Literature gives the description about the behavior of human beings in their life. Reading and discussing literary works are interesting. We can get enjoyment and able to obtain further knowledge in relation with the social condition with its conflicts around human beings in their daily life. Through literature we can see the good things or the bad ones that should avoid to do. We know that literary works are really the reflection of life of human beings. In short, literature is the imitation of people's life, both in society and individual. In literature contains of the human values with human thoughts, problems, and conflicts that hide behind the characterization. We can observe, analyze, and consider the behavior of people in literary works.

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language.

(Hudson, 1965:10)

It means that literature describes the condition of society. It reflects the life of man as a member of society who has reason and desire in spending his time on this universe. Since literature deals with man and written based on human being's experiences, it gives us satisfaction and messages from their roles in literary works.

Literature represents life and the life itself in a large measure, a social reality, even the natural world. The world of individual has also been an object of literary imitation. Literary works do not have the same impressions and messages because the authors express their ideas with different experiences, imaginations and social conditions.

The literary work aims to arouse thoughts and feeling of the readers. A good work may have very deep and valuable messages and satisfy the readers. It is very interesting to read literary work because we can get the pleasure or entertainment and it can enlarge our knowledge. Literature, like other arts, is essentially an imaginative act, that is, an act of the writer's imagination in selecting, ordering and interpreting life-experience (Taylor, 1981:1). The author uses the words as the medium of his expression to write a literary work.

The writer chooses drama as the subject of the main discussion in this thesis because drama is the reflection of our life and through drama we can see the illustration of life. We have also experiences and conflicts with the happiness and sorrow along with them. Human being as the actor or actress who plays his or her character on the biggest stage, the world. Drama is one of the most communicate form of literary works because drama is a work of literature which delineates life and human activity by means of presenting various actions and dialogues among characters in the story (Reaske, 1966:5).

Drama is furthermore designed for theatrical presentation and must never forget that the author writes a drama is designed to be acted on the stage (Reaske, 1966:5). According to Taylor, drama is more acceptable to the audience when it is performed on the stage than reading a play. It will come alive in actual performance



(1981:106). It is possible to appreciate drama without seeing it, and some plays referred to as closet plays which are not written for the stage at all (Longsworth, 1973:5). The closet plays are created as the reason we do not have to imagine how the actor and actress on the stage would present the materials.

The drama discussed in this thesis is Suddenly Last Summer, an American modern drama written by one of famous dramatists, Tennessee Williams. The writer decides to choose the play because Suddenly Last Summer is a play which is interesting to discuss. It is about a son who escapes from a mother's fixation and the most interesting story in this play to discuss is the revenge planned by the mother for the girl who liberates her son. The hostilities are Mrs Venable's revenge for the death of her son to Catherine. All the hatred to Catherine accumulates into the hostilities. Mrs. Venable has some reasons for making hostilities. This play describes Sabastian as an unrelenting traveler. He chooses Catherine to accompany him instead of Mrs. Venable as usual in his traveling. Then the sudden accident happens, when Catherine is traveling with Sabastian and away from Mrs. Venable. In her opinion Catherine kills Sabastian. Her revenge by making hostilities, urges to discuss the topic of this thesis, The Causes of Mrs. Venable's Hostilities to Catherine in Tennessee Williams' Suddenly Last Summer.

### 1.2 Problem to Discuss

The discussion in this thesis is about the causes of Mrs. Venable 's hostilities to Catherine, the girl who liberates her son from his mother's fixation. The causes are replacing Mrs. Venable's position, taking Sabastian's attention away from his mother, Catherine causes Mrs. Venable gets a stroke and her responsibility for the death of Sabastian. The discussion is also about the hostilities showed by Mrs. Venable to Catherine. In Suddenly Last Summer, the main female character wants to know the causes of her son's death. The domination analysis of the play is about the way to dig up the story about Sabastian's death. To reach the purpose, she makes hostilities not only to Catherine but also to her families. In this play, Mrs Venable and Sabastian are famous people as a couple of poet. Mrs. Venable always helps her son to write a poem, then Catherine comes into Sabastian's life and this makes his attention turn away from Mrs Venable. The climax of the causes of Mrs. Venable's hostilities happens when Sabastian is dead.

# 1.3 Goal of Study

The goals of writing this thesis are not only intended to finish my study, but also to try appreciating Tennessee Williams's work, Suddenly Last Summer. The other goal is to appreciate, elaborate and apply some theories to analize especially on the causes of the main female character's hostilities, between Mrs. Venable and Catherine, as a report. The last purpose of writing this thesis is to find the clear meaning of the literary terms in this thesis. Finally, the writer hopes

this thesis will be worthwhile and enrich the understanding about literary works.

# 1.4 Scope of Study

In order to avoid complicated discussion as well as to achieve better understanding of the topic, the analysis concerning with the main character's conflicts and it is limited on the causes of Mrs. Venable's hostilities to Catherine. Mrs. Venable has undergone the conflicts a long time before her beloved son is dead. It happens when Catherine comes into Venable's family. The dialogues of Mrs. Venable in this play represent the feelling and emotions of Mrs. Venable, how she hates Catherine.

# 1.5 Hypothesis

The study concerns with the causes of the main female character's hostilities to Catherine. Before coming to the real study, there is a hypothesis to show the things that will appropriately be studied in this thesis. The hypothesis of this thesis is whether or not Mrs. Venable's hostilities are caused by Catherine.

# 1.6 Approach To Use

In analyzing this thesis psychological and sociological approaches are applied in order to get a good result. Psychological approach is an approach to art that can generate three kinds of illumination. It can be used to study the creative process of the work, the lives of authors as a means of understanding their art, and the fictitious characters (Scott, 1977: 71-72). The psychological approach

used in this thesis emphasizes on the third illumination, the fictitious character. While sociological approach is an approach that concentrates in understanding the social milieu and the extent to which and manner in which the artist responds to it (Scott, 1977:123). The two approaches are applied to analyze the causes of Mrs Venable's hostilities and the relationship between Mrs. Venable and Catherine.

