

One hundred Years of solitude □□□ The village Mocondo is founded by the fated cousins Ursula and Jose Arcadio Buendia who are escaping from the past. In the beginning the "village [is] truly happy" (pg. 18), yet as children, and then grandchildren come, patterns become apparent. The Buendia family blindly follows the mistakes of their ancestors, forgetting their past, living in and seeking solitude, and never feeling true love. JAB (Jose Arcadia Buendia) has dreams of "infinite rooms" (pg. 136) where he walks through the same room over and over, but is never able to interpret this dream as a warning concerning the paths and choices of his family. Melquiades, the gypsy who befriends the family, refers to the village as "The city of mirrors"; one where the past is reflected again and again and no Buendias are able to create their own history. Marquez used the repetition of life patterns of the Buendias to demonstrate how people who do not learn from the mistakes of the past are destined to repeat them. □□ The residents of Mocondo easily forget the past since it seems to be of no concern to them. During the Utopian Era, a forgotten past is what keeps the town in its innocent state. JAB also has the tendency to easily forget about past failures. He is an enterprising man with a creative spirit and "unbridled imagination" (p. 11) which tends to get carried away. When the gypsies come to Mocondo with magnets, JAB never having been exposed to them before, thinks that their power will "expel gold from the bowels of the earth" (12), and buys them. When his attempts fail, he realizes the magnets are useless to him. Yet when the gypsies return again later, he continues to buy more inventions finally using up Ursula's inheritance. Ursula is the practical character in the novel whose visions of the past give her insight to the continuing patterns and their ensuing disasters. Yet her warnings go unheard by the family. Throughout the novel she "[confirms] her impression that time [is] going in a circle" (pg. 209). Later Jose Arcadio Segundo witnesses the banana company massacre three thousand people and then haul them away on a train. He tries to tell others, but they insist, "there haven't been any dead here" (pg. 285). He realizes that the fear of the company causes people to forget what they had seen. The residents' amnesia in Mocondo is needed to keep a Utopian Society, and also ironically leads to its downfall. □□ The Buendia family is a victim of solitude. It all starts with Ursula and JAB creating their own solitude by leaving to start their own town, but it plagues each of the family members down the line, as each feel the need to seek solitude. Solitude during the Utopian Years was essential, since outside forces would corrupt it. Yet, once the Utopian Society is corrupted, solitude becomes a reclusive monster during the war years. Colonel Aureliano, during the height of his career, comes to a revelation that he is only "fighting because of pride" (pg. 152), and is "lost in the solitude of immense power" (pg. 160) Once his foundation has broken away with this truth, he returns to Mocondo, but the solitude never leaves him and he spends the rest of his life in his room designing little gold fishes, melting them down, and then making them again in a "vicious cycle" (pg. 203). Amaranta, daughter of JAB and Ursula, lives in the solitude of virginity, and wears a black bandage on her wrist to symbolize it. She is a good friend of Colonel Gerinaldo Marquez, who gives her daily visits, and often propositions her. After months of not giving an answer, he rejects her and "[locks] herself in her room to weep over her solitude unto death" (pg. 158). Then there is the strange solitude of Remedios the Beauty. The child, "not of this world" (pg. 225) has fatal looks with the power to kill men. She does not see the convention of others, and "wanders through a desert of solitude" (pg. 222), which she makes for herself by living life going at her own pace, walking around naked when she pleases, and "bearing no cross on her back" (pg. 222). Every Buendia seeks out solitude. Yet in context, the solitude takes on a wider connotation than our negative westernized definition. □□ True love is never shared between any two Buendias, excluding Aureliano Babilonia and Amaranta Ursula, because the love is possessive or lustful. These patterns of love and also incest travel down the family line. Aracadio loses his virginity to Pilar, but "sees the face of Ursula" (pg. 34) (his mother). Then Aureliano and Amaranta (his aunt) have strong burning desires for each other as well. Aracadio, son of Jose Arcadio, tries to sleep with Pilar (his mother) but is unsuccessful. Representing the Spiritual Decline, Petra Cotes and Aureliano get together (bearing no relation) and have passionate sex everyday even on "forbidden holy nights". The more they fornicate, so do their animals, and they soon become the most prosperous and decadent couple in Mocondo. They hang mirrors above their bed so they can be kinky furthering the theme of mirrors cutting off progression. Finally, when the downfall of Mocondo comes about and hits Petra and Aureliano, they stop having wild crazy sex, and "[grow] to be so happy that even when they [are] two worn out old people they [keep] on blooming like little children". (pg. 313) They begin to share something more special, and discover each other to new depths. After many doomed couples, finally there is Aureliano Babilonia and Amaranta Ursula who are the only members of the family to actually have sex with each other. They find love "much richer than desire" (pg. 373) and stay up together at night just "looking into each others eyes" (pg 375). Their child, however, is borne with a pig tail just as Ursula had predicted, and soon is carried away by the ants. The final tragedy is the baby born who was "the only one born from love" (pg 380) yet, doomed to die. □□ Once Mocondo has been turned to dust, there is still this book. The book that is a message for us, saying that we must not "live in the land of mirrors"; we must continue to look around and see what is going on, otherwise we will never progress, but will live in circles until our death. The only way to break the repeated patterns is to acknowledge that history is repeating itself, and that yes, we do want to change. □□□ hundred years solitude village mocondo founded fated cousins ursula jose arcadio buendia escaping from past beginning village truly happy children then grandchildren come patterns become apparent buendia family blindly follows mistakes their ancestors forgetting their past living seeking solitude never feeling true love jose arcadia buendia dreams infinite rooms where walks through same room over over never able interpret this dream warning concerning paths choices family melquiades gypsy befriends family village city mirrors where past reflected again again buendias able create their history marquez used repetition life patterns buendias demonstrate people learn from mistakes destined repeat them residents mocondo easily forget s

