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'The Basement Room' is a nice psychological story written by Graham Greene whom many regarded as one of the great popular and prolific writers of 20th century. This story focuses on an innocent child and is filtered through a psycho-analytical perspective. The story is told from a third person narrator about a seven years old boy Philip ~~traumatic~~ traumatic experience in his childhood which influences the rest of his life till his dying hour at the age of sixty seven. Philip lives in Belgravia with his parents, the butler and his wife. The story begins with the departure of the parents for a fortnightly holiday trip, leaving Philip under the care of family butler. Philip, being freed from parental control started thinking in new direction. For the first time, he begins to live. A sense of freedom dawns upon him. He wants liberty now and is seized with a passion to know life. Without nurse's restraint, Philip walked in this big house and enjoyed his real life. He took to walk in the street, went

Window shopping, went to the zoo and tested ginger-beer and Dunkac-cake. Philip looked forward to exploring the reality of the outside. This was the new chapter in his life. Philip liked Mr Baines, the family butler, who told him stories about adventure in Africa; about his past life. But he did not like Mrs Baines and feared like a nightmare. However, Mr Baines had an affair with Emmy and he asked to keep this secret for them. Philip began his nightmare. Meanwhile Mrs Baines also tried to coax Philip to tell her Mr Baines's extramarital relation. Philip involved in this delicate and complex dilemma. In the end of the story Mrs Baines was dead in an accident while Philip still wondered who the girl was, sixty years later.

While appreciating the story, we find two worlds in the story which Philip must recognise and choose between, separated by 'a Green baize door', an image which Green used to separate elsewhere, the world of innocence from the world of knowledge, the world of love from the world of hate, the world of child from the world of adult.

From the third person narrator we come to see what happened to Philip. For Philip, Mr Baines is not only a

butler but also a hero, a friend. For example, Mr Baines tells him about his past life, gives him snacks between meals. Philip wants to escape from his nurse and nursery to lead his joyful life. This behaviour of Baines makes Philip feel to be a man, not a child. So Philip is willing to help him and keeps the secret, unrevealed, but actually he could not. Mrs Baines gathers information from Philip. She now wants Philip to keep her secret. Philip had already betrayed Mr Baines's secret. He wants no more of secrets, yet he agrees to keep Mrs Baines's secret. This is almost strange situation Philip finds himself in. He does not know what to do? Whether to keep secrets or not. Now he becomes angry with himself for revealing Baines's secret unintentionally. He is disappointed that adult's world is not as wonderful as he thinks. Philip was angry and miserable and disappointed because he had not kept Baines's secret. Emmy's doubtful identity and Mrs Baines's pressure make Philip lose his world of innocence. Mr Baines's kindness and loyalty to Philip, their journey to zoo, on the square and street those keep Philip

far and far away from his nursery, his protection. This is both physical and psychological journey. A journey from his nursery to street, a journey from a child to a man. When Philip understands, it is too late to go back to his naive age. Moreover, he becomes an isolated person, separated from society and can not face his obstacles in life. He never opened his Meccano set again, never built anything, never created anything. He died sixty years later with memory of Mrs Baines's malicious voice saying 'good night'. He was divided by the fear and the attraction of life. The failure of the man may be explained psychologically as the result of the emotional trauma of the child. But theologically Philip was responsible, and when he found himself getting involved and came back from relationship by extricating himself from life, from love, from Baines with a merciless egotism he led a loveless life and damned himself for eternity.

In this story, the artistic accomplishment of the writer is marvellous. The author has used the 'Stream of Consciousness' method, but not simply as method & rather as a subtle art.

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