

### **3. KARSTEN BERNICK'S DECEPTION**

In this chapter, the thesis writer wants to discuss the factors that influence Bernick to commit deception and the factors that cause him to be able to overcome his deception due to his desire to save his reputation and property, and avoid punishment as the answer to her statement of the problem. This chapter is divided into two sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter discusses the factors that make Bernick commit deception consists of the internal factor that is his traits and the external factor that is the environment where Bernick lives in; while the second sub-chapter discusses the factors that cause Bernick to be able to overcome his deception through his conflict, that is his outer conflict with the other character namely Lona which leads to his inner conflict, and some triggering incidents that happen in Bernick's life so that he make a decision to admit the wrongs he did. The incidents are the sail of Johan and Dina by Palm Tree ship, the event of the letters torn by Lona, the escape of his son from death, and the postponement of Indian Girl's sail by Aune.

#### **3.1 The Factors that Influence Karsten Bernick to Commit Deception**

In this sub chapter, the thesis writer wants to discuss the factors that influence Bernick to commit deception. They are internal factor that is Bernick's trait and external factor that is the community where Bernick lives in. She believes that these factors influence him to do deception in his life.

##### **3.1.1 The Internal Factors: Bernick's Traits**

The thesis writer is going to discuss Bernick's traits in this part. She wants to prove that Bernick's traits such as being selfish and deceitful make Bernick lie in his life, which one day causes him to be trapped in a difficult situation so that the community he lives in can find him as a thrilling subject to be gossiped about, and to avoid punishment, and save his reputation and wealth, Bernick does deception.

### 3.1.1.1 Selfish

According to mental term, selfishness is a behavior that puts someone's importance on the highest priority, especially to increase his safety or security by sacrificing other people's importance, and sometimes, it is for self-gain or self-centered reasons beside to avoid punishment just like the motifs of most of deceivers in doing his action. As the main male character of this play, Bernick can be considered as a selfish person beside his big chance as a deceiver because he is smart, has ever studied abroad, and his position as the leader of the town, he has power, trust, and influence that may enable him to deceive to self-gain reason.

As a businessman in the town, Bernick has a shipyard. His shipyard foreman is Aune. He is responsible for all the works in the shipyard including controlling the workers. In the meantime, there are two ships being repaired in the shipyard. One is Palm Tree. It is the ship of Bernick's friend, a businessman too, namely Vigeland. The other is American ship namely Indian Girl. Vigeland's ship's renovation is almost finished. It is going to be ready to put on sea soon to send cargo. Yet, Indian Girl cannot be finished soon although it has been in the shipyard for five weeks. Because of being unsatisfied with all the delay, Bernick calls Aune to his office (McFarlane, 1961:29). Here is the quotation of their speech:

AUNE. That boat's hull is absolutely rotten, Mr. Bernick The more we patch it, the worse it gets.

BERNICK. That's not what's at the bottom of all this, Mr. Krap has told me the real truth. You don't know how to work the new machinery I've installed-or more correctly, you don't *want* to.

AUNE. Mr. Bernick, I'm now turned fifty. Right from being a lad, I've been used to the old way of working....

BERNICK. That won't do nowadays. You mustn't think, Aune, that it's just for the profits. Happily, I'm not dependant on them. But I have to have some regard for the community where I live, and for the business where I am head. Progress must either come to me, or it will never come.

AUNE. I want a progress too, Mr. Bernick.

BERNICK. Yes, but limited to your own kind, to the working class. Oh, I know all about you and your agitation...the speeches you make, the way you get the people all worked up. But as soon as something tangible in way of progress presents itself-like now, with our machinery –you'll have nothing to do with it. You're afraid!

AUNE. That's right, I *am* afraid, Mr. Bernick. I'm afraid for all those who'll have the bread snatched from their mouths by these machines. You're always talking about having regard for society, Mr. Bernick, but I think society's got its obligations too. What business has science and capitalism got, bringing all these new inventions into the works, before society has produced a generation educated up to using them!

BERNICK. You read and think too much, Aune. It's not good for you. *That's* what makes you discontented with your position.

AUNE. It's not that, Mr. Bernick. But I can't stand seeing one good man after another being paid off and losing his job, on account of these machines.

BERNICK. H'm. When printing is invented, plenty of scribes lost his jobs.

AUNE. Would you have been all that pleased about it, Mr. Bernick, if you'd be happened to be a scribe then? (1961:30).

BERNICK. I didn't ask you to come here to bandy words. I sent for you to tell you that the *Indian Girl* must be ready to sail the day after tomorrow.

AUNE. But, Mr. Bernick...!

BERNICK. The day after tomorrow, d'you hear! The same time with our own ship, not an hour later. I have good reasons for wanting to hurry things up. Have you seen this morning's paper? Well then, you'll know that these Americans have been making nuisance of themselves again. That gang of hooligans is turning the whole place upside down. Not a night passes but what there's some brawl somewhere, either in the public houses or in the streets. Not to speak of all the other disgusting things.

AUNE. Yes, it's quite clear they're a bad lot.

BERNICK. And who gets the blame for it all? Me! It all comes back to me. All these sly hints in the paper that we've been concentrating all our resources on the

*Palm Tree.* Am I to let them throw this sort of thing in my face...I, whose job is to set example to my fellow citizens? I won't have it. I won't stand for having my name dragged through on the mud like this.

AUNE. Oh, the name of Bernick is good enough to stand plenty of that, and more.

