

No Witchcraft for Sale

Doris Lessing

Nandy Intan Kurnia

nandy_intankurnia@uny.ac.id

PBI/FBS/UNY

- A work of lit. normally has a **plot**. One of the basic elements of plot is **conflict**. In this story the basic conflict is more broadly drawn. It is a conflict that exists between two ways of life, two separate cultures. Each of these has a different idea of what is right and proper.

Look at the major dimensions of the central conflict of this story:

1. The basic conflict in this story has something to do with status and position.
 - What is the position of Farquars?
 - What is the position of Gideon?
 - What role does Teddy play in this status conflict?
 - Given the fact that the story takes place in Africa, what is ironic about the different status of Gideon & Farquars?

2. It also has something got to do with values.
 - How does Gideon view his gift of the drug?
 - How do the Farquars view the gift?
 - What is the scientist's attitude toward the drug?
3. With the rebellion against European colonialism, racial prejudice was to become a central issue in the history of modern Africa.
 - What role do racial differences play in this story?
 - How are they treated, or how do they enter into the story?
 - Is there any open racial prejudice or racial conflict?

4. How is the basic conflict in this story resolved? What are our feelings as readers at the end? For you, have the events of the story led a satisfying **resolution**?

- Many writers of Doris Lessing's generation believed that the answer to violence in the world was better understanding. People had to break out of narrow or provincial patterns of thought. In a violent conflict, they had to learn to look at the *other* side.

In dealing with the conflict between two cultures in this story, the author tries to show her sympathy with both sides.

- How does this commitment or this aim show in the story? Sum up the evidence showing that a major aim of the author to promote better understanding between the two sides. In your judgment, how successful is she in reaching the goal?