

loyal to Louise and Helen rather than being loyal to God. He thinks that this is what God wants him to do.

Fatherhood:

Scobie had a daughter who died at a very young age (Holy Communion), this made his wife very unhappy. Scobie was also a spiritual father (father figure for his wife, lover, 6 year old child and Portuguese captain). Scobie feels a duty to be a father to those who are spiritually orphaned (no one to take care of him). Scobie imitates God 'Imitatio Dei'. Therefore Scobie is also guilty of this because he feels that without him, other people will be completely lost and helpless. Scobie is trying to lift a role which is too much for him (cannot carry it). Burden of responsibility is too heavy it is compared to a millstone.

Scobie is deeply religious but not pious; he interprets Christ's words to an extreme. He would sacrifice himself for others. He needs to play the role of a father on the earth which is impossible.

When Greene was working in Sierra Leone, his father died. He had received two telegrams, first saying that his father died and the other saying that his father is seriously ill. Scobie finds himself in the same situation with his daughter.

Father figure:

- Pg 112, he finds a girl who is dying and prays. "Father, give her peace. Take away my peace forever, but give her peace." Scobie asks God to give her eternal rest for exchange of his own soul (salvation). He asks God to damn him to save the child. The soul is the most precious treasure for Catholics.
- Through his job as a policeman, rather than being a normal job it is a job to protect others.
- He feels responsible to the captain of the Esperança when he finds a letter to his daughter. Scobie takes it and burns it, since he sympathizes with the captain, he pities him. This is what destroys him.

At the end of the book, Father Rank and Louise talk about Scobie, he thinks that Scobie won't be punished for what he did, he won't be sent to hell. God will be united with Scobie for doing his job on earth.

Sierra Leone – is a dangerous country but also a beautiful place. Was a colony of the British but the British are unhappy there. White people hate Africa but Scobie loves it. He's been there for 15 years; he didn't go to his

cat. He feels happy in his office but not at home because he is surrounded by his wife's misery. Louise loves accumulation; the house is filled with her possessions. The photographs show her that she has friends, while she doesn't. She has a picture of her daughter who died at school in England.

Scobie is not like the average man, he pities Louise because she's ugly. Love for him is pity and responsibility. Passion is the desire to look after them and be responsible (mistaken attitude).

The books become mouldy after a few days if not wiped.

This man carries a burden which no one should carry.

Louise was under a mosquito net and calls him 'Ticki' which he hates. He sees her as a joint of meat under a meat cover (cruel image)

Scobie desires death, it will solve his problems.

When he touched Louise, sweat formed because it is so hot. He explains to her that he will feel lost. Scobie doesn't want to retire, without his job he will die. He had made plans for them and daughter. But how he doesn't want to settle down with her only, he loves his daughter much more than her.

He is a catholic only for Louise, she is pious but Scobie is a man with a genuine sense of faith.

Page 16:

He explains why he is skipped, a lot of problems.

Reference to vulture (death) Scobie is exhausted (from trying to make Louise eat).

Page 17:

Scobie never really listened to his wife, because his main preoccupation is if his wife is happy or not. He is obsessed with making his wife happy; he only heard the distress in her voice. As long as she talked, he knew all was well it was silence that worried him.

He pitied Louise; he knows what she's going through because the natives did not like him when he arrived at Sierra Leone. He feels bound to her because he pities her ugliness.

Scobie will act as if he's her father. Scobie exaggerates his pity, he pities the planets, and he ultimately pities God. It is something that Scobie feels but cannot really do something about it.

Scobie is compared to an obedient boy. When his daughter was dying he wasn't there for her, he didn't want to take care of her, and do something useful.

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He was thankful that he didn't see his daughter die. He can't bare the fact that the little girl might die before him. He says that by carrying the weight for her, he will be a human being, he acts like Christ. He offers god his soul for the child.

Scobie is relieved that Helen is not dying. He sees her as a child. Scobie feels that he should protect her, he sees her as his daughter. Scobie knows that Wilson is a spy. Not having to love anyone and feel responsible for anyone makes him happy.

Scobie meets Helen, they talk she tells him about her childhood.... They are growing closer together, and he continues describing Helen as a child. He knows that something else is going on... See quotation on pg 126. He says that if someone would be looking at him, they would think that he is infatuated with Helen. He then looks at Helen as an adult and a widow, someone who has been very recently married. Scobie is gradually falling for her, his motive his bound to this obsession to look after pathetic people. Helen tells him that she likes him, but he sees her as a child. Scobie thinks that they like one another but they can never have anything between them since she is so young, since they were both married and they both felt secure together, since they both know that there will never be anything else between them but becoming closer. They tell each other that they are only friends. They were safely separated by a dead husband and a living wife. Scobie is about 50 and she is 19. Him seeing her as a child is a guarantee they'll never be anything between them. He offers to give her stamps to feel like her father.

He talks about happiness since he is becoming closer to Helen, but the ultimate happiness is solitude.

The letter of suicide of Pemberton is haunting him; he knows that if he kills himself he will finally be happy.

Wilson accuses Scobie of receiving a bribe and these have reached the commissioner. Colonel Wright and the commissioner interview Scobie about diamond smuggling... Scobie defends himself but does not come clean about him taking money from Yusef. He says that Yusef didn't give him money, since he wasn't given money, he was lent money. He didn't receive a bribe, he borrowed the money. He says that he knows how to deal with criminals as he has been working as a policeman for 15 years.

