

Spirituality in John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*

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Abstrak

Spiritualitas mengingatkan manusia untuk mengingat bahwa setiap orang memiliki kebebasan dari benda materiil apa saja. Di dalam sisi spiritual manusia, tidak ada belenggu dari keinginan materiil. Ada titik dalam otak manusia yang mengingatkan manusia untuk selalu yakin dan percaya pada takdir dan Tuhan. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah penguraian tentang bagaimana spiritualitas terlukis pada novel *Tortilla Flat* karya John Steinbeck dan bagaimana spiritualitas dapat membantu para karakter untuk menyelesaikan permasalahan mereka dalam novel *Tortilla Flat* karya John Steinbeck. Pendekatan teori yang digunakan adalah konsep spiritualitas dari Ary Ginanjar Agustian dalam buku ESQ edisi tahun 2005 dan konsep Titik Tuhan dari Danah Zohar dan Ian Marshall dalam buku SQ tahun 2000. Konsep-konsep ini akan digunakan untuk menganalisa spiritualitas dalam novel *Tortilla Flat* karya John Steinbeck. Sebagai konsep pendukung, akan menggunakan konsep spiritualitas dari tokoh-tokoh lain dan aspek-aspek spiritualitas dari Delaney. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa spiritualitas terlukis dalam novel *Tortilla Flat* karya John Steinbeck dan spiritualitas dapat membantu para karakter dalam novel *Tortilla Flat* untuk mengatasi permasalahan mereka.

Kata Kunci: spiritualitas, mengatasi permasalahan, takdir, dan keberadaan Tuhan.

Abstract

Spirituality reminds people to remember that everyone has freedom from any material things. In spiritual side of human, there is no shackle in material willing. There is spot should remind human to always keep the faith and believe in fate and God. The purposes of the study are describing how spirituality is portrayed in John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat* and how spirituality help the characters cope with their problems in John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*. Theoretical approach uses the concept of spirituality from AgustianAryGinanjar in ESQ book 2005 edition and the concept of God Spot from DanahZohar and Ian Marshall in the SQ book 2000. These concepts will be used to analyze spirituality in John Steinbeck's *TortillaFlat*. As supporting theories or concepts, it will use others' spiritual concepts and spiritual aspects from Delaney. The result of the study shows that spirituality is portrayed in John Steinbeck's *TortillaFlat* and spirituality can help the characters cope with their problems.

Keywords: spirituality, coping with the problem, fate, and God's existence.

INTRODUCTION

Novel derives from reality life, so it might be told about social life, like human social relationship, human problem, and spirituality.

John Steinbeck, one of America's leading twentieth century novelists, was born on February 27, 1902, in the Salinas Valley, California. His father was John Ernst Steinbeck II and his mother Olive Hamilton. It was Steinbeck's mother who instilled in him a love of reading as a child. One of his favorite books was Malory's *Morte d' Arthur*, about the King Arthur legends. This was the first book Steinbeck owned, when he was nine years old, and he later said that over the years he had been more affected by this book than any other. It's not surprising, then, that his short novel, *Tortilla Flat*, has so many

parallels to the legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Steinbeck constructed *Tortilla Flat* deliberately on the framework of Malory's retelling of the Arthurian legend. Like that knightly saga, this group-tale of the *paisanos* has its beginning, middle, and ending; it comes full circle with Danny's mystical translation, the whistle of his table-leg Excalibur through the air, and the consuming fire that destroys the little house, symbol of the Lord of the Table Round who held band together. (Introduction of *The Short Novels of John Steinbeck*, 1953: viii).

Steinbeck's most important fictions are set in his beloved Salinas Valley, California, where he matured as an artist during the dark days of the depression era. Economically, socially, and culturally, it has been an ugly state of affair that causes California to be underdeveloped

(Champney, 1957: 138). The people were kept homeless and closed to the starvation. Even the landlord and the government did injustice toward the little man. Because of the outcome his California background, some reviewers say that Steinbeck distrusts humanity (Champney, 1957: 140).