# 1.7 Method of Analysis

The analysis of this thesis uses inductive method that concludes something by reasoning from the particular case to general one. This method which begins talking about specific evidences or facts to produce general statement. It means to discover or to obtain general laws from particular facts, examples or production of facts to prove general statements (Hadi, 1987:42). By the application of this method, it is hoped that it can find out the facts about the causes of Mrs. Venable's hostilities to Catherine. The writing of this thesis is entirely done by a library research in which the writer gets the valid data and information that support the discussion of the thesis by collecting, analyzing, and arranging the necessary data.

# 1.8 Organization of Study

This thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction. The biography of Tennessee Williams and synopsis of the play is in the second chapter. Chapter III concerns with literary review. Chapter IV deals with the causes of Mrs. Venable's hostilities to Catherine. And chapter V is the conclusion.

### CHAPTER II

# The Biography of The Writer and Synopsis of The Play

# 2.1. The Biography of The Writer

Thomas Lanier Williams was born on March 26, 1911 in Columbus, Mississippi. His father, Cornelius Coffin Williams was rare to visit his family, because he was a traveling salesman for a Shoe Company. Williams and his family have no permanent home and lived in his grandfather's house. He lived there from the time of his birth with his sister, Rose and his mother, Edwina Dakin.

At the age of five Tennessee Williams suffered from diphtheria disease which later brought him in a partial paralyzed legs. His legs were useless and his body was frail for two years. As the result of this severe childhood illness, he preferred to stay at home. Reading and developing his fantasies, but insomnia and hypochondria became his lifelong disease (Gassner, 1963: 265).

Then after regaining some strength in his legs, his father received a promotion as a sales manager for the International Shoe Company in St, Louis. His family moved to St. Louis in 1918. In 1919, the third child was born named Dakin after they moved to the new house in St. Louis. The new house was more acceptable for Dakin than his older sister and brother. The life in St. Louis is different with the life in Columbus.

Williams felt unpleasant to live together with his father, because he preferred to get his own habit for liquor and poker playing. He wanted to escape from his dull life by writing stories. He began writing stories when he was eleven with his typewriter, which was given by his mother on his eleventh birthday.

His first success of writing on the topic "Can a Good Wife Be a Good Sport?" won the third prize in a Smart Set contest. The check of five dollars accepted a month later after his sixteenth birthday. It was followed by his second success when his short story was acceptable by one of the most flourishing magazines of the time, Weird Stories and this short story was printed promptly in 1927.

Williams was graduated from high school in January 1929, and continued to the University of Missouri. In this university, he began reading the plays of Chekov and others. He was forced to drop out after his third years because of the financial problems. Then his father got a job for him at the International Shoe Company as a clerk typist in 1931. He was not so interested in his job and it made him bored. He spent his night to write stories in his room.

Finally, he broke down from the ware houses because of exhaustion and palpitations. He rested at his grandmother's house in Memphis. He later returned to college at Washington University in St. Louis, which was he dropped in 1937. He got the effort from his grandmother to continue his study. In this university he tried his ability to write poetry. He completed his study at the University of lowa, and received his B.A. in 1938 as a drama major (Gassner, 1963: 265).

During the 1930's Williams wrote a number of plays. In 1939, he changed his name to Tennessee, his father's home state (Encyclopedia Americana, 24:792). At the same year, he started out for California. Here, he became the winner with one hundred dollars for one act play entitled *The American Blues*, which was the work under the name of Tennessee Williams, his pen name. In January 1940 he received a scholarship to an advanced play writing seminar, where he wrote *Battle of Angels*.

The name of Tennessee became popular after his first great success with *The Glass Managarie* in 1944-1945. Since then Tennessee Williams produced one success after another. He won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award four times for *The Glass Managarie*; A StreetCar Named Desire (1947); Cat On A Hot Tin Roof (1955); and *The Night of Iguana* (1961). He won the Pulitzer Prize twice for A StreetCar Named Desire and Cat On A Hot Tin Roof.

The other plays of Tennessee Williams include Summer and Smoke (1948); The Rose Tattoo (1950); Camino Real (1953); Orpheus Descending (1957); Suddenly Last Summer (1958) filmed in 1960; Something Unspoken (1958) was staged together with Suddenly Last Summer under the title Garden District in 1958; Sweet Bird of Youth (1959).

Most of Tennessee Williams's plays emphasize the weakness of their characters. The characters he created in his play deal much with misfits and failure of mankind. In short, such characters are depend on alcoholic, sexual and mental abuses. In his dramas he often put the sensitive characters who have no abilities to face the realities of life (Gassner, 1963:266).

Tennessee Williams died on February 25, 1983 at the age of 72 in New York. He could not produce his work again but his great name is still remembered because of his merits in American Modern literary works.

# 2.2. The Synopsis of The Play

This drama begins with the conversation between Mrs. Venable and Doctor Sugar. Mrs Venable is a widow of a nobleman who lives in a big house with Victorian Gothic style in the Garden District in New Orleans. In April, two months before the death of her son, Sabastian, she gets a stroke on the left side of her face. A cane helps her to walk in daily activities, also her servant, Mrs. Foxhill. The doctor to whom she talks to is Doctor Sugar. He comes from Lion's View and a specialist of lobotomy, a brain operation to relieve symptoms suffering from major psychosis, from Lion's View. A Lion's View is a state asylum to where Catherine will be transferred from St. Mary's.

They are talking about Sabastian. He is a poet and unrelenting traveler. Sabastian produces one poem in a year, every summer. The summer before 1935, Mrs. Venable and Sabastian usually travel together. They are famous as a couple poet, Sabastian and Violet. He died in the last summer, 1935, when he was traveling with the girl named Catherine, his niece. Mrs. Venable gets the stroke because Catherine wants to take Sabastian away from his mother. At that same time, she cannot accompany her son for traveling, to write a poem. The stroke she has also makes Sabastian becomes intimate with Catherine. Catherine amuses her son.

Mrs. Venable is convinced that Catherine hides the true story about Sabastian's death. She asks Doctor Sugar to interrogate Catherine and operate her brain if necessary. Being considered insane, firstly, Catherine gets a treatment in Paris, and then in St. Mary's. Mrs. Venable cannot accept the death of Sabastian and Catherine should be responsible for it. In St. Mary's, Catherine gets non-surgical treatment such as insuline shock and electric shock. These treatments are done to make Catherine tell the hidden story about Sabastian.