Scobie has lost his integrity by borrowing money from Yusef. He feels that he committed a crime and he is no longer the man of integrity he once valued himself to be. He is depressed because of his pity towards Louise. He felt that he wasn't breaking the law in front of the others, but he knows that he has lost his integrity.

Scobie will feel unavoidable that he can't do otherwise, he can't stop seeing Helen, and he can't escape that particular course of events. He feels depressed and guilty about it. He feels the same thing for borrowing the money; he knew he had to borrow the money for Louise to make her happy. Scobie feels that just as Yusef has trapped him, he himself has trapped Yusef; the marriage has been made by both of them. Scobie allowed Yusef to exploit his weakness.

Yusef admits that he has framed Tallit and that the diamonds were his. He says that he cannot delete certain pictures from his mind, the room in which his daughter died, Yusef's room in which he borrowed the money, the church that he married Louise in.... Yusef realizes that Scobie has something to hide, and doesn't want to tell the commissioner. Yusef blackmails Scobie that he will tell the commissioner. Yusef says that he will not tell them as yet, as he says that Scobie will go back to him for help.

He prays for Louise, that she is finally happy. Scobie will hurt Louise and she will come back, when he has an affair with Helen. He tells the priest that he doesn't know if he believes anymore, he tells him that in this country it is very easy to lose faith since it is very difficult to believe. Scobie start pitying god, he is vulnerable and way too open to the harm that humans can cause to him.

He gives Helen some stamps, and asks about her husband. He wants to grow closer to him, she admits to him that she wasn't close to him, but she was near really close to him. She says that it was too easy to get over him. Scobie

can't risk being suspected of diamond smuggling, this would be the end of him. Therefore he wants to get rid of Ali to remove any witnesses.

Scobie always saw himself as looking after people; he never thought that someone else would take care of him. Yusef writes a note to Ali to make him come to the house, but Ali doesn't read, the ring can't come off his finger so they decide to give the broken rosary, so that he would trust the situation. Scobie wonders about the cost of it all; Yusef taking care of him. He has betrayed God once more in the church when he received the host. Ali will be perceived as the betrayed Christ. He thinks that he has become a hard man, once you commit a sin like betraying God, you can do it again and again, and then become used to it. His acts of damnation, regular sins have rotted him from the inside. The host should represent grace but the host becomes a seed of rot.

Scobie suspects that there is something wrong with Yusef's plan but he doesn't ask about it. Later he would regret it. It tells Yusef that he must know his plan but Yusef changes subject. Scobie feels that he is lost, totally immersed in sin and corruption and there is no way out. Scobie is really worried about Ali. He thinks about how he looked after him. He thinks of all the things that pushed him down, they all seemed like shadows. He thinks he is in a nightmare. They were not reality, just shadows. He wakes up and worries.

He hears a cry of pain, someone has just been killed. Scobie rushes out of the room and he knows that something happened to Ali. Scobie blames himself for the murder. He has unwittingly played a part in the murder of Ali, and as if he has chosen the crime scene. The body is compared to a broken watch spring. It has been robbed on life. They have cut its throat; he thinks that he can trust him now. He thinks that he is the man responsible. He thinks that he has become so evil, he cannot feel any pain.

Now that he has used Yusef to help him, he has made another mistake that costed the life of another man. Scobie regrets betraying God and Ali. Scobie intends to stick to his plan and make sure that Helen and Louise aren't affected by his mistakes. He's only making his situation more difficult.

Scobie is tempted to make things right, by leaving Helen and being faithful to Louise. This is motivated by the murder of Ali. It is not really a nightmare of life but a nightmare of pity. The cheating and loyalty, the love, all of that needs to stop. However once again pity takes over, as soon as he sees the pathetic face, he feels that he needs to protect her. We see evidence that Scobie is always ready to take responsibility for other people sadness no happiness,

Scobie believes that what he feels towards these two women is love. However he had suspected that his love was not really love but pity. He explains what love is to Wilson, what attracts him to the women is their failure, the growing old, fatter and uglier.

He feels that he is beyond salvation and God's grace. He cannot be saved, it is all too late. God cannot be trusted to save him. Scobie decides to take it upon himself to save others (example of hubris). He tells Louise that he loves her, when he left, he felt alone. This was freezing-point; he had to decide what he is going to do. Solitude talks to him, and tells him there is time for forgiveness.

He takes the pills, and starts losing consciousness. At the last moments of his life, he was still obsessed with the fact that he has to save others. He feels that he needs to help the person asking for help. Just before he hits the floor, he dies. The saint whose name nobody can remember is compared to Scobie. He saved others, but no one will really remember him, all his efforts were futile and ignored. No one really recognizes such foolish acts.

Scobie didn't really love her, he was really lying all about it. No autopsy was carried out since the body starts rotting as soon as the person dies because of the climate and Dr Trevis said that he died of a coma.

Vultures are a symbol of death. The climate can destroy the white people. Louise doesn't believe that Scobie committed suicide because that would mean rejecting God for eternity.

Helen is devastated by the loss of her lover. He has left emptiness in her life. She wants to be alone.

Father Rank questions the idea, whether suicides are punished with eternal damnation. This is Greene's way of showing that the dogma might be wrong.