Steinbeck's first success in any popular sense was *Tortilla Flat*, a group of seventeen episodes centering on some California *paisanos* who live on the fringe of the coastal town of Monterey. This was Steinbeck's fourth published book in half a dozen years of writing. It was also the first to suggest his specific interest in the world's dispossessed. Here was a handful of men detached from the tight systems of the life around them, owning nothing and therefore relatively free men, at any rate not exploited. (Introduction of *The Short Novels of John Steinbeck*, 1953: viii).

Tortilla Flat (1935) is an early John Steinbeck novel set in Monterey, California. The novel was the author's first clear critical and commercial success. *Tortilla Flat* won the California Commonwealth Club's Gold Medal for the best novel by a California author. The novel was made into a movie in 1942, starring Steinbeck's friends, Spencer Tracy, Hedy Lamarr, and John Garfield. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tortilla_Flat). His novels have been very popular and many were made into movies and stage productions. He won an Academy Award nomination for best story in 1944. (http://www.amazon.com/ShortNovelsSteinbeckTortillaCannery/dp/B003XK5FLI/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1291946862&sr=1-3).

Furthermore, the study is decided to concern on John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*. *Tortilla Flat* is romantic and Steinbeck's first success in any popular sense, a group of seventeen episodes centering on some California *paisanos* who live on the fringe of the coastal town of Monterey. His *paisanos* are the group of people whom Steinbeck loved and he underlines his affection for them in helping people to understand their fellow men.

His *paisanos* are catholic one but they are not regular church goers. They tend to see life through a religious lens. The *paisanos* believe in supernatural causes of earthly events and they are not interested in applying religious ethics to their actions. They attribute good and bad events not to human acts or the cycles of nature but to supernatural intervention. It is clearly seen that *Tortilla Flat* has spiritual topic. *Paisanos'* actions in facing their life is reflected through religious or spiritual lens. A sense of spirituality is surprisingly important to the characters of *Tortilla Flat*, considering their dubious activities. This can be seen through the friends' desire to help The Pirate purchase the gold candlestick for San Francisco, and their belief in the supernatural, such as on St. Andrew's Eve, as

well as their repeated prayers when they are in dire situations. The characters show respect for spiritual matters, as evidenced by their insistence on not entering a church unless they have the proper, respectful clothing.

So the study is going to discuss spirituality in John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*. To reach spirituality can be done through several ways, one of them is through human life. Literature is as reflection of human life. Some of literary works are talking about spirituality through human life, one of them is John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*. So, spirituality can be seen through literature and it will enrich the reader of spiritual knowledge.

In accordance of background study above, it can be simplify to discuss among two problems that emerge as significant concern toward this novel.

1. How is spirituality portrayed in John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*?
2. How does spirituality help the characters cope with their problems in John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*?

This study will use concepts of spirituality, concept of God Spot from Danah Zohar and Ian Marshall, and spiritual aspects from Delaney which are in line with statement of the problems. The first statement of the problem is how spirituality is portrayed in John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*. This statement will use concepts of spirituality, concept of God Spot, and spiritual aspects from Delaney. Then, the second statement of the problem is how spirituality helps the characters cope with their problems in John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*. This statement will use concepts of spirituality, concept of God Spot, and spiritual aspects from Delaney. To support the analysis, it also uses the relation between spirituality and human problems from the theologians.

Research Method

1. Source of Data

The data is taken from a book entitled *The Short Novels of John Steinbeck*, printed in 1953 by The Viking Press in California. This book consists of several short novels of John Steinbeck, one of them is *Tortilla Flat* which is taken as the source of data.

2. Data

The data are in the form of direct and indirect speech of the characters, dialogues, and epilogues which represent spirituality and characters who copes with their problems through spirituality.

3. Theoretical Framework

Theoretical approach uses the concept of spirituality from Agustian Ary Ginanjar in ESQ book 2005 edition, the concept of God Spot from Danah Zohar and Ian Marshall in the SQ book 2000, and aspects of spirituality from Delaney. To support the analysis, it also uses the relation between spirituality and human problems from the theologians.

The definition of spirituality is that which relates to or affects the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things (the living of wisdom).

Spirituality reminds people to remember that everyone has freedom from any material things. It means that there is no shackle in spiritual side of human. Shackle in this case such as the material willing (Agustian, 2005: 64,79).