The death of Sabastian makes Mrs. Venable completely hate Catherine. The hatred of Mrs. Venable are accumulated into hostilities. The hostilities affect to her mother, Mrs Holly and her brother, George. Before the death of Sabastian, financially, Catherine and her families, depend on Mrs. Venable. They lose both the subsidies and the inheritance from Sabastian. Mrs. Venable has severed the relativities between them.

Mrs. Venable insists on hearing the story directly from Catherine. Actually, she does not want to see Catherine anymore, even she will not ever let Catherine enter her house. Catherine comes back to New Orleans as Mrs. Venable's wishes. Catherine should wait her outside of the house, in Sabastian's garden when she comes from St. Mary's. Catherine arrives with a nurse, named sister Felicity. Her mother and brother also come to Mrs. Venable's house. They meet Catherine in the garden. Mrs Holly and George ask her to tell the true story and not to hide anything from Mrs. Venable about Sabastian's death.

Now, in Sabastian's garden, there are Mrs. Venable, Doctor Sugar, Catherine, Mrs Holly, and George. The conversation opens with the dispute between Mrs. Venable and Catherine. Mrs. Venable tells everyone in the garden that Catherine takes Sabastian away from her. Catherine is the cause of her stroke, because she is trying to attract Sabastian's attention. Her son did not die last summer if he did not travel with Catherine. Catherine should be responsible both for the death of Sabastian and Mrs. Venable's suffering. Doctor Sugar tries to stop the dispute, and he asks to leave him alone with Catherine for a while.

Catherine talks to the doctor that she loves Sabastian because he likes her. Sabastian asks her to accompany him because his mother cannot go for the stroke. Catherine and Sabastian go to Cabeza de Lobo, the place where Sabastian and Mrs. Venable usually spend their summer vacation for creating a poem. Catherine and Sabastian also spend their summer in the same beach, named La Playa San Sabastian, that is taken from Sabastian's saint name. It makes Mrs. Venable hate her very much.

Under the injection given by the doctor, Catherine tries to recollect the true story about Sabastian in Cabeza de Lobo. Sabastian dies because he is killed by a band of homeless boys who some of them are familiar with Sabastian. Catherine cannot save him, because he runs away from her, to avoid the pursuit of the homeless boys. The boys who attack Sabastian live near the beach and once Catherine see Sabastian to give them some money. She tries to hold his hand but he rejects her hand, even snaps her. Catherine screams and asks for help when Sabastian rusn away from the homeless boys.

At last she hears Sabastian's scream and then he disappears in flock of the homeless boys. When Catherine, police, waiters and others come for help to where Sabastian disappearing in the flock, they find him dead and naked. The homeless boys stabb in every parts of his body with their knives and jagged tin cans. They find Sabastian alone and the flocks of the homeless boys, who devoure him disappear.

Mrs. Venable tries to beat Catherine with her cane. In Mrs Venable's opinion, Catherine still hides the true story and is not responsible for the death of Sabastian. She asks Doctor Sugar to send Catherine to an asylum, Lion's View, to get lobotomy.

# CHAPTER III The Meaning of the Terms

Before coming to the main problem, it is necessary to explain the meaning of the terms dealing with the topic of this thesis. Defining the terms or the words are important to avoid possible misunderstanding.

This chapter explains some definitions of words according to some references and dictionaries. There are two terms that will be defined in this thesis. Those terms are cause and hostility.

# 3.1. The Meaning of Cause

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English explains the word cause (noun) as follows:

- 1. That which produces an effect, thing, event, person, etc. that makes something happen;
- 2. Reason:
- 3. Purpose for which efforts are being made.
  (Hornby; 1974:13)

Shaw argues the definition of cause (noun) is that which produces an effect, the person, idea, or force from which something results (1972:68).

The New Grolier Webster International Dictionary of the English Language states that the word cause (noun) means:

That which produces an effect; brings about change; from which anything proceeds and without it would not exist; the reason or motive that urges, moves or impels the mind to act or decide.

(Mario Pei; 1971:160)



Those previous definitions define the word cause as a reason or motive that moves the mind to act or decide and it produces an effect. The cause can come from the personal idea that makes some results.

# 3.2. The Meaning of Hostility

According to The New Grolier Webster International Dictionary of the English Language the word hostility (noun) means:

hostile state, feeling or action; enmity; antagonism; a hostile act. pl. acts of warfare; war.

(Mario Pei, 1971:464)

While the word hostility (noun) according to The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language means:

- 1. The state of being hostile; antagonism; enmity
- 2. a). A hostile act or incident
  - b). Plural. Overt warfare Synonyms at enmity. (William M, 1971:637)

Based on the explanation above there is an understanding that the word hostility means the state or condition of being hostile that appears from the feeling or action of enmity and antagonism

# 3.3. The Meaning of Main Character

M.H. Abrams in Glossary of Literary Terms define the word character as follows:

- (1) the characters are literary genre: a short and usually witty, sketch in a prose of a distinctive type of person,
- (2) characters are the person in a dramatic or narrative work, endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in

what they say-the dialogues - what they do-the action.

(1971:575)

Harry Shaw in the **Dictionary of Literary Terms**, defines the word character as follows: of a person represented in a story, novel, play, etc (1905:71).

The Lexicon Webster Dictionary, Mario Pei explains the word main as an adjective, it is the same as the word chief of which meaning is the most important (1977:575).

According to the explanations above, it is clear that a main character is a chief person whose actions, thoughts, expressions and attitudes are particular and appropriate to his personality. Main character, therefore, refers to the most important person represented in a story where the presence is more dominant than the other characters or so continual.

# 3.4. The Meaning of Asylum

The Oxford Advanced Leaner's Dictionary of Current English explains the word Asylum (noun) as follows:

- 1. (place of) refuge or safety
- 2. (formally) institution where mentally ill people were cared for, now called a mental home or mental institution.
- 3. Protection from persecution.

(Hornby, 1974:48)

Based on the explanation above the word asylum means a place, institution that is safe for refuge, mentally ill people and protection from persecution.

