

Toni Morrison's *Beloved* Symbolizes for the Lyricism and Intellectual Force in American Literature

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Abstract:

This article throws light on Tony Morrison's 'Beloved' novel which won Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1988 and made her stand as a finalist for the 1987 National Book Award. It is recognized as one of the best works of American fiction from 1981 to 2006. It is a true story based on Margaret Garner who forcibly had to draw her child to prevent them from being thrown back into inescapable slavery Kentucky. She crossed River Ohio to reach Ohio, a free state in 1856 January. Morrison introduces the ghost as one of the main characters in the novel whose name is 'Beloved' killed by her mother Sethe. She inculcates deep understanding of oppressive relations in this novel and mirrors struggle everyday with the haunting legacy of slavery and threatening memories. The writer cleverly projects a slaved mother who hard-won freedom but threatened by her disability to confront her prior life. This article gives scope of illustrating confronts of a woman who was in clutches of slavery and unable to find out her identity though she was freed from it. Some of the main aspects of the novel are also mentioned in this research.

Keywords: Slavery, oppressive relations, identity freedom, Kentucky, inescapable and haunting legacy.

Introduction:

The essence of the novel, concentrated at large in the conflict of thoughts and spoken words. Readers who generally read novels could identify that she hardly used the form of structured sentences. Despite of the narrative is exaggerated or spiced with rhetorical questions, half – sentences and semi- repetitions her novel jumped without caring form present to past and far past. This black American writer succeeded in penetrating the depth and breadth, the diversity and wonder of the African feminine experience. Her vision was defined by Jung in his ‘**Psychology and Literature**’ as followed

"A real experience, it is not something derived or

Secondary.....it is true symbolic expression..... This is the

Expression of something existent in its own right”.

Morrison’s beloved is recognized as a novel focusing with collective consciousness rather than individual struggles. It is seen through her repeated assertions that Beloved is the story of people in real time rather than confining it to a single person. She says

"The book was not about the institution-slavery with a

capital S. It was about those anonymous people called

slaves. What they do to keep on, how they make a life.

What they are willing to risk, however long it lasts, in order to relate to one another- that was incredible to me

Intellectual Characterization in ‘Beloved’

Sethe was an ex-slave who lived in house at 124 Bluestone roads with her daughter Denver and a ghost which haunted them all the time. Actually, it was firstborn daughter of Sethe who was killed by her in order to protect her from menial labor of sweet home. Sethe was portrayed as a strong woman who was unable to forget past and pass present as it come her way. Baby Suggs was another major character in this novel who was mother in law of sethe and mother of Halle, Sethe’s husband.

She was attracted to him as he could make her mother free from slavery though she is old enough and her freedom bought by her son turned meaningless at the end of the novel. On the contrary to this, it was his affection towards Baby Suggs made Sethe to choose him as her husband among five men in the sweet home. They became together in the corn field without the notice of Sweet home and support of other four men including Paul D who desired her since she stepped at the age of thirteen to replace Baby Suggs into such hell like home. Halle and Sethe were separated during their escape from Sweet home by then she had two sons and pregnant with a fourth child Denver. Howard and Burglar escaped to save themselves from her wrath of anger though it protected from bondage of slavery.

She murdered her two-year old daughter in an attempt to save her from being taken back to the slavery in turn she was ostracized by her community.

She had to escape from sweet home as she was whipped by cruel master because she wanted to meet Baby Suggs and her children at Cincinnati. She was rescued by Amy Denver a white girl who nursed and assisted her to deliver her fourth child. In order to show her gratitude Sethe named her child as Denver. She was always alone and had no friends except her sister ghost beloved whom she used to talk and spend her time. Paul D who took an opportunity to fulfill his desire for Sethe was hated by Denver and Beloved.

The ghost confronted him many a time. He couldn't own the family as he was not the member of the family. His character was portrayed as a man of desires with confused mindset. Denver was psychologically affected by her loneliness and separation of them by their community. Beloved was a character brought to the life by Morrison to bring out consciousness of human errors which was accepted by Sethe in this novel. She resisted annoyance from the ghost with utmost patience.

Beloved is known to people in around the community and they experienced her mysterious deeds in many contexts especially Denver, Sethe and Paul D Garner. After these series of incidents the community came forward to protect both Sethe and her daughter in this context Mr. Bodwin was approaching the house whom was

mistaken as a cruel school teacher by Sethe eventually, she tried to attack him. Miraculously, the ghost disappeared from 124. Later, the things were brought to normalcy how Denver thought to be with her neighbors and Paul D Garner promised to take care of Sethe and resided in 124.

Conclusion

This novel starts with death and stasis whereas ends with life and growth. It is an evident of Morrison's intellectual force that she gradually incorporates through the characters in her novels. It deals with many manifestations which everyone deals with them in their lives. She also deals with lyricism and induces it in her writings. Beloved manifests love, love of mother- daughter, self scarification and unconditional love for other though wounds caused by others in the society.

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