Agustian concept tells that one of spiritual person characteristic is having awareness about fate and God or something powerful. Based on Agustian concept, religious which believes in God or something powerful automatically posses one of spiritual characteristic (Rachman, 2009: 13).

Such experts neurobiology Persinger and Ramachandran found the *temporal lobe* in the human brain. *Temporal lobe* is related to *the limbic system* which consists of the emotional centers and memory of the brain. When the emotional center is stimulated, there will be increased activity in the *temporal lobe*. Then, it will cause a strong emotional impact. *Limbic system* shows the importance of emotional factors in spiritual or religious experience (Zohar and Marshall, 2000: 82).

When normal people have spiritual or religious experience, their *temporal lobe* activity will increase. The neurobiology experts name the parts of *the temporal lobe* associated with spiritual or religious experience as "god spot". Recent neurological studies seem to show clearly that the "god spot" determine the biological role in spiritual experience (Zohar and Marshall, 2000: 82, 83).

In the Christian tradition, for example, spiritual healing is conceptualized as atonement. Atonement means reconciliation between an individual and God when this relationship has been disrupted by sin (Margaret Waller, Ph.D., *The Spiritual Dimension for Assessing Human Functioning*). From several studies found that praying is conceptualized as spiritual healing (Gallup & Castelli, 1989; Gurin et al., 1960; Mollica, Streets, Boscarino, & Redlich, 1986).

There is relation between spirituality and human problems. Spirituality can help human to face the

problems in life. Elkins (Smith, 1994) said that spirituality believes in social justice and realizes that no one is able to live without social interaction with other people. Awareness in capability to have empathy and respect each other that life is valuable. We have care to other people.

Spirituality can grow love, goodness, affection, happiness with other's success, and quietness (Deepak Chopra). Bowell said that people with high spirituality can value the problems of life with positive value. With positive value, people are able to react in good action and attitude. With spirituality, people are able to solve their problem with good reaction (Bowell, 2006).

Delaney said that someone who has high spirituality when she or he has an integral relationships with other people through high respect feeling to the life. Delaney divides spirituality into four aspects (Delaney, 2005). They are as follows:

1. Higher power of Universal Intelligence
It is a belief in the higher power (God), or universal intelligence that may or may not include formal religious practices.
2. Self-discovery
It is spiritual experience started with self-reflection and searching meaning and destination of life. This self-discovery process is as a guidance to grow, to heal, and to have transformation in life.
3. Relationships
It is an integral relationship with other people through high respect feeling. This is also include awareness that spiritual values give higher satisfaction than material values, and awareness about relationship in life—awareness about problems in life and caring about or having empathy with other people's problems.
4. Eco-awareness
It is an integral relationship with nature and environment through high respect feeling and believe that the world is sacred.

Graham, et al. (Adami, 2006) find that the more human's spirituality, the more human's capability in facing the problems (coping the problems). Spirituality has important role in coping the problems. It can be concluded that high spirituality can help human to decide the good way in coping the problems. As a result, he or she will give the more value in life, able to take lessons from his or her life experiences, and do self-introspection.

Analysis

1. The Portrait of Spirituality in John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*

How spirituality is portrayed in John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*. We can see spirituality from activities of the characters. It is portrayed in following quotations:

When Danny came home from the army he learned that he was an heir and an owner of property, the two small houses on *Tortilla Flat*. When Danny heard about it he was a little weighed down with the responsibility of ownership. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 5).

The weight of responsibility is in Danny. He does not want to have responsibility of property. He is little weighed down with property and responsibility of ownership. He does not want to be the owner of property, because it takes responsibility then. Danny wants to be free from material willing. He wants to leave his material things. It means that there is no shackle in spiritual side of Danny. Shackle in this case is the material willing.

Danny has attempted to reach his spiritual side active. Spirituality touches the part of Danny that is not dependent on material things. Danny has already activated his spirituality by being free from any material things. Being free from any material things is as the characteristic of spirituality. Spirituality is portrayed in this quotation.

Such things were almost miracles, Pilon thought. One should take them on faith, not worry and question them. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 11).