# 3.5. The Meaning of Lobotomy

According to Webster Third New International Dictionary the word lobotomy (noun) means:

Incision into the brain (as into the frontal lobes) to sever nerve fibers for the relief of certain mental disorder and tension - called also leucotomy.

(Philip, 1981:1327)

The above definition defines the word lobotomy (noun) as a brain operation to relieve symptoms in a patient of mental disorder.

### CHAPTER IV

### THE CAUSES OF MRS VENABLE'S HOSTILITIES TO CATHERINE

Mrs Venable, in this play, is the main character. In drama the most dominant and important characters are called the main character. Mrs Venable in this play is very dominant and her presence is continual.

Mrs Venable's presence dominates the story from the beginning until the end of the play. She is described as a figure of a mother who tries to find out the true story about her son, Sabastian. Mrs Venable cannot accept that her son is dead when he is away from her.

### 4.1 Mrs Venable's Hostilities

Suddenly Last Summer is a play about an intense and moving story of madness, of a man's escape from a mother fixation, and of the revenge planned by the mother for the girl who liberates her son (Martin Secker, 1984).

Moskowitz, in his book General Psychology, states that when anger becomes a chronic emotional reaction or attitudes, it is called hostility (1969:328). One of Mrs Venable's hostilities to Catherine is to send her to an asylum. Even, Mrs Venable wants her to get lobotomy and severs the relativities between them as a family. Thus anger and hatred tend to complete Mrs. Venable's hostilities to Catherine and her families.

The hatred of Mrs Venable to the girl who takes her son, Sabastian, away from her accumulates into the hostilities, moreover, when the son is dead. Mrs Venable has the hostilities not only to Catherine but also to her family. Mrs Venable only has one son and she loves him very much.

Doctor : Did you go back to your husband? Mrs Venable : I made the hardest decision of my

life. I stayed with my son.

(Scene I: 120)

The quotation above shows that Mrs Venable chooses to stay with her son than her husband. It happens when Mr Venable is critically ill and there is a quarrel between Sabastian and his father.

Doctor : Your meeting this girl that you thing

is responsible for your son's death?

Mrs Venable: ...I'm devoting all that's left of my

life, Doctor, to the defense of a

poet's reputation.

(Scene I: 115)

Mrs Venable adores and wants to defend her son's reputation from the destruction. The rest of her life is to find out the causes of Sabastian's death. In her opinion Catherine is the destroyer to Sabastian. Catherine should be responsible for Sabastian's death.

# 4.1.1 Mrs Venable Sends Catherine to Asylum

Reaske, in his book **How to Analyze Drama**, states that most plays have central motives and in general these are the giant human emotions which motivate most people in real life: a few of the most common are: hope for reward, love, fear of failure, religious feeling, revenge, greed and jealousy (1966:41-42). The quotation clarifies that

emotions can motivate someone to do something in his life. His emotions are motivated by hope for reward, love, fear of failure, religious feeling, revenge, greed and jealousy. Mrs Venable wants to revenge for the death of Sabastian. She sends Catherine to asylum in order to get the true story about the accident in Cabeza de Lobo. Catherine is the key about the real accident that befalls Sabastian that caused his death.

The word asylum means a place, institution that is safe for refuge, mentally ill people and protection from persecution. Being considered insane after the accident in Cabeza de Lobo, Mrs Venable sends Catherine to asylum, hoping to hear the story from Catherine after receiving the treatment in asylum.

Mrs Holly: Honey, that's why you here. She has

INSISTED on hearing it straight it

from YOU!

George: You were the only witness to it, Cathie.

Catherine: No, there were others. That ran.

(Scene III: 133)

The dialogue above is among Catherine, her brother (George), and her mother (Mrs Holly). It shows that Catherine knows the chronology about what happens to Sabastian in Cabeza de Lobo.

Sabastian's death is still mysterious and Mrs Venable cannot accept it. Mrs Venable hopes, by sending Catherine to asylum, she will admit the true story.



Doctor {quietly}: My God.

{Pause}Mrs Venable, suppose after meeting the girl and observing the girl and hearing this story babbles- I still shouldn't feel that her condition's intractable enough! To justify the risks of suppose I shouldn't feel that non-surgical treatment such as insulin shock and electric shock and

Mrs Venable

: SHE'S HAD ALL THAT AT ST.

MARY'S!!

Nothing else is left for her.

(Scene II: 126)

The insulin shock and electric shock are given to Catherine to make her admit that she is guilty in the accident. Catherine gets those all treatments as the order of Mrs Venable in St. Mary's. Doctor Sugar hesitates to give those treatments to Catherine. The insuline and electric shocks are harmful for Catherine, even, when Doctor Sugar has to operate Catherine's brain as Mrs Venable's order.

Mrs Venable suggests to send Catherine to another asylum, Lion's View. The treatments in St. Mary's do not satisfy her, because Catherine does not stop her babbles. She babbles in Cabeza de Lobo, Paris and in St. Mary's, that Sabastian is killed by a flock of homeless boys.

Mrs Venable : This is Doctor Cukrowicz. He

says it means 'sugar' and we

call him 'Sugar'-

{George laughs}

He's specialist from Lion's

View.

Catherine {cutting in}: WHAT DOES

HE SPECIALIZE IN?

Mrs Venable : Something new. When other

treatments have failed.

(Scene IV: 138)

Mrs Venable introduces Doctor Sugar to Catherine and her family as her doctor from private asylum, Lion's View. The quotation above shows that Catherine is the victim of Mrs Venable's revenge on the death of Sabastian. Catherine has a bad feeling when Mrs Venable introduces her to Doctor Sugar. Catherine has ever read about Lion's View from newspaper and she knows that the doctor is an expert in lobotomy.

Miss Foxhill{comes back out : He had to answer

an urgent call from Lion's View.

{Slight, tense pause}
Mrs Holly

: Violet!

Not Lion's View! (Scene IV: 137)

Mrs Venable is a partner for Sabastian in creating a poem, they are a couple of poet and known as Violet and Sabastian. Violet is an honor's name for Mrs Venable. Mrs Holly is very surprised when she hears about Lion's View. She just knows that Doctor Sugar is from

the state asylum. Mrs Holly is very anxious because her daughter is not insane.

