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Revenge quotes from a long way gone

The following quotes are important at various points of the story (Sarah Crichton Books, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007): 1. We must strive to be like the moon. When Ishmael asked his grandmother what the old man meant by this quote, she said it was a saying that served to remind people to always be on their best behavior and be good to others. People complain when there's too much sun and the weather when it's too cold. However, no one grumbles when the moon shines, because many lucky things have happened in the moonlight. 2. This is one of the consequences of the civil war. People stop trusting each other, and every stranger becomes an enemy. Here Ishmael emphasizes how relationships with other people have become damaged as a result of war.) 3. Is there an end to this frenzy, and is there any future for him beyond the bushes? Ishmael asks himself this question as he faces the horrors of war and is separated from his family.) 4. If you live, there is hope for a better day and something good to happen. Here Ishmael remembers his father's words as a mantra of hope.) 5. My children, this land has lost its good heart. These are the words of an old man who gives the boys yams and says in one sense the truth of their new existence.) 6. The boys are not soon enough and are once again overwhelmed by the men of a village. This time, they're a long way from Mattru Jong. A long way away. (p. 65; These words of despair give rise to the title of Ishmael's memoir.) 7. Ishmael feels like they have no control over their future. They just know how to survive. (p. 87; That's the point that a soldier who is forced to fight and kill brought them.) 8. Along the way, they see two dead bodies that cause Ishmael to vomit. One of the soldiers smiled and said, Thou hast accustomed to it. Everybody does. This is the most dreadful aspect of such a war that is getting used to violence and death.) 9. One Sunday morning the corporal gives them the day off. He says, if you're religious, I mean a Christian, your Lord worships today because you may not have another chance. Here we see the ultimate truth of war for a soldier.) 10. On a typical raid, Ishmael and the boys surround a rebel camp, waiting for the lieutenant order. Ishmael gets angrier and angrier when he comes to believe that it looks just like the rebels who killed his family and played cards in the ruins of town. So he shoots as much as he can, even if it doesn't make him feel any better. Here's the truth of revenge that it doesn't bring closure for the pain of loss.) 11. My team is my family, my gun is my provider and protector, and my rule must be killed or killed. Ishmael became a true soldier, trained to kill or be 12. These boys are rebels and soon break out threats as well as hidden bayonets. Ishmael thinks that perhaps the post-ve foreigners thought that removing them from the war would reduce their hatred for the RUF. It didn't cross their minds that a change of environment wouldn't immediately make them normal boys; they are dangerous and brainwashed to kill. Ishmael has these thoughts after getting into a battle with rebel boys at the rehab center.) 13. At night some of them wake up from nightmares, sweat, scream and punch their own heads to drive out the images that keep tormenting them, even if they are no longer asleep. That's what many of the boy soldiers experience as they are in the midst of rehabilitation.) 14. It is not thy fault, thou knoweth. It's really t. You'll get it. These are the words the staff members at Benin House constantly repeat to the boys there to help them come to terms with what they did.) 15. Though he heard that phrase of every staff member, and he was always hating it, he begins to believe it today. I feel like there's nothing left for me to live for. I have no family, it's just me. No one will be able to tell my stories about my childhood. Ishmael reveals this to Esther as he slowly begins to come to come with his loss.) 17. We must do it again. Laughing like this is good for the soul. Ishmael's Uncle tells him this as a comfort after he came to live there.) 18. Ishmael is so happy to meet people outside of Sierra Leone: for if he is killed when he returns home, he knows that a reminder of his existence somewhere in the world will be alive. (p. 200; These words echo our age-old must be remembered.) 