One night, Pilon gets a dollar, acquires in a manner that so astounding that he wants to forget immediately for fear the memory may make him mad. A man in front of the San Carlos hotel has put a dollar in his hand, and saying, "run down and get fair bottles of ginger ale. The hotel is out." In this situation, Pilon is sure that this event is as miracle, and no worry and question about that. One dollar that Pilon gets from a man in front of the hotel is as miracle. Pilon is fated to get one dollar. It is fated by God.

Pilon is strong believer in miracles and guidance from God. That everything is in God's control, and nothing happen without God's approval. Miracle is from God. Pilon has no worry and question about this miracle. He keeps faith in fate and miracle from God. Miracle is the power of God. Believing in the power of God reflects spirituality. This miracle that so astounding is fated by God.

"A mass is a mass," said Pilon. "where you get two-bits is of no interest to the man who sells you a glass of wine. And where a mass comes from is of no interest to God. He just like them,

the same as you like wine. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 15).

Pablo wonders whether the effectiveness of the masses that Cornelia arranges for her dead father is compromised by the fact that the masses are paid for by money Cornelia steals from her men when they lie in a drunken sleep. Pilon explains that a mass is a mass. It does not make any difference where the money comes from. Where the masses come from are of no interest to God. God just likes them. The masses are arranged to sing for Cornelia's father, the liar dead man.

Pilon is always ready with an explanation about religious matters. He believes in God's existence and the afterlife. He believes that God just likes the masses that are arranged for the dead man. God does not care about where the money comes from. Pilon believes that God will forgive the liar dead man who is sung by the masses that is arranged by Cornelia. In this case, they believe in the afterlife and God's existence. Because there is spot should remind them to always keep the faith and believe in fate and God's existence.

In the Christian tradition, spiritual healing is conceptualized as atonement. Human has relationship with God. When this relationship is disrupted by sin, human should do atonement. Atonement means reconciliation between an individual and God when this relationship has been disrupted by sin. Cornelia arranges the masses to sing for her dead father because the dead father is a sinner. Cornelia wants to do reconciliation for her dead father and God. Cornelia hopes that God will forgive her dead father. Believing in God and the afterlife reflect spirituality. Spirituality is the relationship between human and the divine.

I have known I would go to hell. But now I see that the sinner is never so bad that he cannot be forgiven. Although I have not yet been to confession, I can feel that the change in me is pleasing to God, for His grace is upon me. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 42).

Pilon has lied and stolen. He has been lecherous. He has committed adultery and taken God's name in vain. Pilon believes that guidance from the God. Although he is sinner, but God will still forgive him by his change. Because God is always good to His creatures. Pilon realizes all his sins, and he wants to go to confession.

Pilon is not regular churchgoer, but he tends to see life through God's agenda. He believes that God controls everything in the world. Guidance and forgiveness from God will come to him. Pilon believes the grace from God is upon him. He believes in afterlife, because there is hell and heaven. He believes that his sins will be forgiven by going to confession. Believing in afterlife, God's control,

going to confession, and keeping the faith in God already reflect spirituality.

Danny and Pablo and Big Joe were sitting in the living room, waiting for the daily miracle of food. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 56).

Every day, they always get something to eat. It is considered as daily miracle of food. For this day, Jesus Maria gets goat milk from Mrs. Palochico's house, Big Joe and Pablo get an apple box, and the Pirate comes in and bears a bag of mackerels. They cook the fish and have their dinner. The foods come as miracle from God. Even they have no money, they always have food to feed themselves.

This condition happens everyday. They always have food everyday that they collect from some places. They get the food for free. The coming of foods is considered as miracle from God. They believe in God's control. The coming of the miracle is fated by God. There is spot should remind human to always keep the faith and believe in God's existence. This reflects spirituality and also as aspect of spirituality.

2. How Spirituality help the characters cope with their problems in John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat*

Spirituality helps the characters of *Tortilla Flat* cope with their problems. It can be seen from the following quotations.

The good God is not always so good to little beasts. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 9).