BERNICK. Not at this moment. At the present time I need all the respect and good-will my fellow citizens can give me. I have a big project in hand, as you've probably heard. And if any vindictive people managed to shake the unqualified confidence I've enjoyed, it could land me in the most serious difficulties. That's why I want to put a stop to these evil insinuations in the newspapers at any cost. And that's why I'm making it the day after tomorrow.

AUNE. You might as well make it this afternoon, Mr. Bernick.

BERNICK. You mean I'm demanding the impossible?

AUNE. Yes. With the labour force we have at present....

BERNICK. All right! Then we'll have to look elsewhere.

AUNE. You aren't going to sack still more of the old hands?

BERNICK. No, that's not what I have in mind (1961:31).

AUNE. Because I believe it could cause a lot of bad blood, both in the town and in the papers, if you did that.

BERNICK. That's not impossible. So we'll not do that. But if the *Indian Girl* isn't cleared by the day after tomorrow, *you're* sacked!

AUNE. You would think of sacking *me*? Me, whose father and grandfather worked all the live in the yard, just as I have...

BERNICK. Who's forcing me to do it?

AUNE. You're asking the impossible, Mr. Bernick.

BERNICK. Where there's a will there's a way. yes, or no? I want a straight answer, or I sack you here and now.

AUNE (*takes a step forward*). Mr. Bernick, have you seriously thought what it means-giving the old workman a sack? You think he ought to look around for something else? Oh yes, I suppose he can. But is that the end of it? You ought to try being there sometimes, the night the workman comes home with the sack, and put his tool chest behind the door.

BERNICK. Do you think I'm doing it lightly?

AUNE. That's what make it worse, Mr. Bernick. That's just why, when I get home, it won't be *you* they'll blame. They won't say anything to me, they won't dare. But they'll look at me when I'm not looking, and they'll think: he must have deserved it. And don't you see that's...that's something I can't bear. I may not count for very much, but I've always been used to being the head of the family. My modest little home is also a small community, Mr. Bernick...a small community I've been able to support and maintain, because my wife believed in me, and because my children believed in me. Now the whole lot's going to collapse.

BERNICK. Well, if there's nothing else for it, then the lesser must give way to the greater. The particular must, in God's name, be sacrificed to the general good. I can't say more than that, and that's the way of the world. You are a stubborn man, Aune! You are opposing me, not because you must, but because you don't want to admit the superiority of the machine over manual labour (1961:32).

AUNE. You are sticking to that story, Mr. Bernick, because you know that, if you do kick me out, it will convince the press that you had only the best of intentions.

BERNICK. What if I am? I've told you what it means to me-either I get the entire press coming down on me, or else I win its approval-the very moment when I'm working on the big project for the common good. So what? Can I do anything other than what *I* am doing? I'll tell you where the crux lies here: it's either, as you put it, a question of upholding your home or of suppressing perhaps hundreds of new homes...hundreds of homes, that will never be built, never have a blazing hearth, unless I bring off what I'm working on. That's why I'm giving you this choice.

AUNE. In that case, I have nothing more to say (1961:33).

Through the quotation above, it can be seen that Bernick is selfish. He does not want his reputation to be ruined by being reported bad in the newspaper that his shipyard puts all the concentration of the repair on the Palm Tree so that the Indian Girl still stays longer in the town while its sailors make troubles in the town and disturb the peace of the townspeople all the nights because they often get drunk. As the owner of the shipyard,

Bernick does not want to understand that the hull of the Indian Girl is absolutely rotten while the old workers cannot use the machine that Bernick has installed for them to patch up ships because they have been used to work using their hands so that it needs longer time to be repaired. Instead, he threatens Aune who is responsible to the repair to sack him if he cannot fulfill what Bernick wants. For that, he misleads Aune to believe the lesser should be sacrificed for the greater. In this case, Bernick lets Aune to decide whether he lets the postponement of the Indian Girl's sail because it is seriously rotten and lets the press come down on him and put issue on his shipyard and influence his reputation as a capable businessman in the town so that he fails to get the big project and lots of new homes are failed to be built; or he fires Aune and lets Aune lose his job so that he loses his wife's and children's trust on him as the breadwinner of the family unless he can finish to repair the Indian Girl in two days.

We can see here that as the shipyard owner, Bernick has power, as a condition of a deceiver, to persuade Aune or mold his mind to choose by himself whether he is sacked or continues to fix the Indian Girl and takes advantage of the exploitation of Aune's power to work hard on the ship's repair because it must be finished in two days as Bernick demands him to because finally, Aune decides to continue the ship's repair and promise Bernick to get the ship ready for clearance the day after the next day starting from the day of their meeting at Bernick's office (1961:33).

### 3.1.1.2 Deceitful

Bernick's other trait that supports him to do deception is his being deceitful. According to English dictionary, being deceitful or deceptive means that the person has the tendency to be dishonest although he does not always do it intentionally. It means that it is just like a habit for the deceiver. In deceiving, the deceiver sends false message to the targets into his desired outcome. Both of them have the same motif that is to avoid punishment or for self-gain reasons. Since being deceitful and deception are the same, Bernick finds no difficulties to deceive because he has been used to it. Just as seen in the following discussion where in the past that is when Bernick was young and single and not married yet, he lied to Lona, his girl-friend that he falls in love hopelessly with Betty, Lona's step sister and begs her not to tell their relationship to anyone, but fifteen years

afterward, she learns that Bernick marries her sister just for money reason by reason of his family's company's indebtedness:

BERNICK. Let me tell you, calmly and dispassionately, how things stood in those days. As you remember, my mother was head of the firm; but she had no sense of business whatever. I was called home from Paris urgently, it was for a critical time, and I was to put things on a proper footing again. What did I find? I found something that had to be kept a profound secret-that the firm was as good as ruined. Yes, as good as ruined, this old and respected house, which had stood for three generations. What could I do, the only son...but cast around for some means of salvation?

