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GREAT IMPACT ON AFRO AMERICAN LIVES, RACISM AND SLAVERY

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ABSTRACT

African —American history is a record of the struggle of this community for the right to exist and recognition of their place in American society. The struggle has been long and hard a. taken on various forms. This past of history has a great impact on Afro-American lives, and marks their fight for recognition a. social and political progress. Resisting dominant opposing forces has been an integral part of this struggle. Therefore, this paper attempts to present the way African-American have resisted. The paper attempts to explore those paradigms of the African American struggle that seek to create their own space, particularly focusing on women to highlight what they went though. It is in this context I will be looking at Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*.

Keywords: Afro American; Slavery; Narratives; Dehumanizing

INTRODUCTION

Beloved is an exploration of the horrors of the slave trade from an intense and intimate experience. patchwork of flashbacks, memories, and nightmares that is channeled to unearth those unspeakable horrors of slavery while giving them life through a life-giving eternal story.

Toni Morrison joined the league of slave narrators, by producing a text which is set to make the horrors of slavery once again alive and saved from the oblivion which forced by some Americans who were chewing historical facts and order to adopt a less disturbing and more favorable account of slavery. In this light, Toni Morrison's *Beloved* worthy of study in relation to slave narratives. Though different in focus and goal *Beloved* and slave narratives are all instigated by slavery and A legacy on the American literature.

The single aspects of black sufferings where as *Beloved* touches the different aspects A black culture. Settee as an ex- slave presents the whole historical background on the blacks. The course of slavery and racism, both have haunted the main characters and all other members of the black community. All the characters worked hard to avoid their bitter past in the entire novel. Sette extremely trying to hide her past and by taking the lesson from the past, she is trying to keep their children safe from the brutality of the slave owner. From the beginning to the end Morrison narrates only about the position of blacks and their activities together with the outcome of it.

Toni Morrison's *Beloved* reveals her growing concern for the African Americans who 'Ill horrible and troubled past. *Beloved* deals with not only 'reconstructed memory,' but also destructed history. Morrison

believes that the continuity between past and Mac., as „win, because it cymatia band, mutual obligations and a shared communal history of struggle. Own articulation of her motives in rediscovering history for artistic expression in the discovering Black History. There is no need to be nostalgic about the old days because weren't but to recognize and rescue those quality of resistance, excellence and integrity that were so much a part of our past and so useful to us and to the generations of blacks, now growing up.

Reveals how deeply she is concerned with celebrating the unique historical cultural values and "qualities of resistance, excellence and integrity" that were so much part of the black people's past, *Beloved* discovers this past in order to ensure that it is not lost. History is the central theme of the novel because it is the most prestigious and painful heritage of the whole black community and this community. *Beloved* is set in Cincinnati in 1873, eight years after the end of the Civil War. The passages of time neither heal nor anesthetized the pain and effects of slavery.

The novel contains the qualities of black narrative not only from the perspective of the protagonist, but other characters are also equally important to depict the qualities of black narrative. For e.g. Sixo, he is a slave who was known as a wild man. He is known as a wild man because on one hand he was black and on the other he was a slave. When he tried to escape from the slavery caught and burnt alive. In this sense, the entire novel is about black narrative and obviously a slave narrative. If we see the position of *Beloved* it is also the spiritual celebration of black narrative. At this point Morrison is very conscious about the spiritual aspects of blacks. The whole narration moves around the black's social, economic, political, physical, Personal, communal and spiritual aspects under which the entire novel or the entire narrative of Toni Morrison is rolling. One can get the actual vision of the black culture and their reality by Seeing the narrative techniques of Toni Morrison. In this sense the novel is filled with the characteristic of black narratives.

The house was haunted by a ghost who was believed to be Sethe's daughter. Sethe's two sons ran away from their home because of the violent presence of an aggressive ghost. There Like the ghost which she believes to be her sister's spirit. Sethe is haunted herself by her Memories of Sweet home a plantation where she raised her children with her husband whom she since she lied away. After wandering her backyard Sethe comes home to find Paul D sitting in her Porch waiting for her. Paul is the last of male slaves to survive after their front Sweet Home.

After learning about the ghost which haunt Sethe's house, Paul decides to comfort sethe, who has no friend but her ghost sister. The coming of Paul D was a source of happiness. Because he starts to listen her stories and becomes her lover. However, she is never happy because she thinks that Paul is stealing her mother from her. As the story unfolds more Sethe lives happily in a black community' for eighteen days when School teacher appears to claim her and her children. When she beholds an approaching throng of horses and recognizes the Schoolteacher' hat. Sethe garners all her children and runs to an empty woodshed. She intends to kill all of her children so as not to be returned to the misery of slavery.

She manages to kill only her oldest daughter when Stamp Paid rescues the other children. Sethe is arrested and jailed but she is not held for long because she is a nursing mother. When she returns to 124 Bluestone, Sethe learns that Baby Suggs, appalled by the happenings in the woodshed, has given up preaching and lost her will to survive. She also learns that the black community completely ostracized her and her children—they will not speak to her for eighteen years. Just by giving a very brief synopsis of the novel, we begin to detect some similarities that the novel shares with slave narratives. It is about fugitive slaves who fled away from slavery to Northern Free States and who were always haunted by the damaging effects of slavery. Basic to all humans slavery were denied and unalienable rights that are basic very to all humans. The novel lays slaves were denied unalienable rights that are very stress ea the dehumanizing tactics deployed by slaveholders to subjugate their slaves. Slave narrative is the form of literature which emerged as a reaction against the barbarity sin, It is through these accounts of authentic records that the evil system of slavery was exposed and later abolished. Those records were essentially written by Conner slaves who managed to free themselves from slavery by running to the Northern Free States. All slave narrative shared one theme which is the critique of the unspeakable institution of slavery, which snipped them of their humanity. They all endeavored to offer their whites audience with authentic insights into slavery and its brutal effects on slaves and slave-owners.

