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DELINEATION OF REMARKABLE WOMAN: AN ANALYSIS THROUGH THE WORKS OF
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ABSTRACT

The present paper aims to explain how racism is depicted in the works of Maya Angelou. Angelou, as a feminist, has illustrated the development of her cultural identification in her narratives. She portrays herself as a role model for African-American women, reconstructing the stereotype of the Black woman in her memoir. She has used her autobiographies to relate the complexities of injustice to her own experience. Angelou valiantly insists that woman cannot be portrayed merely as a doormat. She continues that woman can yell, scream or push her claim on the universe when she knows she is right. For her this fearless attitude, Angelou can be called a Wild Woman. An in-depth study and description would be made of three poems by Angelou: *Still I Rise*, *Phenomenal Woman* and *I know Why the Baged bird Sings*. For this, two subjects are taken into account: the theories of the human right movement in conjunction with feminist theories. The primary focus of this paper is on feminist approach. Many of her works display the impoverished lives of the African American community, particularly the African American woman. Popular themes in her poetry involve topics such as passion, the grace of a black woman, the power of a woman, political declarations, social justice, and the endurance of the human spirit. Her writings have given the Remarkable woman a real meaning. She is a phenomenal woman herself, who is aware of the way to use her writing sort of a missile. She has used her words and writings fantastically to depict what a magnificent woman is.

KEYWORDS: Feminism, black woman, suppression, white people, liberty, doubly marginalised

Maya Angelou, an admired American author, was born to Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, Missouri. Angelou has had a diverse career as an artist, performer, actor, musician, and Hollywood's first female black director, but is well regarded as a novelist, author, six-time essayist, playwright, and a poet. Angelou served as a civil rights leader with Dr Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. Angelou tends to be the strongest of ballads, the most conventional form of poetry. She is known for the humanity, laughter, and wholeheartedness of her books, even though her autobiographical writing is inevitably the subject of her achievement. She has additionally been a tutor and is presently the Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest

University. Angelou had become recognized not solely as an advocator for blacks and women; however additionally for all folks that square measure committed to improving the ethical standards of living within the United States.

There is no better evidence of Wordsworth quote that Poetry is a spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings than Maya Angelou's poetry. Angelou has written her heart in her poetry. Be it is about her relationship with her family, being a black woman or being a woman. She was lost in her childhood while writing poetry and poems like *Still I Rise* and *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is a proof for that. No one can ever write poetry the way she does. Moreover, the reputation and notoriety that she had achieved were all thanks to her genuine, optimistic, yet intimidating personality. She has never been timid of expressing the facts, but she has always been more than one would imagine. She has paved a way for many more Black American women. Numerous personalities in the present society can be considered women of today because of their commitments to various fields of existence. However, there is nothing wrong with pointing out that Maya Angelou is the real and first contributor to this genre. Bold, brave and beautiful can define her in the best way possible. A woman whose politics and boldness has practically pinched the pride of male-dominated culture needs no space for herself or her assistance. She is an army of one man. Being a spokesperson not only for black women but also for black society as a whole, needs no outer voice to be supported. There is nothing wrong in calling her an angel to the Black community as she beautifully unveiled all the hidden secrets in her works.

And Still I Rise is an incomplete sentence in the world of ours, but it is the only complete sentence that renders a human spiritual and moral power. It is not about a sentence of four terms but a tragic tale about someone who has had one of the ugliest pasts to come out as a hero. It has a connotative reality behind it. Maya Angelou also made biographical comments about her in this book. She bravely clarified what she has gone through, but to confront this tough period, Angelou boldly chose to come out of it. She addressed her struggles not to win attention, but to be a loud voice for other people around the community who are always balancing and torturing themselves with the difficulties they are facing around their lives. Angelou left a stunning mark for the world to emulate with her firm expressions.

You may write me down in history

With your bitter, twisted lies,

You may trod me in the very dirt

But still, like dust, I'll rise. (Angelou 163)

The speaker was both furious and optimistic in the poem. Initially, her oppressors — apparently white people and, more importantly, white males — do not wish her to excel or become anything than the amount of her past. Her descendants have been represented falsely and dishonestly in literature and must grow above the brutality and misery they have endured. She notices that her happiness appears to render them sad. Around the same moment, she taunts these oppressors, recognises the influence of her actions and attitude and delights in the fact that she bewilders them with her strength and trust. The poem, as a whole, is a statement of authority. If we deeply analyse it, the title begins with 'And' which talks for itself and has a lot more to do with the story of Angelou. Angelou addresses here the oppression of black people from the hands of white people. She became a loud voice of Black Feminism. Angelou was doubly marginalised not only because of being black but also for being a woman. For an African-American woman who grew up in the south of the United States in periods of hardship, she endured violence and assault. She was assaulted at the age of seven by her mother's lover. She recorded this abuse, so he has to face punishment for it, there is nothing to feel weak or depressed for it. It is the only way out to deal with rapists. Moreover, from here, she came to learn that her speech could destroy anyone, which turned out to be a pivotal moment in her life. This situation is reminiscent of Toni Morrison's firm quotation from *Bluest Eye*, which is also about the white people's exploitation against a little girl that transforms her world upside down. Often it is too tempting to ridicule or

annoy others only for one's enjoyment, but maybe that enjoyment will take away someone's confidence and love for life. Morrison asserts,

