



Betrayal of Friendship in Aminatta Forna's "*Memory of Love*"

A. Malathi

Sri Sarada College for Women

This paper focuses on the betrayal of friendship on Aminatta Forna's *Memory of Love*. Friendship is one of the central themes, and how it takes just a moment, a misunderstanding, a cruel coincidence, to tear them apart. Aminatta Forna tells a beautiful story of love, loss, and betrayal of friendship of Elias Cole and Julius. Aminatta Forna uses the voice of one of the main characters to tell the story of Elias Cole, who is an elderly former dean and university professor. On his deathbed, he decides to tell his story to a psychologist, Adrian. He narrates his past life and selfish desires. His memories are not about the civil war, rather the 1960s. His narration of the story is an important one, and his narration is a greater part is done in retrospect. When he moves to the past, he recounts the selfish desires that he had for Saffia, who is the wife of Julius. He encounters his personal life experiences when he falls in love with his colleague's wife, Saffia, which led to an act of betrayal that resulted in the imprisonment and death of Julius. The entire narration of his story to Adrian is an effort to justify the act of betrayal.

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In the mental hospital, where lots of people are getting treatment for their mental disorders. Mentally challenged patients get their counseling through the psychologist, Dr. Adrian. Likewise, one of the main characters, Elias Cole, who is getting his treatment by Doctor Adrian. Elias Cole narrates his stories to Adrian

In the atmosphere of the room the memories of a man float and form. The man in the bed is telling a story.

His name is Elias Cole.

Adrian listens. He is new here. (01)

For thirty years, Elias Cole and his friends Saffia, Julius, and Vanessa have meet them for the first time. The four old friends gathered themselves at the university, canteen and this meet is their first meet. Elias Cole falls in love with Saffia, but she does not love him. Saffia gets a marriage with Julius. Elias Cole is often forces to think of Saffia and of her beauty. The rapid successions that her expressions as she listened to a story. At such times, Saffia's face has extra-ordinary mobility. She is much too kind to talk, but she is a listener by nature. Elias Cole has let his conversation with Saffia run through his mind like a looped tape. Elias Cole likes to meet Saffia without the presence of Julius. He does not like it when Julius and Saffia show their romance.

Elias Cole often visits Julius's house. One day, Saffia is alone in the house. At that time, Elias Cole arrives there to meet Julius. Elias knocks on the door and Saffia opens the door because Julius has not yet return from the university. Elias mesmerised by the beauty of Saffia and he watch her affectionately. Julius gets back from the university with his friends Ade, Yansanehn and Kekura Conteh. Julius is surprise to see Elias in his house. Saffia has greets them with familiarity. Julius bent over and kissed the top of her head. Saffia returns from the kitchen with three beers and glasses on a tray. Julius has produces extra chairs for them. They spent their evening happily and they have a conversation about the moon landing. Elias doesn't remember what they discuss that night at Saffia and Julius's house because they are all drunk.

Next they are meet themselves on July 20th, 1969 at the Ocean Club for a party. Elias Cole, Julius, Saffia, Kekura, and Ade are participate in the party. "The Ocean Club. Let me sketch it for you. A semicircular bar. A dance floor, vast and open to the sky. Sometimes they played live music there. Tables scattered all around." (131) They are enjoy their party with music and dance, as well as with dinner and drinks. At that time, they are hearing the news of Apollo 11's progress on the radio. They are still at the Ocean Club when the announcement comes that the lunar module will soon make an attempt to land. Elias Cole can see the water, faintly phosphorescent, advancing and retreating to the call of the very moon upon whose surface mankind will shortly arrive. Everybody the world over knows where the first man walks on the moon. He always say that he is at a party with Julius and Saffia. After the party, Elias Cole returns home alone. "Once I crawled out and vomited into the toilet. I went back to bed and curled in the foetal position. At some point I slept." (138). The next morning, Elias Cole receives the call from Saffia that "Julius has been arrested". (139) Elias Cole drives to Saffia's house to ask what has happened. Saffia says to him that two men are arrive at her house in the wake of the party, just after the last of the guests have departed.