In the South, cotton was a commodity that was a key to the slave issue. By 1840, Cotton was more valuable than all the products the United States of America exported put together and by 1860 the value of slaves was greater than the value of the entire American manufacturing, banking even if put together. This explains why the South was adamant to freeing slaves, and this also explains why such an inhuman law as the Fugitive Slave Law was implemented. The law which coerces Sethe in the novel to kill her daughter, and she could kill all her children, haven't they been rescued. This incident only makes it clear that slavery was horrible and nightmarish to all black American slaves. A form of writing raised awareness about the issue of slavery and that is slave narrative. Uncle Tom's Cabin was the first novel to tackle the issue of the Fugitive Slave Law and Toni Morrison is a modern writer who reinvestigated it again. In doing so, psychological penetration. To, Morrison produces a text based on memory oral culture and elements of the gothic as structural and thematic devices. Her text is designed to remembering slavery through incidents in its real historical context though with a chronological distance that allows the writer to question the issue of slave, from different angles with a precisely post-modern rewriting of slavery. Toni Morrison rewrites slavery while drawing from a tradition set by early slave narratives, making it possible for us to go back in time when slavery was still practiced.

Toni Morrison's *Beloved* reveals her growing concern for the African-Americans who own a horrible and troubled past. *Beloved* deals with not only 'reconstructed memory', but also deconstructed history. Morrison believes that the continuity between past and present is very crucial because it creates bonds, mutual obligations and a shared communal history of struggle. Morrison's own articulation of her motives in rediscovering history for artistic expression in the article "Rediscovering Black History," There is no need to be nostalgic about "the old days" because they weren't...but to recognize and rescue those qualities of resistance, excellence and integrity that were so much apart of our past and to useful toasted to the generations of blacks, Row growing up.

Reveals how deeply she is concerned with celebrating the unique historical cultural (dues and "qualities of resistance, excellence and integrity'. that were so much part of the black Peoples past. *Beloved* discovers this past in order to ensure that it is not lost. History is the central theme of the novel because it is the most prestigious and painful heritage of the whole and this community will never for, in *Beloved* is set in Cincinnati at 1873. After the end of the Civil War. As practice slavery breaks up family units. *Beloved* provide numerous examples of slaves and ex-slaves creating and relying upon strong communities beyond the immediate Baby Suggs congregation that gathers in the woods illustrates this. as neighboring Americans come together as a community.

Instead the characters in *Beloved* are formed and deformed by their experiences in Paul D. Sethe. Baby Suggs. Stamp Paid. and Ella have been mortally humiliated in „unless ways about which the reader comes know from different angles. So. we travel back forth across the scene of slavery such that the narrated circumstances begin to crystallize into tight verbal net from which no feeling or emotion can slip through unfelt. Marilyn Sanders Mobley in –A Different Remembering: Memory, History and Meaning in *Beloved*” attempt demonstrate how Black history becomes a narrative device. *Beloved* is not just a document of history as experienced by Sethe alone; it contains versions of the past as narrated by Paul D. Baby Suggs, Denver and *Beloved* herself and each of their versions or fragments of history.

Morrison focus on the 1860s and 70s and how Afro American heritage was maintained during the period of dramatic social changes before and after the civil war. Morrison carefully temporal and historical markers. In the beginning of Chapter one. the mention of the specific year 1873, and places such as Cincinnati and Ohio, ground *Beloved* within the political geographical realities of history Morrison deconstructs the in *Beloved*. The text is loaded with the moments of self reflectivity indicates that Morrison is after all constructing a textual representation of the past. The account of Sethe's deed clearly shows that textual documents often or always fail to capture life exactly as it is made experienced. Though Paul D cannot read he finds the representation of Sethe's face to be inauthentic: "that ain't her mouth." (181) His reaction to the picture of Sethe makes the reader aware of the difference between a real live original and a simulated copied photograph or text. Morrison suggests that a fictional account of the interior life of a former slave might be more historically 'real' than actual documents, which were often written from the perspective of the dominant

culture. Morrison makes the past available to us through textual traces in *Beloved* and thus lessens the claims to authenticity.

Morrison has written the novel in order to re-possess the past by remembering the ancestors not only in an aesthetic act but also in an act of historical recovery. The novel is an act of discovering deep within her some relationship with the painful past through a "collective memory". In the novel Sethe's mother-in-law Baby Suggs express this dark truth. She knows that "death was anything but forgetfulness." (4) That remembering is both a resurrection and a pain testified to Amy Denver who assisted in the birth of Seth's daughter: "Anything dead coming to life hurts." (42) In the novel past is expressed and revealed in remembering and forgetting, accusing and embracing, burning and receiving through joy and oppression. The powerful corporeal ghost who creates matrilineal connection between Africa and America, *Beloved* stands for every African woman whose story will never be told. She is the haunting symbol of the many Beloveds generations of mothers and daughters — haunted down and stolen from Africa; as such, she is unlike mortals, invulnerable to barriers of time, space and Place, Among other things. *Beloved* is the logical effects of slavery. *Beloved* thus represents of sixty million blacks who have been embodiment of the white folk's jungle, the represents not the single child but the pain and enslaved, tortured and perished. Thus before his reconciliation with Sethe, Paul D realizes that *Beloved* is his link to his past.

Finally analysis one can safely affirm that *Beloved* is a novel which the theme of violence is portrayed in all its colours. It is not only the whites, the European the masters are portrayed as inflicting violence on the black. Even the Negroes in their own turn redirect violence back on the masters.

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