

Chapter 25: The Answer to Communism ...

Chapter 25 begins with the protagonist and Resi casually making their way back toward their attic after a long evening. Their walk is aimless and filled with small interactions, as they take their time to talk and occasionally stop for drinks, allowing the night to unfold without much haste or urgency. In a local bar, Resi steps away to the ladies' room, leaving the protagonist alone with a local barfly who, noticing his quiet demeanor, decides to engage him in conversation. The barfly, with a certain sense of confidence, asks an unexpected question about the solution to communism, sparking the protagonist's curiosity but also his uncertainty. The protagonist, unsure how to respond, simply expresses his confusion and reluctance to offer any opinion on a matter that seems too complex and layered to be resolved in a single conversation.

However, the barfly is not deterred, and with certainty in his voice, he confidently proposes that the answer to communism lies in a movement called "Moral Rearmament." The protagonist, intrigued but skeptical, presses him for more details, questioning what exactly this movement entails. The barfly enthusiastically explains that Moral Rearmament is centered on four main principles: absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness, and love, and that it offers a solution to the societal and political challenges posed by communism. He speaks as if these ideals could indeed bring about substantial change, but the protagonist, hearing these grand ideas, can't help but remain cynical. With a hint of sarcasm, the protagonist wishes the movement success but voices his doubts about whether such lofty ideals can realistically change anything in the chaotic world they live in.

Their discussion quickly shifts as the pair moves to a different bar. Here, they encounter a man who boasts about his remarkable ability to satisfy seven different women in one night—provided each one is "really different." This bold and somewhat absurd claim triggers a reflection in the protagonist, who is struck by the sheer audacity and superficiality of the man's boast. The protagonist can't help but feel a sense of disbelief at the grandiosity of the man's words, and his skepticism is evident as he reflects on the ridiculousness of such a statement. The boast becomes a symbol of the larger absurdities of human desires and the often shallow pursuits that many people engage in, reflecting the chaotic nature of the world they are navigating. The protagonist's tone, tinged with cynicism and bemusement, underscores his critical perspective on human nature, as he finds humor and absurdity in the egotistical claims of others while simultaneously feeling disillusioned by them.

This chapter serves as a deeper exploration of the protagonist's disillusionment with both the larger ideological movements and the individual ambitions that people seem to chase. His reflections highlight the contradictions within society, where lofty ideals, such as those proposed by the barfly, often seem impractical and out of touch with the reality of the world. The protagonist's sarcastic responses to these ideals reflect his inability to reconcile such grand aspirations with the practical challenges of human nature. The encounter with the man who claims to satisfy seven different women in a night further underscores this theme of superficiality, where people's pursuits are often shallow and self-serving, rather than meaningful or grounded in anything of lasting value.

The protagonist's tone throughout the chapter reflects a deeper frustration with the societal system that produces such contradictions. While people are eager to promote ideals that are far beyond their reach, they are also consumed by personal pursuits that seem utterly disconnected from any deeper sense of purpose. These encounters—whether with the barfly or the man boasting about his conquests—serve as a reflection of the fractured world in which the protagonist exists. The protagonist's internal dialogue, filled with skepticism and cynicism, offers a lens through which the reader can understand the complexities of disillusionment in a world where ideals clash with the realities of human desires.

Through this narrative, the chapter reflects broader themes of idealism versus reality, the absurdity of human ambition, and the inherent contradictions that define the human experience. The protagonist's critical

perspective on the world, shaped by his interactions with others, reveals his struggle to find meaning in a society that often seems disconnected from any true sense of purpose. His reflections on the Moral Rearmament movement and the boastful claims of others illustrate the challenges of reconciling lofty ideals with human limitations, offering the reader a glimpse into the protagonist's own internal conflict as he navigates a world full of contradictions, false promises, and self-delusion.