

Chapter - II

Toni Morrison: A leading voice

Born as Chloe Anthony Wofford in 1931 in Lorain (Ohio), was the second of four children in a black working class family. Her interest in writing and literature was quite evident since her childhood. She studied humanities at Howard and Cornell Universities, followed by an academic career at Texas Southern University, Howard University, Yale, and since 1989 a chair at Princeton University. She has given numerous public lectures on African American issues and worked for Random House publication as an editor. Her debut novel in 1970 sought her public acclaim and worldwide attention due to her rich literary accomplishments and rich and expressive depiction of Black America. She also served as a member of American Academy of Arts and Letters since 1981 and has been awarded a number of literary distinctions including Pulitzer Prize in 1988 and further the most prestigious Nobel. Toni Morrison is the first black woman to receive Nobel prize in literature. Her father was George Wofford, a shipyard welder and mother, Ramah Willis was a housewife. Her parents moved their place due to racism and to search a new and better place to live. Her father was a great and hardworking man, he worked parallelly in three places, that means three jobs for almost 17 years to give his children and wife a

worth living life. Her Mother was a pious woman, she was a regular church going woman and sang in the choir. Chloe heard many stories from those folklores and short stories by her parents. The Wofford family was proud of their heritage.

They were living in Lorain to escape racism, which was populated with different sections of people including European, Mexicans and Southern blacks. All were living conductively there and Chloe joined one integrated school. She made friends there, and never felt any feeling of discrimination because of her race and color unless she started dating.. she loved to read and fostered aspiration of becoming a dancer like her idols Ballerina, Maria Tallchief. She adored and followed writings of Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Gustave Flaubert and Jane austen. These all literary masters influenced her in her later writings. She was a meritorious student and graduated with an honors from Lorain High school in 1949.

Chloe Wofford then attended Howard University for her further education in Washington D.C, where she chose English as her major and Classics minor. She changed her name to Tony in place of Chloe because many people were unable to pronounce her name properly. After awhile she joined repertory company, The Howard University Players, with whom she toured South and got acquainted to the life of the blacks there and why her parents left it by moving north. Toni

Wofford graduated from the university in 1953 with a B.A. in English. She then completed her masters in 1955 from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Toni started working at Texas Southern University in Houston where she taught introductory English. At Howard black culture was entirely neglected from academics where as at Texas they always had a Negro week, in which they introduced the pupil with the idea of black culture and their existence. In 1957 Toni returned to Howard University, now as a member of faculty. That was the time of Civil Rights Movement and there she made her foundation to play an active role in the movement in her later life. She met several people in her stint who were also big names of civil rights movement. She met the poet Amiri Baraka, Andrew Young; she also met Dr. Martin Luther King, who later became Mayor of atlanta, Georgia. One of her students, Claude Brown at Howard wrote *Manchild in the promised Land*. The work was published in 1965 and soon claude and his work became one strong voice to back the movement and a classic of African-American literature.

Toni first time fell in love at Howard with a Jamaican architect, Harold Morrison and they got married in 1958. She gave birth to her first son Harold Ford in 1961. Toni continued her teaching in order to support her family. Her married life proved a failure and to escape the woes, she joined a small group of writers. She loved the company of people who

appreciated literature as much as she did. Each member in the group is asked to write or bring out a story or poem for discussion. Once Toni was short of any pre-prepared composition and she spontaneously plotted a loose story centred around a girl she knew in childhood who used to pray God for blue eyes. This story was appreciated by the other members of the group. Meanwhile she was pregnant with her second child and her marriage started deteriorating. She left her job at the university, her husband and after divorce she moved to her parents' home in Lorain with her two sons.

She soon obtained a job of associate editor at Random house in New York. Her hope was to be transferred soon to New York city. She indulged herself in working and taking care of her children. While she was working, her children were taken care by the housekeeper she appointed and in evening Toni herself prepared dinner and played with her sons until their bedtime. At night again she started writing, she pondered to complete her story that she narrated for the writer's group. She wanted to expand the story dwelling in her childhood imagination and memories and to make the story into a full length novel. Toni loved writing and except parenting and writing everything else repelled her interest.