LONA HESSEL. So you have saved the House of Bernick at a woman's expense!

BERNICK. You knew perfectly well that Betty loved me.

LONA HESSEL. But what about me?

BERNICK. Believe me, Lona...you would never have been happy with me.

LONA HESSEL. Was it concern for my happiness that you drop me?

BERNICK. You don't think I acted as I did for selfish motives? If I had stood alone at that time, I should have been quite happy to start afresh from the beginning. But you have no idea how the life of a businessman gets caught up with the business he inherits, with all its tremendous responsibilities. Do you know the welfare of hundreds...of thousands, even...depends on him? Don't you realize that this entire community-a community which both you and I call our home-would have suffered the most grievous consequences if the House of Bernick had collapsed?

LONA HESSEL. Was it also for the sake of this community that for fifteen years you have been living on lie?

BERNICK. A lie?

LONA HESSEL. What Betty knows of all these things that happened before her marriage to you?

BERNICK. Do you think I would want to hurt her by revealing these things-and all to no profit?

LONA HESSEL. To no profit you say? Ah, yes! You are a businessman, and you know all about profit....But you listen to me, now, Karsten. Now *I'm* going to speak calmly and dispassionately. Tell me...are you really happy?

BERNICK. In my home, you mean? (1961:51)

LONA HESSEL. Yes.

BERNICK. I am, Lona. Ah, your sacrifices have not been in vain, my dear friend. I think I can say that I have become happier with every year that has passed. Betty is so good and adaptable. In the course of the years she has lent to accommodate *her* nature to *my* way of life....

LONA HESSEL. H'm!

BERNICK. To begin with, of course, she had a lot of rather hysterical ideas about love. She couldn't reconcile herself to the thought that it must gradually give way to a kind of gentle affection.

LONA HESSEL. But *now* she accepts that?

BERNICK. Completely. Daily contact with *me* has not been without some mellowing influence on her, you know. People have to learn to modify the demands they on each other, if they are to do their best for the community they belong to. Betty also come to see that eventually, and that is why our house now stands as an example to our fellow citizens (1961:52).

It can be seen clearly through the quotation on above that beside being selfish, Bernick is also deceitful because he has lived on lies he has made for fifteen years and is used to lying. Towards Lona, he lies that he married Betty because of love, but later he tells her that he married Betty because of money. He convinces her that she would not be happy if she married with him at that time because his family's company was almost ruined, and as the only son, he has no way unless saving it because the welfare of hundreds of the townspeople depends on the company. We can see here that Bernick lies by using altruistic ground that is for Lona's happiness and for the importance of the townspeople. Besides, Bernick also lies to Betty since he does not tell her if he marries her not based on love, but based on the inheritance that Betty has. When Lona requests to tell the true reason to Betty, Bernick refuses because it is no profit. He persuades her why he should hurt Betty's feeling by revealing the truth. Besides, they live happily together now since



they have adapted to each other to the way of their thinking. It can be seen then that Bernick deceives Lona and even deceives himself by pretending to be happy in his married life because of self-gain reason. He feels that he gets nothing if Betty knows the truth. That is why he deceives Lona so that she agrees with him for keeping the secret.

### 3.1.2 The External Factor: Conservative Values of the Community

Beside the internal factor, Bernick's deception is also supported by the external factor that is the environment where he lives in. Just like Erich Fromm says, environment helps to influence someone to do something beside his own characters (1955:26). Here, the circumstance of living encourages Bernick to do deception because it has conservative values. According to English dictionary, being conservative means liking the old and established ways and not liking change especially sudden change. It also means not very modern in style, taste, manners, or we can call it traditional, that is in accordance with tradition. Besides, it also means careful, intentionally kept rather low.

Bernick lives in a small town near the coast in Norway. The people have conservative values because they are still traditional in taste, style, and manner. For examples: Women should behave nicely and politely, wear skirts and long hair; men, on the other hand, should work for their families; wives may not interfere with their husbands' businesses, instead, they may do social works like teachings, social gatherings; businessmen should serve the community by bringing prosperity as wide a circle as possible, etc.

Since the town is located near the coast, strange influence from bigger country or newcomers like being corrupt, immoral behavior or dishonesty is easy to enter the town and obliterate the good tradition of the townspeople (McFarlane, 1961:19). As a result, the townspeople incline to impute base motives to whatever a businessman does to know whether they do their businesses honestly or there is the practice of corruption inside (1961:99). Besides, since it is also a small town, gossips are easy to widespread and if they know someone has done something immoral, they tend to isolate the poor person socially or use their minds to arrange stories about the person. That is why; Bernick is panic when Lona and Johan insist on him to tell the truth about the wrongs he did to the

townspeople due to Johan's desire to marry with Dina, Mrs. Dorf's daughter and live with in the town.