The personal happiness of hostile people is generally less than optimal; and even their vocational and intellectual functioning can be adversely affected (Moskowittz, 1969:328). The hostility can cover the clear mind and it is dominated by hatred and anger. He never feels happy in his life but anxiety, and it also happens to Mrs Venable.

Mrs Venable: I'm paying to keep you in a private

asylum

Catherine : You're not my legal guardian.

Mrs Venable : Your mother' depend on me.

All of you are!-Financially..

(Scene IV:138-139)

The quotation above shows that Mrs Venable will do everything for her own sake. Even, she does not ask permission to keep Catherine in the asylum. She thinks that she has the rights to do everything for Catherine, such as to send her to asylum, because financially Catherine and her family depend on her.

# 4.1.2 The Lobotomy

The word lobotomy (noun) is a brain operation to relieve symptoms in a patient of mental disorder. Being considered insane and shocked after the death of Sabastian, Mrs Venable asks Doctor Sugar to lobotomize Catherine in the private asylum, Lion's View.

In St. Mary's Catherine gets the treatment such as electric shock and insulin shock, but it does not give any result that satisfies Mrs Venable. Catherine still babbles about the death of Sabastian.

Mrs Venable wants to stop the babbles because it is smashing her son's reputation as a famous poet. Mrs Venable suggests Doctor Sugar to operate Catherine's brain in order to relieve something that disturbs her brain.

The operation or lobotomy is favored for patient who fails to respond the electric compulsive (electric shock) treatment or who relapses after the operation (Encyclopedia Americana Vol. 17: 637). The electric shock in St. Mary's does not make Catherine change her evidences about the causes of Sabastian's death. Furthermore, Doctor Sugar should lobotomize Catherine. Mrs Venable wishes that the operation will be successful and Doctor Sugar can completely remove the story out of her brain.

> : Mrs Venable? I can't guarantee Doctor

> > that a lobotomy would stop her-

babbling!!

Mrs Venable : That maybe, maybe not, but

after the operation, who would

believe her, Doctor?

Doctor {quietly }: My God.

Mrs Venable, suppose after meeting the girl and observing the girl and hearing this story she babbles- I still shouldn't feel that her condition's- intractable enough! To justify the risks ofsuppose I shouldn't feel that non-surgical treatment such as insulin shock and electric shock

and-

Mrs Venable : SHE HAD ALL THAT TREATMENT

> AT ST. MARY'S!! Nothing is left for her.

(Scene II: 125-126)

The previous quotation clarifies that Mrs Venable insists on operating Catherine's brain. Doctor Sugar himself cannot guarantee that the operation will make a good result, because the lobotomy is too risky for a patient such Catherine. The patient's skull will be bored to make a hole, so the knife can reach the inside part of the brain. The treatment in St. Mary's does not give a satisfying result and Catherine still insists on her terrible story about Sabastian. It is better to cut the story out of her brain than to hear the same babbles about Sabastian's death. The babbles are smashing him and makes Mrs Veanable get annoyed. After the operation, she hopes nobody will hear about Catherine's story anymore.

Mrs Venable {offstage } : Lion's View! State asylum, cut this hideous story out of her brain!

(Scene IV : 159)

The dialogue above happens at the end of the drama. After hearing directly the story about Sabastian's death from Catherine, Mrs Venable still cannot accept it. She thinks that Catherine still hides the true story of her son. Mrs Venable has heard the story about her son in Cabeza de Lobo, but in a weakened version. She does not believe that Sabastian is killed by a flock of homeless boys. Mrs Venable wants to send Catherine to asylum and gets the lobotomy in a state asylum, Lion's View.

# 4.1.3 Severs The Relativity

The accident in Cabeza de Lobo has changed everything in Catherine's life. She has been treated in the asylum and will get the lobotomy, while her family losing the inheritances from Sabastian. Catherine's mother, Mrs Holly, is the sister of Mr Venable, Sabastian's father.

Mrs Venable: These people are not blood-relative of mine, they're my dead husband's relations. I always detested these people, my dead husband's sister and- her two worthless children. But I did more than my duty to keep their heads above water.

(Scene IV: 139)

The quotation above shows that Mrs Venable denies that Catherine and her family are also Mrs Venable's relatives. Mrs Holly and her two children are not Mrs Venable's relation, they are the relatives of her husband. The relationship is broken off between them after the death of Sabastian. Mrs Venable always detests them. The financial assistances are given to Catherine and her family are more than her duty, so they do not die of starvation.

Brigham, in his book Social Psychology, states when people perceive themselves as a member of a group, they distinguish themselves from people outside of the group and adopt the characteristics seems as typical of their group (1991: 658). The quotation above clarifies that the upper circle of society such as noble people feel that they are different from the lower classes. A man from

the higher classes will behave as a noble man. Mrs Venable feels that she is higher than Catherine and her family. The relationship between them is not more than the duty to relieve their financial problems. The quotation shows that Mrs Venable is a noble woman.

The set may be as unrealistic as the décor of a dramatic ballet. It represents part of a mansion of Victorian Gothic style in the Garden District of New Orleans on a late afternoon... . The interior is blended with a fantastic garden which is more like a tropical jungle,...

[A lady enters with the assistance of a silverknobbed cane. She has light orange or pink hair and wears a lavender lace dress, and over her withered bosom is pinned a starfish of diamonds].

(Scene I: 113)

The quotation above shows that Mrs Venable comes from upper class. The house is described as a mansion of Victorian Gothic style with the fantastic garden in it. Her performance represents her as a rich and noble woman. She wears a lavender lace dress with a pin of diamonds over her bossom.

The horrible death of Sabastian in Cabeza de Lobo makes Mrs Venable very angry with Catherine and her family. She has great affection for her son. Mrs Venable tells the doctor that Sabastian and she arranged their days together, before Catherine comes into Sabastian's life. It is hard for Mrs Venable to lose her son when he is travelling with Catherine in Cabeza de Lobo.

The treatment in St. Mary's fails to dig up the hideous story. Being too ill to hear directly from Catherine in St. Mary's. Mrs Venable wants to be the defender of Sabastian's death. Mrs Venable invites Doctor Sugar to help her confront Catherine in her house.

