

The Basement Room

Explanation ⑥

"There had been things between them is involved."

These lines have been extracted from the short story, The Basement Room written by Graham Greene. In the given lines the author says that Philip was retreating away from life. His experiences of life were bitter and repellent. He was trying to forget everything - even the sweet memories of life that were associated with Mr. Baines. His state of mind may be compared with that of a retreating army. As a retreating army destroys everything that might be useful to the enemy, it cuts the wires and destroys the bridges. Similarly, Philip, too, was destroying the ~~past~~ memories of the past. While an army is withdrawing, it might have missed anything, a beautiful morning spent in the park but it had no time to regret, because the army does not think about the temporary loss. The ultimate goal is to give priority to security over all other considerations. The world of the grown up, for Philip, had meant treachery, deceit, malice and nasty passions. Life had very unpleasant associations about it. So he wanted to forget everything. He wanted to forget ugly memories and associations.

Philip would forget even times memories and sweeter associations that he had with Mr. Baines. He loved Mr. Baines. But in this hasty retreat from life, he was retreating with no regrets. He did not mind the temporary losses. He was happy to retire safe into his own pure and innocent world. Life, for Philip, was too bitter to remember. There are old people who want to be carried along. Philip wanted to retreat completely away from life. He wanted to withdraw from the cares, the responsibilities and the relationship enjoyed in the past.

These lines very beautifully suggest the psychology of the ~~adult~~ child. The entire feeling of the child has been presented in very expressive language.