BERNICK. You realize that immediately I admit one thing, it's as good as admitting the other as well? You might say I can prove from our books that there were no irregularities? But I can't. Our books weren't so meticulously kept in those days. And even if I could-what would be gained? Wouldn't I in any case be known as a man who once saved his life by an untruth, who for fifteen years let that untruth and all that went with it set hard without doing anything about it? You must have forgotten what this society of ours is like, or you would know that this would smash me completely.

JOHAN TONNESEN. I can only say that I mean to take Mrs. Dorf's daughter as my wife, and live with her here in the town.

BERNICK (*mopping the sweat off his brow*). Listen to me, Johan...and you too, Lona. I'm in an unusually awkward situation just at this moment. The position is that if this blow is aimed at me, then you destroy me; and not only me but also the chance of a great and prosperous future for this township, which is after all your childhood home.

JOHAN TONNESEN. And if I don't strike this blow against you, then I destroy all my own future happiness (1961:65).

LONA HESSEL. Go on, Karsten.

BERNICK. All right, listen. It's all tied up with the railway scheme, and business isn't as simple as you think. No doubt you've heard that last year there were some negotiations about a coastal route? There was a lot of backing for it from influential people in the town and in the district, and particularly in the newspapers. But I got it stopped, because it would have been bad for our steamer trade along the coast.

LONA HESSEL. And are you interested yourself in the steamer trader?

BERNICK. Yes, but nobody dared to suspect me of those grounds. My good name shielded me from that. For that matter, I could have stood the loss; but the town couldn't. So the cross-country route was decided on. Once that have been done, I secretly made sure that a branch line could be built down here.

LONA HESSEL. Why secretly, Karsten?

BERNICK. You've heard some talk about large property deals in forestland, and mines, and waterfalls...?

JOHAN TONNESEN. Yes, apparently some outside company....

BERNICK. The way these properties now lay, they are worth practically nothing to their separate owners. So they have been sold comparatively cheap. If one had waited till the branch line had been discussed, the owners would have demanded quite exorbitant prices.

LONA HESSEL. Yes, yes. But so what?

BERNICK. Now come the part that might be variously interpreted...something which, in our community, a man dare only risk if he has a good name and clear reputation to vouch for him.

LONA HESSEL. Well?

BERNICK. I am the one who brought everything up.

LONA HESSEL. You?

JOHAN TONNESEN. Out of your own pocket?

BERNICK. out of my own pocket. If the branch line materializes, I am a millionaire. If it doesn't I am ruined.

LONA HESSEL. That was risky, Karsten (1961:66).

BERNICK. I have staked everything I've got on this.

LONA HESSEL. I wasn't thinking of the money. But when it gets out that...

BERNICK. Yes, that's the whole point. With the clear reputation I have enjoyed up to now, I could take the whole thing on my shoulders and carry it through and then say to my fellow citizens: there, I have taken the risk for the benefit of the community.

LONA HESSEL. Of the community?

BERNICK. Yes. And not *one* doubts my intentions.

LONA HESSEL. But some of the men here have acted more openly than you, with no ulterior motives, no private interests.

BERNICK. Who?

LONA HESSEL. Why, Rummel and sandstad and Vigeland, of course.

BERNICK. to get their support, I had to let them in on it.

LONA HESSEL. Oh?

BERNICK. They stipulated a fifth share of the profits.

LONA HESSEL. Oh, these pillars of society!

BERNICK. Isn't society itself that forces us into these devious ways? What would have happened here if I hadn't brought off those secret deals? Everybody would have jumped in on the scheme, split it up and shared it out, and made a complete hash of the whole thing. There isn't single man in this town, apart from me, who knows how to run as big a concern as this one's going to be. In this country, the only people with any real capacity for big business are the immigrant families. This is why my conscience is clear in this case. In my hands alone is this property capable of bringing lasting benefit to the many people it will provide jobs for.

LONA HESSEL. I think you are right there, Karsten.

JOHAN TONNESEN. But I don't know any of these people, and my life's happiness is at stake.

BERNICK. The prosperity of your own birthplace is also at stake. If anything crops up now to cast a slur on my earlier conduct, all my opponents will rise as one man and fall upon me. A youthful indiscretion is never wiped clean in this community of ours. People will go over my entire life since that time, pick out a thousand little incidents and interpret them in the light of the new disclosures. They will crush me under the weight on their rumours and their gossip, I shall be forced to withdraw from the railway scheme. And if I let go of that, it's done for. And I shall be ruined financially as well as finished socially (1961:68).

LONA HESSEL. Johan, after what you've heard, you must leave and say nothing.

BERNICK. Yes, yes, Johan, you must!

JOHAN TONNESEN. Well, I'll leave and say nothing. But I shall come back, and then I shall speak (1961:69).

From the quotation on above, it is clear that beside selfish, because he does not want to clear Johan's name due to his lack of his reputation in the meantime, Bernick is also deceitful, because he plans win the railway's project and then tells the townspeople that

he has taken the risk buying the properties along the railway by his own money before the project is agreed by the council for the benefit of them. Not only that, Bernick's other reason not to tell the truth is because the society where Bernick, Lona, and Johan live at the present is conservative. He explains to them that the society where they are now cannot tolerate any dark spot in any leaders of the town in their life records. If the townspeople learnt that Bernick is the one who was involved in affair with Mrs. Dorf, they will force him to withdraw from the railway's project and he will be bankrupt as well as isolated socially like a criminal eventhough he is the only businessman who is capable of bringing prosperity to the town. Here, Bernick deceives Lona and Johan to avoid punishment he might get from the townspeople if he tells the truth to them.

