

THE SETBACKS OF UNFAITHFULNESS IN A. S. OGUNDIMU'S BEHIND THE MASK

Sidi Chabi Moussa

*Senior Lecturer of African Literature, Department of Anglophone Studies, Faculty of Letters, Arts and Human Sciences,
University of Parakou (Up), Benin*

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ABSTRACT

This article aims at examining the setbacks of unfaithfulness Ina. S. Ogundimu's work, Behind the Mask. Unfaithfulness has become a phenomenon which undermines the society and it prevails in many couples nowadays. This situation is due to the fact that in most couples, husbands are not faithful to their faithful wives. So, this phenomenon deserves close attention. Hence the necessity to examine the phenomenon as it occurs in the novel under study in order to find out its potential causes and consequences. The methodological approaches used in this paper are the phenomenological and descriptive approaches. The focus of this research work is limited to a critical appraisal of the novel under study with illustrations. The study has found that unfaithfulness is a very bad practice in any couple because both husband and wife always promise faithfulness to each other during their wedding. The findings of the study clearly show that unfaithfulness exposes families to dislocation. The literary theories applied to this study are feminism, a literary theory which aims at revaluing women's image, and the Marxist approach which focuses on class struggle. Feminism here intends to revalue the image of the protagonist of the novel, Peju, by restoring the peace that she has lost in her home due to her husband's unfaithfulness. On the other hand, the class struggle here lies in the fact that men are opposed to women through the characters of Kukoyi and Peju as a couple. The paper recommends and concludes that unfaithfulness is a phenomenon which is very harmful to society and that it should to be eradicated.

KEYWORDS: *Setbacks, Unfaithfulness, Couples, Husbands, Divorce*