No reason had been given for the arrest, no warrant, no explanation. Julius protested, of course, but in the end had seen no other choice but to comply. (139)

Elias Cole is arrested the next day after the aforementioned incident. They have push him inside the prison. According to the arrest warrant of Julius, Yansanehn, Kekura, for whatever reason Elias Cole is also arrest for the connection with those three people. But he does not know what they are involved in. The man is short, with very black skin, dressed in a charcoal-grey suit with short sleeves, and sits in front of Elias Cole. The man's name is Johnson. He is investigates Elias Cole about Julius, who is his friend. Johnson asks Elias Cole, who has publishes a small article on politics. He has a puzzle on him "as unreadable and unpredictable as a cat" (186). He says that he has makes not any attempt to publish any articles on politics or write anything of

any sort, and he does not involve himself in politics. Johnson has looks down and read the paper which is in his hand, The title of the paper is 'Reflection on Changing Political Dynamics' which has be submit as the faculty journal. "That's the title of one of my papers", I said. 'I submitted it our journal at the university. It was turned down" (186). Johnson asks him if he is the publisher of the article, which is about the tract of politics. "'yes', I conceded. And added, 'It's an academic paper, not a manifesto. Read it and you 'll understand perfectly.'"(186) Johnson picks up the file and he has holds the edge of the file between his thumb and forefinger. He has demonstrates its flimsiness.

Elias Cole concentrates on rehearse the very small details of certain uncontroversial constitutional changes and the creation of the instrumental state in the late 1950s. "I steered clear of mentioning names. This is a small county, you never knew who was related to whom." (186) Elias Cole speaks to Johnson about the paper, revises, edits, and modifs main points of the paper, which is publish by Elias Cole. All the time, Elias Cole has an awareness of Johnson's eyes upon him. Elias Cole repeated himself once or twice, over the effects of the Stevenson Constitution in shift the power to the country that is control and protect by a more powerful country. "Johnson continued to engage my gaze: 'well done, Mr. Cole,' and he gave me one of his pared-down smiles." (187) Elias Cole has an unaware of the pearls of sweat that he has break upon his eyebrows. Now, he feels a drop begins its descent down his temple. Elias Cole knows that he does not speak a single untruth and somehow that he has fails to answer for the question which is raise by Johnson.

Again, Elias Cole reviews his conversation with Johnson. He thinks carefully about the file that Johnson gives him. It is nothing more than his employment and social records, which he has acquired without difficulty. "The title of the paper – how had Johnson come to have knowledge of that? Who had supplied it? I checked myself. I was beginning to think like Johnson." (189) The paper has unremarkable work of university. Moreover, the paper is mention as an employment record. Yet it is an unpublished paper. "How could it have acquired such status?"(189) Johnson does not want to understand Elias Cole. Johnson is can't change his thoughts about Elias Cole's has publish the illegal article. He feels that somebody has uses his name in the wrong way.

Elias Cole has very much annoys himself because of those terrible incidents in which some unremembered crimes have come to light and some dreadful acts for which he knows himself to be responsible. Elias Cole has all the evidence in his heart. Elias Cole's dean has come to the police station where Elias Cole is arrested. After see his dean that, Elias relief from all his collapses. Dean has explains some of the matter to him. Elias has tells him that he is one of the most reliable members of the faculty. "As a result he has been kind enough to allow the use of his office for us to have this conversation." (190) Dean says to Elias Cole that the policemen are take severe actions for the illegal publications. He says to Elias Cole that it seems to be someone who has publishes the illegal articles, and they put the blame on him.

Elias Cole starts to read the article that is gives by his dean. While reading the article that his heart feels as an electrical jolt. The article is entitle as, 'A Black Man on the Moon'. Elias Cole's article is entitled as 'Reflections on Changing Political Dynamics'. But, here someone has writes the article and mention in the article that it writes by Elias Cole. The title 'A Black Man on the Moon' article, is against the government and its laws. For this reason, Elias has arrest by the policemen. Here Elias is punishes for without doing any immoral activities. The Dean asks him to read the article because it contains a pretence, which means people believe something is true when in reality it is not. "Put plainly, it consisted of a sustained attack upon the government, on the regime's failure to observe basic human rights during their in power" (191). The relevance of the headline is to indicate to the reader how distant the country's people as a nation are from such an achievement. Elias Cole recognises that Julius has betrayed his friendship with him. Julius has publishes the article 'A Black Man on the Moon'. Julius tackles Elias Cole in the case of illegal publications. These kinds of articles are the reason for the beginning of the unstable political climate, which gradually develops into a civil war.

In the mental hospital, Adrian asks Elias about his friend Julius. Adrian asks him whether he is angey with Julius. He says that he is disappoints in Julius. Julius presents himself as a friend of Elias Cole. Every day, Julius takes a drive to work. As well as, both of them are go to play gambling together. Julius has borrows his office's typewriter. "And he never trusted me enough to tell me." (311)

'He betrayed you?'

'Exactly.'

'But you were betraying him,'

So fast it comes straight off the back of Adrian's words, the old man snaps, 'Julius's betrayal of me was far greater.'(311)

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