Therefore, Bernick does deception not only because of his traits which are selfish and deceitful, but also because his society values honesty and clean reputation on the highest rank. Only the ones who have clean reputation, that is never doing any wrongs in their lives and doing businesses without ulterior motifs are trusted by them to handle the progress of the town. Since Bernick does not fulfill their criteria, he always does deception to get what he wants, that is to be the leader of the town and get more wealth.

### **3.2 The Factors that Influence Bernick to Overcome His Deception**

In this sub chapter, the thesis writer wants to discuss the factors that make Bernick overcome his deception. They are the conflicts and some triggering incidents that happen in his life. She believes that these two factors shocked him enough so that he dares to overcome his deception and takes the risk of being punished by the society.

#### **3.2.1 Through His Conflicts**

The thesis writer is going to discuss about the conflicts that happen in Bernick's life in this part. She wants to prove that his outer conflict with the other female character in the play leads to his inner conflict so that he finally realizes that he cannot live in lies anymore.

### 3.2.1.1 His Outer Conflict with Lona

Lona was Bernick's girl friend before he marries Betty. Yet, no one of the townspeople knows about it except both of them. They only know that suddenly, Lona slapped Bernick on his face when he held Betty's hand and announce their engagement in front of Betty's aunt. This became a scandal in the town. Not long after the incident, the people learnt that Lona packed his bag and went after Johan, his step brother, to America. Fifteen years later after the incident, Lona and Johan come back to the town. They see that Bernick has been rich now. Everyone in the town respects him very much. However, Lona knows that Johan is not guilty due to the married woman's scandal because he has told her that he only helped Bernick draw the suspicion on him. Besides, not long after she stays in the town, she learns that Bernick marries Betty and repudiated her in the past, not because of love reason, but money. Knowing those, she wants to help Bernick have firm ground under his feet, as seen on the following quotation:

BERNICK. The lie?

LONA HESSEL. Yes, the lie you've been living on now for fifteen years.

BERNICK. You call that...?

LONA HESSEL. I call it a lie. A triple lie. First the lie to me, then the lie to Betty, and then the lie to Johan.

BERNICK. Betty has never demanded that I say anything.

LONA HESSEL. Because she didn't know anything.

BERNICK. And *you* won't ask me....Out of consideration for her, you won't.

LONA HESSEL. Oh, no, I don't mind putting up with their guffaws, I've got a broad back.

BERNICK. And Johan won't ask me either. He's promised me.

LONA HESSEL. What about yourself, Karsten? Isn't there something in you that demands to be quit of that lie (1961:52)?

BERNICK. What, and willfully sacrifice this happy home of mine, and my standing in society?

LONA HESSEL. What right have you to stand where you stand?

BERNICK. Everyday for fifteen years I have acquired a little more right...by my conduct and by what I have worked for and achieved.

LONA HESSEL. Yes, you have worked hard and achieved much, both for yourself and for others. You are the richest and most powerful man in the town. They daren't do anything other than submit to you, all of them, because you have the reputation of being without stain or blemish. Your home is regarded as a model life. But all this splendour, and you along with it...it's just as though it were built upon a shifting quagmire. A moment may come, a word can be spoken-and both you and all this splendour will collapse, if you don't take steps in time.

BERNICK. Lona...what are you after here (1961:53)?

Through the discussion above, it can be seen that Bernick does not want to quit the lies he has made. He refuses to reveal the truth about Lona and Johan toward Betty and the townspeople because he does not want to lose his happy home life and his standing in his society. He feels that he has worked hard year by year and he has the right to enjoy his success now. Yet, though his last sentence, it can be seen that he starts to realize that his position is not safe anymore because the foundation of his success is not strong. If the lies emerge on the surface because Lona tell about the lies, and the townspeople know about the truth, his position as reputable businessman is threatened. That is why he is suspicious for what reason Lona comes back to the town. This is the first conflict that he has with Lona.

The second conflict happens when Lona knows that Johan was accused as the theft of Bernick's company's money when he was in America and she is getting sicker knowing that Bernick does not have the expression of gratitude on Johan, who Bernick's sake had run away to America, because instead of clearing the scandal, Bernick keeps his mouth shut up when the townspeople concluded by themselves that as Johan used to work in the company, he had stolen some money before he went to America, as seen in the following quotation:

BERNICK. You can imagine there were all sorts of rumours going about after you and he had left. This wasn't the first time he'd gone off the rails, people said. Some said Dorf had got a lot of money out of him to keep his mouth shut and

push off. Others insisted *she'd* got it. At the same time, it couldn't be concealed that our firm was having difficulty in meeting its obligations. What was more natural than that the scandalmongers should put two and two together? When stayed on here, obviously still poverty-stricken, then they claimed he'd taken the money with him to America, and rumour steadily went on making the amount bigger and bigger.

LONA HESSEL. And you, Karsten...?

BERNICK. I clutched at the rumour like a drowning man at a straw.

LONA HESSEL. You helped to spread it?

BERNICK. I didn't deny it. Our creditors had begun to hurry us. It was up to me to pacify them. The main thing was that nobody should suspect the solidarity of the firm. A temporary of misfortune had struck us...as long as people didn't press us...just gave us time...everybody would get what was owing.

LONA HESSEL. And everybody did get it?

BERNICK. Yes, Lona, that rumour saved our firm, and made me what I am today.