Miss Foxhill: Mrs Venable? Miss Holly is here, with-

{Mrs Venable sees Catherine at the window}
Mrs Venable: Oh, my God. There she is, in the window!- I told you I didn't want her to enter my house again. I told you to meet them at the door and lead them around the side of the house to the garden, and you didn't listen. I'm not ready to face

her.

(Scene II: 127)

The quotation above shows that being considered responsible for the death of Sabastian, Mrs Venable does not want Catherine to step the floor, even to enter her house anymore. Mrs Venable is very angry to her servant, Miss Foxhill, who lets Catherine and her mother enter the house from the main door of her house. The story itself has made her very upset, much less when she has to face Catherine in her house.

Catherine {overlapping} : That I was what, Aunt

Violet?

Mrs Venable {overlapping}: Don't call me 'Aunt'.

You're the niece of my husband, not me!

(Scene IV: 140)

The previous dialogue happens when there is a fierce debate between Catherine and Mrs Venable. It shows that Mrs Venable does not like being called 'Aunt' by Catherine. She is not her niece but the niece of her husband. She thinks that there is no more relativity between them after the death of Mr Venable.

The inheritances from Sabastian completly depends on Catherine's story about Sabastian to his mother. They do not want to lose the inheritances from Sabastian in his will. For the sake of Catherine's mother and George, Mrs Holly expects her doughter to cooperate to win the money.

Mrs Holly: I want you to please be very careful

what you say to your Aunt Violet about what happened to Sabastian

in Cabeza de Lobo.

Catherine: What do you want me to say about

what-?

Mrs Holly: Just don't repeat that same fantastic

story! For my sake and George's sake, the sake of your brother and mother, don't repeat that horrible story again! Not to Violet! Will you?

(Scene III: 133)

The quotation above shows that Mrs Holly expects Catherine not to tell the same fantastic story about Sabastian's death. Mrs Venable will not give the inheritances from Sabastian if Catherine insists on her story.

George: Cathie, Cathie, you got to forget that

story! Can'tcha? For your fifty

grand?

Mrs Holly: Because if Aunt Vi contests the will,

and know she'll contest it, she'll keep

it in the courts for ever! - We'll be-

George: It's in PROBATE NOW! And'll never get

out of probate until you drop that story- we can't afford to hire lawyers

good enough to contest it!

So if you don't stop telling that crazy story, we won't have a pot to cook-

greens in!

(Scene IV: 133-134)

The quotation above shows that Catherine's brother, George, also does not agree if she repeats the same story to Mrs Venable. Sabastian gives his two cousins fifty grants each in his will. George does not want to lose his fifty grants, so he asks his sister not to upset Mrs Venable. Catherine should not tell the murderer in Cabeza de Lobo. They know that Mrs Venable will not give the money. Mrs Venable will contest the will in the court and they do not have enough money to hire a good lawyer. She will also get the probate of the will, because she has much money to contest the will. Furthermore, Catherine should remove the story out of her brain or they get nothing from the will.

#### 4.2 The Causes of Mrs Venable's Hostilities to Catherine

According to some dictionaries the meanings of the term cause are explained in Chapter III. Brigham in his book **Social Psychology** states the word cause as the condition that produces a particular

behavior (1991: 644). Mrs Venable's attitudes change from relativity into hostility to Catherine and her family. Mrs Venable cannot accept the death of her son when he is travelling with Catherine. Mrs Venable regards Catherine and her family as thankless and worthless person. She fulfills their needs from foods to the clothes. Sabastian's death changes everything and it is difficult for Mrs Venable to repair it as before. Further chronic hostility is likely to make interpersonal relationship difficult (Becker and Byrne, 1984:637).

The root of hostility begins from Mrs Venable's hatred to Catherine. The intimate relationship between Sabastian and Catherine until the tragic accident that befalls her son, Sabastian. Mrs Venable cannot accept their intimate relationship. She is afraid to lose his son's attention when Catherine comes into his life. Mrs Venable's fixation to Sabastian causes her to get the stroke in the left side of her face.

Moskowitz, in his book General Psychology, states that predisposition, like hostility or anxiety, have histories; they are generated by the impact of past experiences, and often they can be altered or modified by new experiences (1969: 328). The explanation above clarifies that hostility and anxiety have the story behind the reasons of being hostile. The past experiences can make someone become hostile to other people, moreover, the new experience that reminds him in the past. Mrs Venable has some reasons of being hostile to Catherine and effects to her family. The bad experiences between Mrs Venable and Catherine are before and after the death of Sabastian.

Replacing Mrs Venable's position and taking Sabastian away from her, are some reasons of being hostile. A finding "bad" thing in other people is also a reason for being hostile or angry toward them (Moskowitz, 1969:335).

## 4.2.1 The Intimate Relationship

The beginning of the play describes the intimate relation between a mother and a son, Mrs Venable and Sabastian. They spend much of their days travelling together. As a couple of poet, they need to travell abroad. They have to write a new poem and also introduce it to public. Usually they spend their days on a beach for writing a new poem in every summer.

Then Catherine comes into Sabastian's life. Catherine is Sabastian's cousin. Catherine amuses Sabastian when his mother is sick.

Mrs Venable: But, he, Sabastian, was amused by this girl. While I was disgusted, sickened.

(Scene IV: 140)

The quotation above shows that Sabastian needs Catherine to accompany him travelling while his mother cannot go with him. Mrs Venable is sick in April, the last spring. Catherine is able to amuse Sabastian, because she is a talkative woman.

Mrs Venable {at the same time}: She was in love with my son!

(Scene IV: 140)

Catherine: He liked me and so I loved him...{she

cries a little again }

(Scene III: 130)

Doctor : Tell me : what was your feeling for

your cousin Sabastian?

Catherine: He liked me and I so loved him.

(Scene IV: 143)

Those quotations above show that Catherine really loves her cousin, Sabastian. Sabastian's feeling to Catherine is not more than the feeling of likes, because he does not love her. Sabastian likes her to accompany him travelling abroad, because his mother cannot go with him as usual.

