

Movie Script: Shawshank Redemption

Setting: Andy is sent to prison for a crime he did not commit. Red (Morgan Freeman) becomes Andy's friend. Andy has now been in prison for 20 years and is sitting in the yard reflecting sadly on his life. Red sits down next to him and they start to talk.

ANDY

It floats around. Has to land on somebody. Say a storm comes through. Some folks sit in their living rooms and enjoy the rain. The house next door gets torn out of the ground and smashed flat. It was my turn, that's all. I was in the path of the tornado.

I just had no idea the storm would go on as long as it has.

(Andy talks for a while about his desire to buy a hotel and boat in Mexico)

RED

Damn it, Andy, stop! Don't do that to yourself! Talking pipedreams! Mexico's down there, and you're in here, and that's the way it is!

ANDY

You're right. It's down there, and I'm in here. I guess it comes down to a simple choice, really. Get busy living or get busy dying.

ANDY tells Red not to forget. Red says "Forget what?"

That there are things in this world not carved out of gray stone. That there's a small place inside of us they can never lock away, and that place is called hope.

RED

Hope is a dangerous thing. Drive a man insane. It's got no place here. Better get used to the idea.

(At the end of the movie Red reads a letter from Andy)

ANDY

Remember, Red. Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies.

RED

I hope

Fyodor Dostoevsky, THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV,

"I believe like a child that suffering will be healed and made up for, that all the humiliating absurdity of human contradictions will vanish like a pitiful mirage. In the world's finale, at the moment of eternal harmony, something so precious will come to pass that it will suffice. It will comfort all resentments. It will atone for all the crimes, for all the blood that has been shed, that it will make it not only possible to forgive but to justify everything that happens".

1. What is the definition of Hope?
2. Is hope a real thing? Is there any reality in hope?
3. Is hope necessary for life? (Why or why not?)
4. What are the kinds of things that give people hope?
5. What gives you hope?
6. Why is hope a common Christian theme?