ince seems concern them during utopian forgotten what keeps town innocent state also tendency easily forget about failures enterprising with creative spirit unbridled imagination which tends carried a way when gypsies come mocondo with magnets never having been exposed them before thinks that power will expel gold from bowels earth buys when attempts fail realizes magnets useless when gypsies return again later continues more inventions finally using ursula inheritance ursula practical character novel whose visions give insight continuing patterns ensuing disasters warnings unheard throughout novel confirms impression that time going circle later jose arcadio segundo witnesses banana company massacre three thousand people then haul away train tries tell others they insist there haven't been dead here realizes that fear company causes people forget what they've seen residents' amnesia needed keep utopian society also ironically leads to downfall victim solitude starts with creating leaving start town plagues each member down line each feels need seek during utopian years essential since outside forces would corrupt once society corrupted becomes reclusive monster during years colonel aureliano's height career comes revelation only fighting because pride lost immense power once foundation broken away this truth returns leaves spends rest of life designing little gold fishes melting down then making vicious cycle amaranta daughter lives virginity wears black bandage wrist symbolizes good friend colonel gerinaldo marquez gives daily visits often propositions after months giving answer rejects locks herself in room weep over unto death there strange reminders beauty child this world fatal looks power kill does convention others wanders through desert which makes herself living life going pace walking around naked pleases bearing cross back every seeks context takes wider connotation than negative westernized definition true love shared between buendias excluding areliano babilonia amaranta ursula because love possessive lustful these also incest travel down line arcadio loses virginity pilar sees face mother areliano amaranta aunt have strong burning desires each other well arcadio arcadio tries sleep pilar mother unsuccessful representing spiritual decline petra cotes areliano together bearing relation have passionate everyday even forbidden holy nights more they fornicate animals soon become most prosperous decadent couple hang mirrors above kinky furthering theme mirrors cutting progression finally downfall comes about hits petra stop having wild crazy grow happy even worn keep blooming like little children begin share something more special discover other depths after many doomed couples finally there babilonia amaranta only members actually have other find much richer than desire stay together night just looking into others eyes child however borne tail just predicted soon carried ants final tragedy baby born only born doomed once been turned dust still book book message saying must live land must continue look around what going otherwise will progress will live circles until death break repeated acknowledge history repeating itself want change

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