Pilon walks slowly on toward the dark pine woods, and the little chicken runs ahead of him. So, Pilon is angry at this little chicken, and Pilon has prophesied or predicted this chicken live painfully, died peacefully, or at least quietly. Pilon believes in God's control, so that Pilon predicted something in this little chicken reflected to God's control. God will do the best for His creatures, even to little chicken. When there is something good or bad happened, it is in God's approval. People could only make a plan, but God decides it. God controls everything in the world. Pilon believes in God's control. God will know what is the best for His creatures.

There is spot should remind human to always keep the faith and believe in God existence. It can be meant that everything in the world have its own rule and role. It can be fated by God. God controls everything in the world, include little beasts. Pilon is angry with the little chicken. He is in trouble with the little chicken. Because Pilon keep the faith and believe in God's control, he believe that God will not always do so good to the little chicken. Pilon attributes good and bad events not to human acts or the cycles of nature but to supernatural intervention that is

God's control. His reaction that he attributes to God's agenda is the good way to solve his problem with the little chicken. Believing in God's control is as good reaction to control and defense from bad situation and problem of life.

Ah the prayers of the millions, how they must fight and destroy each other on their way to the throne of God. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 13).

It is almost dark now. Pablo sits on the ditch at the side of the road wishing He prays to God to send him a cigarette and a glass of wine. He believes that other people also pray to God. So, the prayers of the millions must fight and destroy each other on their way to God. God will answer all the prayers. But it is not all the prayers directly answered. The prayers must wait for God's answer, because God knows what is the best for His creatures.

The characters in *Tortilla Flat* are strong believers in the power of God. They consider everything happened with God's approval. When they have a problem, they pray to God to cope their problem. It is the way to cope the problems by praying to God. The characters in *Tortilla Flat* are strong believers in the power of God. They consider everything happen with God's approval. They pray to cope with their problems.

Pablo prays to God that God will send him a cigarette and a glass of wine. Pablo is in the trouble because he cannot always smoke cigarette and drink a glass of wine everyday. He believes in God's control and power. He hopes that God will send him a cigarette and a glass of wine miraculously. He always keeps the faith and believe in fate and God. To cope with his problem, he prays to God. Praying here is conceptualized as spiritual healing. A renewed or continued faith in God is an important factor for human coping with the problems. Pablo always keeps faith in God to cope his problem. Spirituality can help human to decide the good way in coping with the problems. In this situation, the good reaction to cope Pablo's problem is praying to God.

Always keeping the faith in God is the important factor in coping with the problems in life. The other characters in *Tortilla Flat* also keep the faith in God to cope with their problems. It is seen in the following quotations.

Pilon waited patiently, for he knew that there are some things even one's friends cannot help with. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 22).

Pilon is in the rose bush and sits on the ground. He looks for pine sticks to cook and warm in the stove. He waits something even one's friends cannot help with. Miracle from God that is supernatural action can help

with. Pilon believes with supernatural action from God. Finally, with admiration and satisfaction, he carries an armful of pine sticks from Torrelli's wood pile.

Pilon is strong believer in miracle and guidance from God, because he always keeps the faith and believe in fate and God. When Pilon does not have any friends to help with, he believes that there is something can help with. That is supernatural action from God. Keeping the faith and believe in fate and God can help Pilon solve his problem. He prays to God to cope with his problem. Praying to God is conceptualized as spiritual healing. It is one of the way Pilon copes with his problem.

When you lay on that beach at sea-side, God floated the little rowboat to you. Do you think the good God did it so you could buy silk drawers for a cannery slut? No! God did it so you would not die from sleeping on the ground in the cold. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 19).

Jesus Maria is sleeping on the beach near seaside when the little waves wash rowboat to the shore. He gets in and rows it down to Monterrey. He sells it for seven dollars. With seven dollars, he buys two gallons of wine which he saves to the woods and then he walks with Arabella Gros. For her, he buys one pair of silk drawers in Monterrey. The money is three dollars left when Jesus Maria meets Pilon and Pablo in the woods. Pilon and Pablo know that Jesus Maria gets a rowboat and earns money for seven dollars. Jesus Maria wants to sleep in the open in the night air. For this reason, Pilon and Pablo get him to rent Danny's house with them, because sleeping in the night air is not good for Jesus Maria's health. But still Jesus Maria doesn't want to rent the house. So, Pilon says to him that the money which is gotten from the rowboat is sent by God to rent the house in order to Jesus Maria will not die from sleeping on the ground in the cold of the night air.