LONA HESSEL. A lie, then, has made you what you are today.

BERNICK. What harm did it do anybody at that time? It was Johan's intention never to come back.

LONA HESSEL. You were asking what harm it did anybody. Look into your own heart and tell me whether you yourself haven't suffered some harm.

BERNICK. Look into any man's heart you like, and in every single case you will find *some* black spot he has to keep covered up (1961:63).

LONA HESSEL. And you call yourselves pillars of society!

BERNICK. Society hasn't any better.

LONA HESSEL. And what does it matter whether a society like this is supported or not? What does count here? Lies and sham...nothing else. Here you are, the town's leading citizen, enjoying a splendid happy life, with all this power and glory...when you have branded an innocent man as criminal.

BERNICK. Do you think I'm not deeply conscious of the wrong I've done him? And do you think I'm not ready to make it up to him again?

LONA HESSEL. How? By telling the truth?



BERNICK. You can't ask me do that!

LONA HESSEL. What other way is there of righting that wrong?

BERNICK. I'm rich Lona. Johan can ask whatever he likes.... (1961:64).

From the discussion on above, Bernick still does not want to clarify the problem. He only realizes that Johan has helped him in the past. For that, he only wants to show his gratitude on him by giving him money. Yet, at least, Bernick has admitted that the society where he lives in is not better than his condition, since his life was built on lies, but they also help to create the lies by arranging story about Johan based on their thoughts.

This outer conflict with Lona seems to wake Bernick's inner-self up because he experiences inner conflict after he decides to send Indian Girl on sea based on its schedule since he knows that its repair is not well done yet. It can sink if it is forced to sail. Yet, he becomes more convinced to send the ship to sea after hearing Johan's intention to go back to America by the ship to finish his business there and then plans to come back to the town to clear his name in order to be able to marry Dina and live with her in the town by producing the two letters that Bernick ever gave him when he was there whose contain is explicit enough to tell to the townspeople about who the real person that is involved in the affair with Mrs. Dorf.

### 3.2.1.2 His Inner Conflict

Krap, Bernick's chief clerk, saw Aune work day and night to repair Indian Girl so that it can sail on time according to his promise to Bernick. He wondered how the repair was, so he took a look round, inside, and out when the workers had stopped for their break. He found the ship's hull was repaired well inside and outside, but he was surprised when he found that it was plugged, caulked, and patched by plating and tarpaulin, not by new timber. It means that the ship will go to the bottom of sea like a leaky pot if it sails. Krap reports his findings to Bernick and Bernick orders him to find "absolute proof" to report it on the press (1961:58-59). Yet, before he finds the proof, Bernick has decided to send it on sea after hearing Johan's plan to produce the letters to the townspeople and his intention to sail by Indian Girl. He thinks that if the ship sinks, Johan will be dead too and his threat will also vanish, and Bernick will never have to

admit the wrongs he did. Yet, it seems that his conflict with Lona, wakes his inner-self up, so that he experiences inner conflict, whether he stops the ship to sail so that many souls will be saved including Johan, or let it sail with a definite knowledge that it will sink and Johan will be dead too so that he is rescued from Johan's threat to open his past misconducts to the society which is reflected in his discussion with Rorlund, the schoolteacher, as seen in the following quotation:

BERNICK. Suppose, for example, a man were thinking of building a big factory. He knows for certain...for experience has taught him this...that sooner or later while the factory is operating, some human life will be lost.

RORLUND. Yes, that is only too probable.

BERNICK. Or take somebody who starts a mine. He employs both family men and healthy young fellows. Can't it be said with certainty that not all these will escape with their lives (1961:73)?

RORLUND. I'm afraid that's very true.

BERNICK. Well, then. That man knows in advance that the scheme he is starting will inevitably at some time take its toll of human life. But its scheme that operates for the common good. For every human life it costs, it will just as inevitably benefit hundreds of people.

RORLUND. Aha, you are thinking of the railway...of all the dangers of blasting and excavating and so on....

BERNICK. Well, yes, I am thinking of the railway. Besides, the railway will result both factories and mines being built. But still don't you think...?

RORLUND. My dear Consul, you are almost too scrupulous. I think that if you place the matter in the hands of Providence...

BERNICK. Yes, of course, Providence....

RORLUND. ...then no blame attaches to you. Build your railway and don't worry.

BERNICK. Yes, but now let me take a particular case. Suppose there is blasting to be done at some specially dangerous point; and unless that blasting is done, the railway can't be built. Supposing the engineer knows it will cost the life of the

workman who does the detonating. Yet it must be detonated, and it is the engineer's duty to send a workman to do it.

RORLUND. H'm.

BERNICK. I know what you will say. It would be splendid thing if the engineer himself went and ignited the fuse. But that kind of thing isn't done. So he must sacrifice a workman.

RORLUND. None of *our* engineers would ever do that.

BERNICK. No engineer in the bigger countries would think twice before doing it.

RORLUND. In the bigger countries? No, that I can quite believe. In those corrupt and unscrupulous communities....

BERNICK. Oh, there are plenty of good things about *those* communities.

RORLUND. You can say that? When you yourself... (1961:74)?

BERNICK. At least in these bigger countries there's room to develop useful enterprises; and they have courage when it comes to making sacrifices in a great cause. But here you're tied hand and foot by all sorts of petty considerations.

RORLUND. Is human life a petty consideration?