19. They ran so far away from battle, only to be caught back in it. There's nowhere to go from here. Ishmael has this thought when war comes to Freetown.) Page 2 Study Guide: A Long Way Away by Ishmael Beah: Book Summary Previous Page | Table of Contents | Next page Downloadable/Printable Version A long way away Literary Element Analysis symbolism/MOTIFS/METAPHORS/IMAGES/SYMBOLS Other elements present in this novel include symbols, metaphors and images. Symbols are using some unrelated idea to represent something else. Metaphors are direct comparisons made between characters and ideas. Images are the use of figures of speech or clear description in writing to produce spiritual photos. There are many of these used by the author like these METAPHORS: 1. The chapter opens with Ishmael once again fighting a dream. This time, it's not something that imagines his mind, but an actual memory mixed with his imagination. He pushes a heavy carriage with a dead body into it, and there are other bodies and die all around him. He doesn't know why he takes this particular body to the cemetery, but he pushes up, oblivion to the cries of the dying. The body is wrapped in a white bed sheet and after Ishmael pulls it to the ground, he begins to unravel it and up that there are bullets all the way from his feet to his neck. He lifts the cloth and sees his own face. The dream is a metaphor for his fears for himself. 2. A boy playing with a stone reminds Ishmael of the time when Junior tried to teach him how to hit a stone over the river. He said it was magic to let the stone run on water. However, no matter how he tried for Ishmael to do it and to try, swirled over his water bucket and fell into the river. Junior sent home and filled both buckets. When he got back to the house, Junior Ishmael looked carefully to make sure he wasn't hurt, and when he finished, he tagged his little brother. That makes Ishmael want Junior to raise his head and ask his little brother if he's fine. It's a metaphor for civilization, proper behaviour and family love. 3. When all the people hide, nature becomes afraid of what shall happen. The crickets and birds appear to stop singing and darkness seems to be coming very quickly. The moon is not in the air and the sky is tight. Fear is everywhere. 4. The boys start walking back to Mattru Jong. When they arrive, it's empty and they sit around the fire until dawn and never speak a word. Sogóre they finally start discussing where they are going. It's like they woke up to a nightmare or dream that gave them a different take on life and the situation they're in. Ishmael also sees firecrackers in almost every village, but he just can't climb those trees. Then, one day, he's very tired and hungry and before he knows what he's doing, he mounts the coconut tree as fast as he can. He just gets off so fast with the firecrackers he picked. He snacks on the meat of the fruit and the milk and rests in a hammock he finds. Once rested, he gets up and tries to climb the tree again, but is absolutely unable to do so, just as before. The realisation of this makes him start laughing uncontrollably and he thinks he could have written a science paper on this experiment. It's a metaphor for how we can find the courage when we need it most.) 6. Ishmael is reminded of his childhood and a story his grandmother told about how wild boars came to hate people. A human hunter knew about a plant that allowed him to turn himself into a wild boar. He would attract real pigs where he could kill them after changing himself back to a human being. One of the pigs saw him eat the plant and the pigs then destroyed each plant so that the hunter could not find himself back. They then broken him It is a perfect metaphor for Ishmael's own countrymen who turned against the innocent among them. 7. One night when he is outside in a town square, he looks into the sky and sees the thick clouds trying to cover the moon, and yet the moon reappears and again to shine all night long. He thinks that somehow, his journey is like that of the moon, although he has even more clouds coming his way to dull his spirit. 8. They keep walking mostly at night now. It feels like they're walking with the moon. It follows them behind the clouds, waiting for them at the end of dark forests. However, its brightness becomes dull as the nights pass and the shooting stars turn out to be the moon crying. It's as if the sky was telling them a story when the stars fell and clashed violently with each other as the moon hid behind the clouds to avoid seeing what was happening. 9. To Ishmael it is as if the bush had taken on a life of its own, as if it had captured the injured souls leaving from the dead. The branches of the bones seem to hold hands and bow in prayer. It's a metaphor for how people should behave when faced with the dead. 10. Ishmael has a different kind of nightmare. This time it starts with him and his brother, Junior, swimming at Mattru Jong and diving for oysters. They rush home with the oysters, but there's no one there. When he turns to ask Junior what's going on, Junior has also disappeared. Then he is suddenly surrounded by faceless people who start shooting, stabbing and cutting each other. He begins to cry as blood fills the room. Then he goes outside and finds all his family standing there. They don't seem to notice he's covered in blood. The rain comes and when the family enters, he stays in the rain to wash off the blood. This time, when he turns around, the house is gone too. It's a metaphor for the truth: Ishmael will never see his family again. Previous Page | Table of Contents | Next PageDownloadable/Printable Version a Long Way Away by Ishmael Beah Free BookNotes Summary Summary