

Chapter IV

Conclusion

Considering Stephen's life, the thesis writer concludes that Stephen, as the main character, is a developing or a dynamic character because he undergoes a great change. Stephen changes from a believer to a non-believer because he is desperate with himself for being not able to be wholly free from his sexual temptation. Stephen realizes that he cannot protect himself from his sexual temptation, he might someday commit adultery again. One sin will ruin all the hard work, which he has done to release himself from his sin. Thinking of how everything that he has done will be ruined someday by one false act has ruined

his spirit to keep on his repentance. Stephen begins to doubt his religion. Stephen begins to question the meaning of the Eucharist, the existence of God, and whether the cross really represents God. This happens because Stephen is hopeless and he has nobody to blame but himself, so he blames God for never making his life easier for him. First, Stephen blames God for making his family poor so that he has to live in poverty. Second, Stephen blames God for being so far for him to reach. Stephen has repented from his sin but he does not feel that he is getting closer to God, instead, he is just stuck in his endless repentance.

Then, the priest offers Stephen to join the priesthood after Stephen already lost his faith; however, Stephen prefers to be an artist rather than to be a priest. Stephen is not interested in religion anymore. The priest comes to Stephen at the time when Stephen has already become a heretic and explains to Stephen about religion when Stephen has already lost his faith. That why the priest fails to persuade Stephen to accept the call to be a priest.

Considering Stephen's life base on the analysis, the writer concludes that Stephen refuses to join the priesthood not because he wants to be an artist. For Stephen, being an artist will give him a sense of freedom that Stephen thinks will also make him free from his sin.

Therefore, Stephen feels more safely in an "artist world" rather than the priesthood.

Finally, the thesis writer also concludes that non-believer, which makes him/her doubt the church's dogma and makes him/her at last abandon his religion, can easily influence a person who is not strong in his/her faith.