BERNICK. When that human life threatens the welfare of thousands.

RORLUND. But you are postulating quite unthinkable situations, Mr. Bernick! I simply don't understand you today. Then you go referring to those larger communities. Ah, in those places...what does a human life count *there*? They calculate in human lives as they do capital assets. But I think I can say that *we* take an entirely different moral point of view. Look at our admirable shipowners! Name me a single one of them who, for miserable profit, would think of sacrificing human life! And think of those scoundrels in the bigger countries who, for the sake of their bank balances, send out one unseaworthy ship after another....

BERNICK. I'm not talking about unseaworthy ships!

RORLUND. But I am, Mr. Bernick.

BERNICK. Yes, but where's all this leading? It's got nothing to do with it....Oh, these petty, little considerations. If one of our generals were to lead his men under fire so they got shot, he would have sleepless nights ever after. That's not

how things are in other places. You should hear him in there, when he starts talking....(1961:75).

It can be seen from the quotation above that Bernick's inner-self is awoken. He starts to have moral point of view because he asks Rorlund whether sacrificing some human life for bigger benefits for hundreds of people is acceptable or not. In the past, before Lona's homecoming, he never hesitates to use human being as a tool to reach his ambition, but now, he has the hesitation. His discussion with Rorlund also shows to us that he starts to be sick with all the moral considerations that the society has in business and he compares it with the bigger countries whose story he heard from Johan.

Therefore, the conflict he has with Lona, which in her part, she wants Bernick to have firm ground under his feet, that is truth, but in Bernick's part, he wants to keep silent about past wrongdoings to save his standing in the society and his wealth, rouses his inner-self, his moral sense. Yet, he still lets Indian Girl sail, until he experiences some triggering situations which happen continuously, he dares to take a risk of losing people's trust on him by confessing the untruth that he has kept for fifteen years.

### 3.2.2 Through Triggering Incidents

In this fraction, the thesis writer is going to talk about some triggering incidents that Bernick experiences in his life. She wants to prove that the sailing of Johan and Dina by Palm Tree, the event of the letters torn by Lona, the escape of his son from death, and the postponement of Indian Girl's sail by Aune encourage him to admit the wrongs he did to the society on a procession that are held by his business friends to respect him as one of the pillars of their society.

#### 3.2.2.1 The Sail of Johan and Dina by Palm Tree and the Event of the Letters Torn by Lona

Bernick's business friends, Rummel, Vigeland, and Sandstad arrange a procession by inviting the whole town at Bernick's house without telling Bernick first. They plan to tell the community "when the party spirit is at its height" that Bernick has taken the risk by buying up the property along the railway before the branch line's proposal is agreed by the council for the sake of the community to crush any possible opposition who does not

agree with the railway's proposal and to eliminate rumors in town that someone has bought up the property for private interests (1961:80). Pitifully, Bernick is not in a good condition to face the procession. He has a lot of thoughts since Lona's homecoming and his final decision to send *Indian Girl* on sea related to the railway's project. He still thinks that Johan and Lona's homecomings are going to crush him so that he uneasily decides to send unseaworthy ship because Johan is there, as seen in the following quotation:

LONA HESSEL. Karsten, you keep saying we came to crush you. Let me just tell you what sort of stuff he's made of...this prodigal son your highly-moral community has been avoiding like the plague. He can manage quite well without you lot, because now he's gone.

BERNICK. But he was going to come back....

LONA HESSEL. Johan will never come back. He's gone for good, and Dina's gone with him.

BERNICK. Not coming back? And Dina's gone with him?

LONA HESSEL. Yes, to be his wife. That's their way of slapping your smug little community in the face, just as I once...Ah, well!

BERNICK. Gone...! She too...on the *Indian Girl*!

LONA HESSEL. No. He didn't dare trust such a precious cargo to that depraved crowd. Johan and Dina sailed on the *Palm Tree*.

BERNICK. Ah! So it's all been...in vain.... (*Walks quickly across, tears open the door to his room and shouts in.*) Krap, stop the *Indian Girl*. She mustn't sail tonight!

KRAP (*within*). The *Indian Girl* has already put out to sea, Mr. Bernick.

BERNICK (*shuts the door and says dully*). Too late...and all to no purpose....

LONA HESSEL. What do you mean?

BERNICK. Nothing, nothing. Get away from me...!

LONA HESSEL. H'm! Look here, Karsten. Johan wants you to know he's entrusted me with the fair name and reputation he once lent you, along with that other thing you stole from him while he was away. Johan will say nothing, and I

can please myself what I do, or don't do. I've got both your letters in my hand here (1961:90).

BERNICK. You've got them! And now...now you want...perhaps tonight when the procession....

LONA HESSEL. I didn't come here to expose you. I wanted to give you such a shaking that you were ready to speak up of your own accord. It hasn't succeeded. So you'll just stay there, stuck fast in your lies. Look here, I'm tearing up those two letters of yours. Take the bits, there you are. There's no evidence against you now. You are safe now. And now be happy too...if you can.

BERNICK (*greatly moved*). Lona...why didn't you that before? Now it's too late. I've thrown away my whole life now. I can't go on living after today.

LONA HESSEL. What's happened?

BERNICK. Don't ask me....Yet I *must* live! I will live...for Olaf's sake. He'll put everything right...make amends....

LONA HESSEL. Karsten... (1961:91)!