By this situation, Pilon believes in God's power and control. Nothing happened without God's approval. When Jesus Maria gets rowboat, it is God's control who send him a rowboat to save him from dying in the cold. It is as miracle from God. Pilon is in God's agenda to react this situation. Pilon is strong believer in miracle and guidance from God. Awareness in capability to have empathy and respect each other that life is valuable and having careness to other people also reflect spirituality. Pilon has empathy, careness, and respects Jesus Maria that his life is valuable. Pilon does not want Jesus Maria dying in the cold of the night air. So, Jesus Maria should rent a house with his money he gets from the rowboat.

According to Pilon, Jesus Maria is in the problem that is sleeping on the ground in the cold of the night air. Jesus Maria is approaching the death by this condition. Pilon

believes that the money that Jesus Maria gets from the rowboat is sent by God. Pilon attributes this problem to God's agenda. He always keeps the faith and believe in fate and God. Everything is fated by God and God controls the universe. Keeping the faith and believe in God and fate are the important factors in coping this problem. This is good reaction from Pilon to solve the problem.

I have known I would go to hell. But now I see that the sinner is never so bad that he cannot be forgiven. Although I have not yet been to confession, I can feel that the change in me is pleasing to God, for His grace is upon me. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 42).

Spirituality refers to subjective experience of relationship to a universal power or something greater than ourselves. Human beings call this "something" by many names. It can be called as "God". It is human relationship to the divine and the way each of them perceives it, that enables human to make sense of human lives and provides them with a sense of stability, guidance, purpose, power, and direction.

Spiritual healing or coping generally involves the element of restoration of the relationship between the suffering individual and the divine. Spiritual healing is conceptualized as atonement. Atonement means reconciliation between an individual and God when this relationship has been disrupted by sin. In this case, Pilon has relationship to the divine or the God. When this relationship has been disrupted by Pilon's sins, Pilon wants to go to confession. Going to confession is considered as atonement. Pilon wants to repair this relationship by atonement. His sins are considered as problems for this relationship. He believes that his change will please to God. So, Pilon does spiritual healing, that is going to confession. He believes that God will forgive him and this relationship will be restored by confession. This relationship provides Pilon with a sense of stability, guidance, purpose, power, and direction from the God. So, spirituality here helps Pilon to cope with his problem.

Pilon is in certain condition or bad condition, for he is sinner. Spiritual intelligence enables him not to be in that situation. He prefers to change the situation and repair it. Spirituality here enables him to guide the situation. Because of the relationship with the God, he gets stability guidance, purpose, power, and direction from the God to change himself. He will go to confession to change himself and God will be pleased by his change. Spirituality makes Pilon value the problem of life with positive value. With positive value, he is able to react in good action and attitude that is going to confession. So, Pilon is able to solve his problem with good reaction. As

result, high spirituality can help Pilon to decide the good way in coping with the problem and to give the more value in life and make him doing self introspection. This self reflection and searching meaning and destination of life are as a guidance to grow, to heal, and to have transformation in life. Pilon searches meaning and destination of life by realizing his sins and going to confession. This is as aspects of spirituality.

The Pirate was very glad, for it is no little thing to have one's prayer answered with a true miracle. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 65).

There is good little dog, and his nose is dry, and his eyes are like the glass of bottles out of the sea, and he groans because he hurts inside. Then Pirate promises the gold candlestick of one thousand days to Saint San Francisco. And then there is miracle for that dog wags his tail three times, and right away he starts to get well. It is a miracle from the Saint San Francisco. So, the Pirate is very glad because his prayer is answered with a true miracle. For Pirate, the Saint San Francisco is really his patron. The Saint is the representation of God. He respects the Saint with high feeling.

When the characters of *Tortilla Flat* get a problem, they solve the problem by praying to God. Praying is the way to cope with their problem. Praying is conceptualized as spiritual healing. They also believe in miracle and guidance from God. They tend to see life through God's agenda. They believe that everything is in God's control. Everything is fated by God. They keep the faith and believe in fate and God. For them, praying is as good reaction to cope with their problem.