In *The Bluest Eye*, the voices of marginalised people merge through a double-voiced text. That is, through the dominant social discourse, the emergent culture appears in its reenactment of and resistance to the status quo. The text's creation of double-consciousness exemplifies the struggle for subject status by black Americans, confirming the detrimental effects from the internalization of a negative self-concept. (Bloom 82)

Likewise, in her autobiographical work, *I know why the caged bird sings*, she shared the anguish over the injustice offered to black people. Angelou uses her memoir to research topics such as gender, violence, sexism and literacy. She often speaks in different forms regarding women's experiences in a male-dominated world. How wonderfully she uses animal imagery when she freely states that black people can respond to the suffering and humiliation of a bird in a cage. Her imagination must be applauded here to compare the black community with a caged bird. Moreover, the prison of exploitation and injustice is the worst kind of experience. It is the most potent and most accurate metaphor used in the history of English Literature.

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams

his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream

his wings are clipped and his feet are tied

so he opens his throat to sing. (Angelou 195)

These quotes express the desire and hope for freedom; those who witnessed the pain and agony behind bars can acknowledge the importance and love of liberty. Moreover, for centuries black people have led a bleak life in slavery. There was a time when black people were not treated as human beings because, for white men, black people mean slaves or vice versa. Yet Angelou's disposition and boldness to her people were nothing less than a personality of a superwoman. She is one of a million people who dreamed of penning her story to provide strength to others to open their mouths and sing. The universe can silence your gestures and acts, but not your speech. If a feminist perspective applies to this poem, she is still delivering an incredible power to women out there. She is forcing every woman to use your voice and bring down the oppressive noise that surrounds you. God has some reason to build a woman's voice a bit higher above a male. Lioness roar is more robust and more aggressive than a lion.

Moreover, do not yield to the demands of culture. I do not believe anyone can silence our voice but us. A woman should have the desire to crawl if her walk is limited, but should never underestimate herself. She must learn to apply her greatest weapon, which is her voice because Angelou has famously used it, and the worlds bombarded.

Her masterpiece poem, *Phenomenal Woman*, needs no introduction to the feminist world. The poem is all about feminine strength. She is a woman of today who gives respect to her inner as well as her outer beauty. She draws the attention of both men and women with her elegance and wisdom. The beauty here does not only imply outward trendy splendour, but beauty also means knowledge and confidence. She makes everyone fall for her beautiful aura. She has control over people in both a physical and an emotional way because they consider her charming, but they ignore her inner elegance. Nevertheless, they disregard her beauty out of jealousy, but as a title suggests she is a phenomenal woman. She does not strive for admiration and acknowledgement. Patrons of Black Feminism confront that black women are inherently distinct from white women in the structure made up by the latter. Black Feminism leads us towards the concept of doubly marginalised as according to black women the White people suppress them since ages for being a woman and for being black, but Angelou has turned the coins through her poem *Phenomenal Woman*.

Men themselves have wondered

What they see in me.

They try so much

But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them,
They say they still can't see.
I say,
It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me. (Angelou 131)

The speaker claims that she does not understand the definition of beauty as the world considers. Here she is not pointing out the racial discrimination but the abuse faced by Black women from the hands of White women. The poem deals with the concept of appearance as determined by culture. When Angelou speaks about her perspective, she genuinely explains what it is like to be a magnificent black woman. When the men and women mentioned in the poem look at her differently, she explains how differently she feels when they mock her and comments on her appearance. However, Angelou has set a parameter for every woman to follow by suggesting that they are unique and beautiful in their own way. They do not have to satisfy the appetite of the whole world; instead, they should focus on their own choices and likes.

Maya Angelou has always gifted hope for black people through all her works, and black women and the optimism she has offered is invaluable. They kept hitting the black community with her persuasive speech that we black people are no lesser than the white people are. She has always inspired them to be designed by God with a beautiful colour that makes them unique, distinctive and stunning at the same time. They should be happy and grateful for that.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise. (Angelou 164)

Angelou's works can be treated as a roadmap for the woman of today to follow and motivates to stay exceptional and beautiful in her skin. In today's environment, every woman juggles her life with insecurities. Everybody wishes to be something different, but mind it, we may conceal our scars and complexions by filtering through technological advances that are present in today's environment, so it is going to keep everyone carefree or content. However, reality can haunt us, as it would make us more mindful of our

identities. Let us live a life of a phenomenal woman by acknowledging our shortcomings and flaunting them happily.

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