

TEXTE SEANCE 9 :

Mr. et Mrs. Ramsay accueillent dans leur maison sur l'île de Skye en Ecosse des individus en tous genres. L'un d'entre eux, le poète Augustus Carmichael, semble vouloir prendre ses distances avec la générosité un peu envahissante de Mrs. Ramsay.

She had been admired. She had been loved. She had entered rooms where mourners sat. Tears had flown in her presence. Men, and women too, letting go to the multiplicity of things, had allowed themselves with her the relief of simplicity. It injured her that Mr. Carmichael should shrink. It hurt her. And yet not cleanly, not rightly. That was what she minded, coming as it did on top of her discontent with her husband; the sense she had now when Mr. Carmichael shuffled past, just nodding to her question, with a book beneath his arm, in his yellow slippers, that she was suspected; and that all this desire of hers to give, to help, was vanity. For her own self-satisfaction was it that she wished so instinctively to help, to give, that people might say of her, "O Mrs. Ramsay! dear Mrs. Ramsay ... Mrs. Ramsay, of course!" and need her and send for her and admire her? Was it not secretly this that she wanted, and therefore when Mr. Carmichael shrank away from her, as he did at this moment, making off to some corner where he did acrostics endlessly, she did not feel merely snubbed back in her instinct, but made aware of the pettiness of some part of her, and of human relations, how flawed they are, how despicable, how self-seeking, at their best.

Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*, 1927, I, 8.

1/ Traduction :

- Etablir un lexique anglais-français comprenant les termes les plus difficiles, puis traduire soigneusement et intégralement ce texte de Virginia Woolf en français.

2/ Question :

- Quelle thèse philosophique ce texte littéraire illustre-t-il ? Comparez avec cette maxime de La Rochefoucauld : « *Nos vertus ne sont, le plus souvent, que des vices déguisés.* » (1665).