

ON CRIME: THE PHILOSOPHY OF FOUR

Raskolnikov

Evidence 1: "Kill her, take her money and with the help of it devote oneself to the service of humanity and the good of all. What do you think, would not one tiny crime be wiped out by thousands of good deeds?" (Part I, Ch. VI)

Evidence 2: " "But, perhaps, there is no God at all," Raskolnikov answered with a sort of malignance, laughed and looked at her." (Part IV, Ch. IV)

Analysis: For the most part Raskolnikov looks upon society with disdain, and this subsequently alienates him from the rest of the community. He understands his intellectual ability, and therefore places himself above a number of the societal norms (e.g. the murders). Throughout the novel, Raskolnikov holds that the murders were justified, yet suffers from a number of internal fits that severely trouble him, exemplifying the core concept that Raskolnikov almost acts like two separate characters.

Razumikhin

Claim: A sociable and polite man, Razumikhin is very optimistic about his own life and Raskolnikov's future as well. Although he has the same struggles as Raskolnikov, with the lack of work and money, he has a very positive outlook on his future.

Evidence 1: "I'll stay with him... I won't leave him for a moment; devil take all the people at my place, let them climb the walls! They've got my uncle for president." (Dostoevsky 197)

Evidence 2: " "And insulting, insulting! I understand you! But... since we've started talking openly now (and it's excellent that we're talking openly; I'm glad!)- I will now confess to you straight out that I've noticed it in them for some time, this idea, all along; in the tiniest sense, naturally; a creeping suspicion-but why even a creeping one! How dare they!... What, just a poor student, crippled by poverty and hypochondria, on the verge of cruel illness and delirium..." (Dostoevsky 268)

Analysis: In the both the quotes, it is seen how dedicated and caring Razumikhin is towards Raskolnikov. The fact that he would sacrifice so much, including his family and friends, for Raskolnikov shows how strongly he feels about helping Raskolnikov get back on his feet. Not only is he caring towards Raskolnikov, he is also defensive and protective of him. In the second quote, Razumikhin is filled with a sense of outrage that is not normal to him, which is illustrated through Dostoevsky choice of words and exclamatory phrases. Dostoevsky makes Razumikhin seem very grateful of the fact that he and Raskolnikov are friends, and Dostoevsky illustrates Razumikhin's disgust for how offensive the police and detective were. In other words, the emphasis of