From the quotation on above, it is obvious that Bernick does not know Johan's intention not to come back to the town. He also does not know that Dina goes with Johan by Palm Tree. That is why he is very surprised when he knows it from Lona. He feels that his effort to get rid of Johan by sacrificing Indian Girl is useless. Instead, he loses the ship's cargo and the souls of the sailors. When Lona shows him the two letters that Johan wants to produce afterwards, Bernick thinks that Lona wants to expose them to the society. Yet, when Lona tears them into pieces, he learns that Lona and Johan do not intend to expose him. He feels very guilty then because he has had prejudice against them, to the ones that have been very kind to him and never do anything that may harm him. Bernick is shocked enough through these two incidents. Yet, he tries to hold on for the sake of his only son, Olaf, whose kingdom of wealth and clean reputation he builds up for.

### 3.2.2.2 The Escape of His Son from Death and the Postponement of Indian Girl's Sail by Aune

After being shocked with the two incidents related to Johan and the letters, Hilmar, Betty's cousin, comes and tells Bernick that Olaf has run away by Indian Girl after he

does not find Betty in the house. He tells Bernick that he found Olaf's note for him which announces Olaf's plan to hide among the cargo until the ship reaches the open sea. Bernick is really shocked with the news. He immediately orders Krap to stop the ship, but it is impossible because it has sailed. Bernick starts to be panic. Rummel, Sanstad, Hilmar, and the rests of people in the house except Bernick, Krap, and Aune, who do not know that the ship is not repaired well, try to calm down Bernick that his son is just fine because soon after the ship arrives in America, the pilot sends Olaf back. Bernick feels depressed then and feels no support from Betty because she is not in the house and he feels that he cannot be able to face the procession which comes with its big illumination with the words "long live Karsten Bernick, Pillar of our Society!" (1961:93). Suddenly, Betty comes in and tells him that she has saved Olaf:

MRS. BERNICK. Karsten, Karsten, do you know...?

BERNICK. Yes, I know....As for you...you never see anything....Can't even keep a proper eye on him, his own mother...!

MRS. BERNICK. Oh, please do listen...!

BERNICK. Why didn't you watch him? Now I've lost him. Give him back to me, if you can! (1961:91).

MRS. BERNICK. Yes, I can! I've got him!

BERNICK. You've got him!

THE MEN. Ah!

HILMAR TONNESEN. Ah, I thought as much.

MARTHA BERNICK. You've got him back, Karsten!

LONA HESSEL. Now you must make him really yours.

BERNICK. You've got him! Is it true what you say? Where is he?

MRS. BERNICK. I'm not telling you till you've forgiven him.

BERNICK. Forgiven...! But how did you find out...?

MRS. BERNICK. Do you think a mother doesn't see things? I was scared to death you'd find out. A couple of words he let slip yesterday....Then when his room was empty, and his rucksack and his clothes had gone....

BERNICK. Yes, yes...?

MRS. BERNICK. I ran and got hold of Aune. We went out in his sailing boat. The American ship was just about to sail. But thank God, we got there just in time...got on board...searched the hold...and found him. Oh, Karsten, please, you mustn't punish him!

BERNICK. Betty!

MRS. BERNICK. Nor Aune, either!

BERNICK. Aune? What do you know about him? Is the *Indian Girl* under sail again?

MRS. BERNICK. No, that's just it....

BERNICK. Go on! Go on!

MRS. BERNICK. Aune was just as shaken as I was. The search took time, it was getting dark, and the pilot was beginning to object. So Aune took it upon himself...in your name...

BERNICK. Well?

MRS. BERNICK. ...to hold the ship till tomorrow.

KRAP. H'm.... (1961:94).

BERNICK. Oh, how incredibly lucky!

MRS. BERNICK. You are not angry?

BERNICK. Oh, what stupendous good lucky, Betty!

RUMMEL. Oh, you take things far too much to heart.

HILMAR TONNESEN. As soon as there's any question of a bit of a tussle with the elements...ugh!

KRAP (*by the window*). The procession's just come in the garden gate, Mr. Bernick.

BERNICK. Yes, let them come now (1961:95).

From the quotation on above, we can see that Bernick is very satisfied that his son has been saved by his wife. He also becomes more satisfied hearing his wife's explanation that Aune has postponed the ship's sail. Bernick feels reborn then because he has been saved from doing more faults in his life and he feels ready to face the procession. On the procession, Bernick admits to the townspeople that he is the one who bought all the properties along the railway and he tells them that Johan goes back to America with Dina.



He also admits that he was the guilty one who had the affair with the married woman and he uses Johan's absence to cover up the bankruptcy of his company. The following quotation is one of Bernick's confessions about his past wrongdoings:

BERNICK. Yes, my friends, I was the guilty one, and he went away. Those evil lying rumours which later got about-it is no longer humanly possible to disapprove them. Not that I should be the one to complain about that. Fifteen years ago I rose to the top on these rumours. Whether I am now to fall by them, is for each one of you to decide for himself (1961:101).

In the quotation, we can see that Bernick tells the truth about the wrongdoings to the townspeople. Yet, since he knows that the society is conservative, he realizes that after the confession, they will not trust him anymore. He will no longer be a pillar and even to his disadvantage, he will be disliked by them and might be isolated socially by them. Yet, after the confession, the thesis writer also can see that Bernick's married life is recovered because there is honesty between him and Betty since there is not guilty feeling in her heart anymore because of Johan and Lona, and as wife and husband, they can share and give supports to each other.