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Sub :- English (B.A, Part - III, Paper - VI)

Topic :- The Heart of the Matter by Graham Greene

\* Character of Yusuf from "The Heart of the Matter."

= Graham Greene is undisputedly acknowledged as a teller of interesting stories. He had "a certain vague ambition to create something legendary out of contemporary thriller." Naturally, in almost all his stories can be seen violence, crime and excitement. As a result of this we find some negative characters also, who are involved in crime and violence. In "The Heart of Matter" there are two such characters, Yusuf and Tallet.

Yusuf is one of the Syrian traders. He is a prosperous merchant in the west African colony. He is the owner of a chain of shops and offices but actually he is engaged in the illegal trade of smuggled diamonds which he sends to Portugal from where they are sent to Germany. When he first appears in the novel, he is seen sleeping in the car which has gone out of order on the way. He is

described as a fat and clumsy person. In the novel he is portrayed as a blackmailer a hypocrite, a schemer and liar.

Yusuf is a great hypocrite. From the very beginning of the novel he says to Scobie that he wants to become his friend and that he considers friendship above all things. But in the name of friendship he betrays the trust of Scobie and cheats him, even blackmails him. Again and Again Yusuf assures Scobie that he is a well-wisher and that he can do anything for him - "I would do a lot for you, Major Scobie". He even offers a loan on a very low rate of interest. And by doing so, he finally trapped him in his net. Behind all his offers of help there is a motive. His purpose is to use Scobie for his profit. He does not have any hesitation in asking Scobie to hand over the packet to the captain of the ship. He is in possession of a love letter of Scobie which he had written to Helen, he blackmails the honest officer and makes him his accomplice in his criminal business.

~~Peltar~~ earlier in the case of Talihi's cousin she threatens Scobie that he could report the matter to the commissioner that Scobie had accepted a bribe from him and that he and Scobie together had ~~formed~~ formed a plot to get Talit arrested. Yusuf is a business rival of another

Syrian ~~leader~~ trader Taliit. Yusuf makes a number of plans to see the undoing to Taliit. He puts pressure upon Scobie to take action against Taliit's cousin, who was sailing to Lisbon with a parrot in which there is diamond. But Yusuf himself very shrewdly substituted the parrot with an ~~new~~ another parrot. Scobie finds the report to be correct but on investigation he finds himself in an embarrassing situation.

Yusuf is a man of no moral scruples. This is evidenced more explicitly when Scobie goes to him in his most tense moments for some comfort, ~~he~~ advises him that he should not care about a woman. He says, "I don't care a damn, I sleep with whom I please. You take or leave me - I don't care a damn".

Yusuf, in fact is a cruel person, he is devoid of human feelings. He is utterly ruthless and even brutal in his temperament. This is seen when Scobie tells him that he no longer has any faith in his boy-servant, 'Ali'. Yusuf assures Scobie that he will take care of the matter but very cruelly he gets Ali murdered. This incident shakes Scobie to the depth of his heart.

This act of Yusuf makes him the villain of the story. On the whole he appears to be a thorough scoundrel and a rogue ~~who~~ who was equally responsible for the misfortunes of Major Scobie.