When the beans were drying, it was the *vieja's* custom to burn a candle to the Virgin. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 72).

Teresina procures food for her family from bean fields. When it is harvest time, the *vieja* and those children who can walk go into the fields and winnow the bean chaff. It is the bad year in the autumn when the *vieja* does not collect three or four hundred pounds of beans. When they have four hundred pounds of beans in the house, they need have no fear of starvation. Other things, delicacies such as sugar, tomatoes, peppers, coffee, fish, or meat, may come sometimes miraculously through the intercession of the Virgin, sometimes through industry or cleverness, but their beans are there, and they are safe. Beans are a roof over their stomach. Beans are a warm cloak against economic cold. Only one thing can threaten the lives and happiness of the family of the Senora Teresina Cortez, that is a failure of the bean crop.

When the beans are ripe, then is the time to pray that the rain may hold off. When the little piles of beans lie in

lines, yellow against the dark fields, the farmers watch the sky, scowl with dread at every cloud that sails over, for if a rain comes, the bean piles must be turned over to dry again. And if more rain falls before they are dry, they must be turned again. If a third shower falls, mildew and rot set in and the crop is lost. It is the *vieja's* custom to burn a candle to the Virgin when her beans are drying.

The *vieja* always burns a candle dedicated to the Virgin in the harvest time. She believes in supernatural power and miracle from God. She always prays to the Virgin and burns a candle in order to she gets enough beans to feed her family and the bean crop is not lost. She is strong believer in miracle and guidance from God, and she believes in God's control. Everything is in God's approval. Human is only able to plan and pray, and God controls everything. She believes in supernatural power that is convinced to have big authority to determine human doing. To cope with her problem, she always prays to God. She also respects the Virgin with high feeling. This reflects spirituality. Praying is conceptualized as spiritual healing.

The *vieja* sat in church, as always, but her lips drew back in a sneer when she looked at the Virgin. "you took my candles," she thought. "ohee, yes, greedy you are for candles. Oh, thoughtless one." And sullenly she transferred her allegiance to Santa Clara. She told Santa Clara of the injustice that has been done. (*Tortilla Flat*, page 72).

In the bean crop at this year, the beans are piled and the candle has been burned. At Teresina's house, the gunny sacks are laid out in readiness. The threshing machines are oiled and cleaned, but a shower falls. Extra hands rush to the fields and turn the sodden hummocks of beans. The *vieja* buys two candles with a little gold piece she has kept for many years. The field hands turn over the beans to the sun again, and then come a downpour of cold streaking rain. Not a bean is harvested in all Monterey County. The soggy lumps are turned under by the plows. Then distress enters the house of Senora Teresina Cortez. The staff of life is broken, the little roof destroyed. Gone is that eternal verity, beans. At night the children cry with terror at the approaching starvation. They are not told, but they know.

Angelica, the *vieja*, is angry with the Virgin, because this year, the Virgin does not answer her prayer. It is different with the years before that the Virgin always answers her prayer. So, the *vieja* transfers her allegiance to Santa Clara. In *vieja's* opinion, the Virgin is greedy for the candles. The *vieja* has burnt four candles to dedicate for the Virgin, but the Virgin takes no action to help the *vieja* in harvest time to collect the beans. It is not all the

prayers directly answered, because the God knows what is the best for human. To cope with the problem, the *vieja* always burns candle dedicated to the Virgin and prays for her daily foods. She believes in guidance and miracle from the God, because everything is in God's control. There is spot should remind the *vieja* to always keep the faith and believe in fate and God's existence. God has big authority to determine human doing. Praying is conceptualized as spiritual healing.

Their eyes glowed. "The children shall not starve," they cried. "it shall be our trust!" "we live in luxury," Pilon said. "we shall give of our substance," Danny agreed. "and if they needed a house, they could live here." "tomorrow we shall start," Pablo exclaimed. "No more laziness! To work! There are things to be done!" (*Tortilla Flat*, page 73).