Catherine :Cousin Sabastian said he was famished for blonds, he was fed- up with the dark ones and was famished for blonds.

(Scene III: 130)

The quotation above shows that Sabastian is famishing for freedom, free from his mother's fixation. He needs a new atmosphere in his life. Catherine never takes Sabastian from Mrs Venable. In Sabastian's opinion, she helps him from his mother's fixation. He is fed-up with the whole rules of his mother. The dialogue above happens when Catherine and Sabastian are planning to go abroad.



## 4.2.2 Replacing The Position

Sabastian writes one poem for each summer. He and his mother always go abroad in summer for writing a new poem. The last summer when the accident happens, Sabastian is travelling with Catherine and not Mrs Venable as usual. Although Mrs Venable does not express her feeling directly, she is very jealous with Catherine. Catherine takes Sabastian's attention from her and replaces her position as the partner in writing a poem.

Introduction to Psychology explains that jealousy is a special form of anxiety based on insecurity, involves fear of loss of affection to a rival (Hilgard, 1962:174). The quotation clarifies that someone who is afraid of loses of love or affection can make him feel jealous to his rival. Mrs Venable is very afraid of loosing Sabastian's attention when he is going abroad together with Catherine.

Doctor : He wrote one poem a year

Mrs Venable: One for each summer that we

traveled together. The other nine months of the year were really only

a preparation.

Doctor : The poem was hard to deliver? Mrs Venable : Yes, even with me! Without me,

impossible, Doctor!- he wrote no

poem last summer.

Doctor : He died last summer?

Mrs Venable: Without me he died last summer,

that was his last summer's poem.

(Scene I: 116)

The quotation above shows that Sabastian depends on his mother, especially on creating a poem. Sabastian cannot write a poem

without the help of someone especially his mother. He needs someone to give him an inspiration while he is writing a poem on a beach. He died last summer, Sabastian would not die if he did not go with Catherine. He did not write any poem and died last summer because he went with Catherine. She feels that Catherine cannot help him to produce a poem and Mrs Venable can help him.

Mrs Venable :While I was disgusted, sickened.

And halfway through the season,
she was dropped off the list in
spite of my position.

(Scene IV: 140)

Sabastian takes Catherine with him instead of his mother as usual. Mrs Venable and Sabastian make a list of parties on their travelling, last summer. Mrs Venable is sick and impossible for her to go with Sabastian, then he takes Catherine to go with him. The quotation above shows that Catherine replaces Mrs Venable's position and drops her list of parties last summer.

Catherine: He took me down to a place for passport photos. Said: 'Mother can't go abroad with me this summer. You're going with me this summer instead of Mother.'- If you don't believe me, read my journal of Paris! (Scene IV: 144)

The dialogue above happens when Catherine tries to recollect the story with Sabastian before going to Cabeza de Lobo. He asked Catherine to go to Paris and replaced his mother last summer. Catherine cannot reject him because she loves Sabastian.

> Catherine : Yes, you see, I failed him! And so,

> > last summer, we went to Cabeza de Lobo, we flew down there from where he gave up writing his poem

last summer...

Mrs Venable: Because he'd broken our-

(Scene IV: 150)

Mrs Venable cannot accept the reality that Sabastian takes Catherine with him to the place where they always spend their days together on writing a poem, on the beach named La Playa San Sabastian in Cabeza de Lobo. Last summer Catherine failed to help him to write a poem. Mrs Venable says that Sabastian has broken the contract between him and his mother.

> Mrs Venable: There now, the truth's coming out. We had an agreement between us, a short of contract or covenant between us which he broke last summer when he broke away from me and took her with him, not me!

(Scene IV: 149)

The plan of travelling in Cabeza de Lobo is regarded as a short of contract between Mrs Venable and her son. Sabastian drops the contract when he takes Catherine to Cabeza de Lobo instead of Mrs Venable. Mrs Venable feels that Sabastian cannot finish his poem

#### 4.2.3 Mrs Venable's Stroke

Zakiah Drajat in her book Kesehatan Mental, explains that paralysis of hysteria is a kind of neuroses caused by her inability to face the difficulties, repressed feeling and mental conflict (1968:38). Mrs Venable serves her son very much, she does not want anyone to take her son away from her. Then Catherine appears in his life, it makes Mrs Venable anxious to lose her son. She can do nothing when Sabastian gets intimate relationship with Catherine. The internal conflict and her repressed feeling of Mrs Venable show the symptom of stroke. The fixation to Sabastian changes to the feeling of anxiety.

> Catherine : You weren't able to travel. You'd

had a-{She stops short

Mrs Venable: Go on! What had I had? Are you afraid to say it in front of the Doctor? She meant that I had a stroke.-I DID NOT HAVE A STROKE!- I had a slight aneurism. You know what that is, Doctor? A little vascular convulsion! Not a hemorrhage, just a convulsion of blood-vessel. I had it when I discovered that she was trying to take my son away from me. Then I had it.

(Scene IV: 139)

The quotation above shows that Catherine causes Mrs Venable's stroke. Mrs Venable does not like her symptom called as a stroke, but a slight aneurism. She could not go with Sabastian last summer because of her stroke in the left side of her face. Catherine causes her stroke when Mrs Venable finds her to try to take Sabastian

away from her. Sabastian is the only son and Mrs Venable has never separated from her son before.

Mrs Venable: .. Will you open it for me, my hands

are stiff, and fish out some

cigarettes and a cigarette holder.

Doctor : I don't have matches.

(Scene I: 124)

The dialogue happens when Mrs Venable wants to smoke, she asks the doctor to help her. Her hand is hard to move. The hands are stiff and it is considered to be the indication of the stroke. The indications of the stroke are weakness, clumsiness, dimness or loss of vision in one eye and loss of feeling in arms or on legs, or on one side of the face (David Ovedoff, 1995:694).

George: Yeah, Aunt Violet has an elevator now.

(Scene III: 132)

Mrs Venable : I can't get up! Push me, push me

away!

George : I'll push her, Miss Foxhill.

{rising, but holding chair}

Mrs Venable: Let go of my chair or-

(Scene IV: 141)

The quotations above show that Mrs Venable cannot walk without a cane or her wheelchair. Even, in her house there is an elevator to help her go up and down the stairs. Her paralysis is the effect of the stroke.

