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### A Struggle between Warring Worlds

There is a point in one's life when an imperative decision needs to be made" here is a time for one to leave his comfortable shelter and venture out into a world of harsh realities" Just as a young adult leaves everything he has ever known for the first time and heads off to college, he approaches a new and unfamiliar world" The familiar world that one leaves behind begins to clash with the new one presented" All of the customs and familiar changes between one and his old environment now seem foreign and strange, reminiscent" (however, this new culture brings new conflict" to which world does one belong) In the novel, "Mud Woman's First Encounter with the World of Money and Business," two clashing worlds emerge, highlighting the varying approaches that the speaker and the Mud Woman take to find which world they belong to"

In the novel, "Mud Woman's First Encounter with the World of Money and Business," the tension between the two worlds of the now-familiar city life and the reservation life that she is nostalgic for affects the way the speaker navigates through each" This tension is caused by differing values between the two worlds" In the city, the trite society the speaker has succumbed to revolves around money and useless materialism" She explains that although we made better money " " " it got sucked up by the city by cable t"v" by sparkling water by lunches in cute places by drinking in quaint bars by instead of home life we did by on the reservation" The speaker's lines 18-29 : " All of her hard-earned money gets sucked back into the centrifuge of the city" ; living the wasteful high life with high food high medical high entertainment does not help the speaker's

original intent of starting a new and better life for herself. Money is wasted in this viscous cycle in which people made more money than they've ever made before but felt poorer. In the rush of the city life, the speaker emphasizes the lack of importance in relationships between family and friends because it is intensely focused on the material aspect of living. As money drives this society, the simplicity of the reservation life to the speaker becomes more enticing. In the reservation, she concedes that although we only got one TV channel, we visited with relatives more often. The intimacy between people is long missed. Even though there was no place to eat on the reservation except a pool hall with chips, and there was only one movie house in town, nothing good ever showed, the cost of living was lower and more of one's time was spent with others rather than on working to get a bit of money that ends up being taken away by the city. Compared to the city life that always seems to revolve around income tax, hoping to get a little something back and high spending, OrthSun admits, how she hated living on the reservation but now it doesn't look so bad. She admits that after a tour of exploring both worlds, she would rather return to the world she has tried to run away from. The simplicity of the reservation calls her back.

In "Mud Woman," the two worlds of the confusing city life and the familiar reservation life collide, leaving Mud Woman vulnerable. Mud Woman, who enters this new business world, is ready to share a part of herself with it, looking to start anew and to start her exploration of the world she belongs to. When she arrives to the gallery to start her tour into the business world, immediately she is the center of what she's new to be real. She was shifting with each moment. The two worlds begin to collide. The gallery owner, whom Mud Woman first meets, represents the materialistic business world that cares only about the superficial and profitable importance of a person when it comes to a business venture. Conversely, Mud Woman, in a genuine way through her mud figurines,

represents the unique natural culture and traditions from her reservation life" the business world works in a way that Mud Woman does not understand" in an obtrusive manner when introducing the rules of society to Mud Woman, the gallery owner arrogant! as she, first of all dear, do you have a resume? You know something written that would identify you to the public? 7 lines 1@220 : " As the gallery owner asks Mud Woman about her resume, she places before the rules of the business world, she only cares about how the public will respond to Mud Woman's artwork" the woman wants traditional Indian artwork to sell in her gallery because that is what is profitable unlike the strange different figurines that Mud Woman makes 7 line DB : " the woman does not believe there is an chance of opportunity for herself in Mud Woman's work. Set she buys a few of her pieces, if for some reason Mud Woman makes it big, she can be the first to say she discovered you! 0 7 lines D82D@ : " the gallery owner is purely self-interested and motivated only by profit ignoring all sense of Mud Woman's feelings" before she knows it, Mud woman, she's changed her work for the smaller sum that wholesale prices dictated 7 lines 9D299 : " During the period of this change, Mud Woman has no voice, she passively allows the business world to take advantage of her and her artwork" the wholesale prices of the traditional Indian artwork that Mud Woman's work is categorized in automatically dictate the value of her work. Mud Woman's unique and careful labor with the way she's concerned herself with the specific curves, bends and idiosyncrasies that made each piece her own, is pushed aside for a cheap buy by the business world 7 lines D29 : " Mud woman betrays this foreign world, realizes that she does not belong to it"

in , - p . / ut the relative distance between the speaker and each world affects the way she responds to the cultures of each" She is familiar with the customs of each world, the way business is conducted and the way society of the city life revolves around the ideas of money and materialism"

the way she knowledgeable lists and weighs the negatives of both worlds and reluctantly concedes to

rejoining the life of the reservation does not motivate one to feel for her individual circumstance because she is not left vulnerable like +aranlo2Morse's "Mud Women" his stoic distance that is created between the speaker and both of the environments she reflects on collectively holds an emotional negative connotation" She creates a negative image of both worlds bluntly listing the reservation's ,government commodities >that?" " " tasted like dog food" and the city that ,>had? high rent, high food >and? high medical" 7 lines B<2B= 1921< : " (er negative tone creates a cold atmosphere and a detachment in the relationship she has with both environments" Even though there is no emotional connection in the way the speaker ultimately decides that ,reservation doesn't look so bad" the speaker can easily decide which world she wants to belong to because she is informed 7 lines D92D= : " She has experienced both worlds and knows the truths of each"

Conversely in ,Mud Woman" the speaker is vulnerable as she experiences and responds to the business world for the first time" She does not know the harsh realities that the business world holds so different from her familiar customs on the reservation" She has always sold her artwork to those that know her on the reservation so the customs in that change of business are familiar to her" Now she is lost in a vicious world that thrives on taking advantage of those who are not informed" Her reservation life that she is familiar with becomes her home as ,she leaves? the city and the world of money and business behind" 7 +aranlo2Morse lines =12=B : " here is an intimate and emotional connection present with Mud Woman as she delves into this unfamiliar world with her heart held humbly open" When the stringent realities of the business world approach Mud Woman is left defenseless" Now that Mud Woman has experienced both worlds she returns home to the comfort of what she knows, realizing that the once promising city life is not for her"

Like the speaker in , - p . / ut" Mud Woman begins to regret the decision of entering the foreign city life centered around a money-hungry society" Between these clashing worlds the

simplicity of the reservation life prevails" Both Mud Woman and North Sun's speaker realize that the focus of the business world in society is out to get the individual" Both Mud Woman and the business world intimately and set harshly uses her beautiful talent and writes her off with a dollar sign amount that tells her how much she is worth" The clay figurines that are made by the very earth she distinguishes and calls herself by are labeled by a price sticker" After she is cast out of the shop, a part of her is gone I away with her clay figurines" North Sun's reflections are congruently similar in a more distant manner" She grows tired of the fast and manipulative city life that feeds on the monetary expenditures of unnecessary materialisms" Both regret leaving the peaceful simplicity of the reservation" Both of these women, the reservation will always be a place to call home"

Works Cited

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