The children of Teresina is approaching to starvation. Teresina does not have any foods. This is bad condition for Teresina and family. They always eat beans. Beans are the proper food for the children of Teresina. They get used to eat beans and the other foods outside beans makes them sick. Now there is no any foods in Teresina's kitchen. This is a big problem for her. So, Teresina tells this problem to Jesus Maria.

When Jesus Maria knows the problem of Teresina, he is very sympathetic about this problem. He directly tells this problem to Danny and his other friends. With trust and enthusiasm, Jesus Maria and friends cry that the children shall not starve. For them, there are things to be done, that is to help Teresina's family overcome the problem. They collect many foods and milk. Now, the house of Teresina is growing crowded with many foods and milk. Teresina is joy with so many foods and milk. Her head is turned by compliment.

For Jesus Maria and friends, this is like a charity to help other people, by helping Teresina to cope with her problem. They have love, goodness, affection, happiness with other's success. They also have empathy, care, purity of heart, awareness about problems in life, caring with other people's problem. This is as the manifestation of spirituality. Spirituality can grow all these attitude. With spiritual attitude, Jesus Maria and friends help Teresina cope with her problem. So, spirituality can help Jesus Maria and friends cope with Teresina's problem. For them, to help other people is as charity. By doing charity, they also believe in afterlife. Charity is good attitude that God will be pleased. In this case, they have good reaction to help Teresina cope with her problem. It also reflects spirituality.

Conclusion

Based on the previous chapter, the conclusion includes two points. The first deals with description of spirituality and the second with how spirituality helps *paisanos* characters cope with their problems.

The *paisanos* community are catholic one, and Danny and friends, although they are not regular churchgoers, tend to see life through a religious lens or God's agenda. They respect the church, the saint, and the Virgin with high feeling. It is shown by the elaborate way they prepare the pirate so he can look respectable enough with good clothes to go to church to see the gold candlestick bought with his money and dedicated to Saint San Francisco de Assisi. The money that the pirate puts away in order that he is able to buy the gold candlestick is treated as sacrosanct by the men. They consider the money belongs to Saint San Francisco de Assisi, and will never touch and use it. They say that it is far worse to defraud a saint than it is to take liberties with the law. In this case, they keep the faith and believe in God and afterlife. They will not defraud the Saint San Francisco de Assisi because it is considered as a big sin. The Saint is the representation of the God. They will not enter the church with poor clothing. They also believe in miracle and guidance from God. When the pirate's dog is sick, he prays to God and promises a gold candlestick to dedicate for the Saint. Directly the dog gets well and the pirate keeps his promise. This is as Holy vision. They really tend to see life from God's agenda. It reflects spiritually.

Pilon who tells Jesus Maria that when a rowboat is washed up on shore, enabling him to sell it for seven dollars. It is God who send him the rowboat. So, Jesus Maria is able to rent a house and he will not die from sleeping on the ground in the cold of the night air. They believe that there is supernatural intervention in this event. Jesus Maria is in trouble because he does not have a house. God sends him money from the rowboat. Pilon helps Jesus Maria cope with this problem. Pilon tells him to rent a house from the money that is sent by the God. This is as good reaction from Pilon to solve Jesus Maria's problem. There is spot should remind human to always keep the faith and believe in fate and God. Pilon is strong believer in miracle and guidance from God. He can control the problem in life with high spirituality. He has empathy and care with other people's problem. Spirituality can help Pilon to cope with Jesus Maria's problem.

Other *paisanos* outside Danny's group also ascribe mundane events to supernatural interventions that is God's control. Teresina's mother, Angelica, for example, when the supply of food dries up, complains that although she burns four candles to the Virgin, the Virgin takes no action on her behalf. But when the food arrives, courtesy

of Jesus Maria and friends, Angelica repents and offers thanks to the Virgin. She and her daughter regard the arrival of the food as a miracle. Teresina and her family are in trouble because they have no any foods to feed themselves. To cope with this problem, Angelica always prays and burns candles dedicated to the Virgin. She believes in fate and God's control. She respects the Virgin with high feeling. In this case, praying is conceptualized as spiritual healing. Praying is as good reaction to cope with this problem. With spirituality, Angelica can control and defense from the problem in life. There is spot should remind the characters of *Tortilla Flat* to always keep the faith and believe in fate and God.

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