Doctor : Your Aunt is a very sick woman. She

had a stroke last spring?

Catherine: Yes, she did, but she'll never admit it...

Doctor : You think she did have a stroke?

Catherine: She had a slight stroke in April. It just

affected one side, the left side, of her face...but it was disfiguring and, after

that, Sabastian couldn't use her.

(Scene IV: 142)

The dialogue above shows that Mrs Venable cannot go with Sabastian in Cabeza de Lobo as they planned before, on last summer. She got the stroke before last summer, on April 1935. She will never admit her stroke, it just a slight aneurism. Sabastian cancels the schedule of travelling to La Playa San Sabastian with his mother because of her stroke. The stroke attacks her last spring and causes disfigure on her face.

## 4.2.4 Responsibility For The Death of Sabastian

The death of Sabastian is the main cause of Mrs Venable's hostilities to Catherine. Sabastian dies in Cabeza de Lobo when he is travelling with Catherine. A man who has healthy mentality is a man who can dominate his life, so he can avoid from repressed feeling or things that cause frustation (Zakiah Drajat, 1968:36). The quotation above shows that a person who has healthy mentality, he can be free from repressed feeling in his life. He is able to endure the trial from God, even when he loses someone he loves.

Conforming to the quotation above, Mrs Venable is not able to face the fact that her son is dead of murder. She thinks that her son

is dead because of Catherine and therefore Catherine should be responsible for it.

Doctor : Mrs Venable did your doctor okay

this thing?

Mrs Venable{breathless}: What thing?

Doctor : Your meeting this girl you think is

responsible for your son's death?

Mrs Venable: I've waited months to face her

because I couldn't get to St Mary's to face her- I've had her brought here to my house. I won't collapse! She'll! I mean her lies will collapse- not my truth- not the

truth...

(Scene I: 115)

The quotation shows that Catherine should be responsible for the death of Sabastian. Mrs Venable has been waiting for months to face her. She insists on hearing directly from Catherine about the true story. It is impossible for Mrs Venable to face her in St Mary's because of her stroke. In Cabeza de Lobo Catherine babbles that Sabastian is killed by a flock of homeless boys. Mrs Venable thinks that Catherine wants to avoid the responsibility. The story is smashing Sabastian reputation as a poet. The truth will come out that Catherine is responsible for her son's death. Mrs Venable devotes the rest of her life for Sabastian, to dig up the cause of his death.

Doctor : He die last Summer?

Mrs Venable: Without me he died last summer,

that was his last summer's poem.

(Scene I: 116)

Sabastian died last summer in a place where he and Mrs Venable always spent their summer. If Sabastian did not go with Catherine, he would not die last summer.

Mrs Venable: She has every reason to be. She

took my son from me, and then

she-

Catherine : Aunt Violet, you're not being fair.

(Scene IV: 139)

The quotation above shows that Mrs Venable blames Catherine with all her reasons. Catherine takes Sabastian from Mrs Venable and causes him to die. Catherine defends herself that she does not kill Sabastian and she should not be responsible for it. Sabastian is dead of accident, a flock of homeless boys had stabbed in every parts of his body. It is not fair for Mrs Venable to blame her as the cause of Sabastian's death.

Catherine

: I don't want to, I didn't want to come here! I know what she thinks, she thinks I murdered her son, she thinks that I was responsible for his death. Mrs Venable: That's right. I told him when he told me that he was going with you in my place last summer that I'd never see him again and I never did. And only you know why!

(Scene IV: 140)

The quotation above shows that actually Catherine does not want to come into the house, because it reminds her of Sabastian. Mrs Venable brings her from St. Mary's to hear the story directly from Catherine. She can do nothing to avoid Mrs Venable. Mrs Venable prepares all the cost to put her in St. Mary's for treatments. Mrs Venable also bears the money of her family's living. Catherine knows that Mrs Venable will suspect her as the murderer of Sabastian and the person who should be responsible for it. Mrs Venable has her own reason to accuse her. Catherine is with Sabastian and only she who knows why he dies. Mrs Venable has a feeling that she will never see Sabastian anymore if he insisted on going with Catherine last summer.

# CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

The hostilities among mankind appear in different ways and reasons behind it. The beginning of hostility can be caused by someone's hatred to others. A conflict between two families is something usual in life, but when the conflict cannot be solved, it causes the worst conflict such as hostility between them. Tennessee William's Suddenly Last Summer is also about the hostilities between two relative women. The main character, Mrs Venable, is a noble woman with her arrogance and over affection to her son, Sabastian. Her fixation brings her into the hostilities with her niece, Catherine.

Mrs Venable expresses the feeling of enmity to Catherine in some ways. She sends Catherine to an asylum and other mental institutions. Catherine gets electric and insuline shocks. The treatments in St Mary's do not make any results that satisfy Mrs Venable. The confession from Catherine is just the same, that Sabastian is killed by a flock of homeless boys. Then Mrs Venable suggests the other treatment such lobotomy, to bore Catherine's skull for relieving mental disturbances. Catherine considers become insane after the accident that befalls Sabastian that causes his death. Mrs Venable simply detests Catherine and her family. She wants to sever the relativity after the death of Sabastian. Catherine and her family will not accept the inheritances from Sabastian in his will. Mrs Venable also never lets them enter her house anymore.

Mrs Venable has some reasons of being hostile to Catherine. First, the intimate relationship between Catherine and Sabastian. Second, Catherine replaces Mrs Venable's position as Sabastian's partner in writing a poem. Then, she causes Mrs Venable's stroke that attacks on the left side of her face. The last cause is, Catherine should be responsible for Sabastian's death, because she is the only witness when he dies.

The analysis of the play entitled *The Causes Of Mrs Venable's Hostilities To Catherine In Tennessee William's Suddenly Last Summer*, there is a conclusion that the four causes above, are led into Mrs Venable's hostilities to Catherine. Mrs Venable's hatred brings her into the feeling of enmity. Someone's hatred can be remove, and it will not develop into hostility, but it depends on someone who experiences the hatred. Having hostilities will not solve the problems, they just add more enemies in human's life.

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