Finally in 1967 she moved to New York and joined Random house as a senior editor. She edited works of prominent novelists of that

time including Muhammad Ali, Andrew Young, Angela Davis who were prominently black Americans. Along with that she was busy in sending copies of her newly written novel *The Bluest Eye* to various publishers. Eventually the novel got published in 1970 and received world wide critical acclaim but unfortunately it was not a commercial success. While she continued working in random house as editor, she started working as Associate professor at the State University Of New York. She continued her writing along with these stents and soon started working for her second novel which she based on friendship between two adult black women. *Sula* was published in 1973 and gained instant positive response as nominated for the 1975 National Book Award in fiction.

While she was working on her third novel, Toni got appointed as visiting lecturer at Yale university in Connecticut. She has now started focussing on black male characters, this insight in her writing came from watching her sons. *Song of Solomon* was published in 1977 and it won the National Book Critics Circle Award and the American Academy and the Institute of Arts and Letters Award. President Jimmy Carter appointed Morrison to the National Council on the Arts. *Tar Baby*, her fourth novel got published in 1981, where for the first time interaction between black and white characters had been described. And for the first time Morrison's picture appeared on the cover of the March 30, 1981 issue of the Newsweek magazine.

Soon she started working on her first play, *Dreaming Emmett* after leaving her position at Random House, having worked there for almost twenty years. This play was based on a true story of a black teenager named Emmett Till, who was killed by white racists in 1955, accusing him of whistling at a white woman. The play was one more bold step by Morrison.

Morrison next work too is influenced of a real life incident occurred in 1851, in which a slave Margaret Garner escaped with her children to Ohio from her master in Kentucky. When she was captured, she tried to kill her children rather than return them to life if slavery. *Beloved's* plot has been taken by this heart wrenching real life instance. Margaret was captured and put behind bars and she refused to show any kind of remorse, saying she was 'unwilling to have her children suffer as she had done'. *Beloved* was published in 1987 and became magnum opus of Toni Morrison. In 1988 the book won her Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

Toni Morrison is one of the world most recognizable female authors of the closing century. The primary Afro-American author to acquire the Nobel Prize, the Pulitzer Prize and lots of other awards. Her most recognizable work is to be novel *Beloved*, however also her different works have excessive excellent status. Being Afro-American herself, this fact mirrors in her books. Foremost topics are conflict of black people for their identity, feminism, epic subject matters of life and

its motive, she for particular depiction of her characters. The intention of the thesis is to compare and assessment three primary novels of Morrison including *Beloved*, *Jazz* and *Paradise*. those 3 books are together taken into consideration to be Dantesque trilogy approximately African American humans. the first part offers with slavery and mother-daughter relationship and love, the second one is from 1920s Jazz age, managing man-woman courting, love, infidelity and yearning for a child. The last e-book is set in Seventies and the principle plot centres voluntary segregation of black people, resistance, religion, love for God, hate. There might be short biography of the author and her that means to literature in the first bankruptcy. Each of the subsequent chapters will recognition on one of the books and description of woman protagonists. Within the last bankruptcy there will be contrast of all of the protagonists, their differences and similarities.

Morrison isn't just an tremendous and a success writer. For her work she was presented more than 20 awards, now not just literature awards. In 2012 Morrison obtained Presidential Medal of Freedom from the united states President Barack Obama. This award is given "for particularly meritorious contribution to (1) the safety or national hobbies of the US, or (2) global peace, or (3) cultural or other sizable public or Private endeavors". Some other massive award given not exactly for her

literature work are The national Humanities Medal, given “for works that has deepened the nation's Information of the humanities, broadened our citizens' engagement with the Humanities, or helped hold and extend people' get entry to to important resources in humanities. Because the nature of those awards indicates Morrison is well known for the preference of her subjects and for her conflict for Afro-American people. She is also often associated with feminism due to the fact predominantly women are protagonists of her novels. But the author does neither don't forget herself to be a feminist not refuse her works to be classified as feminist. Morrison is likewise regarded for assisting the US President Barack Obama in his first presidential elections in 2008 while he gained over Hillary Clinton.

Toni Morrison can be defined as a celeb in a actual feel of the word that means – she is regularly publicly visible in television or public dialogue, provides her political opinions as it's miles an artist's right to achieve this and factors out closer to the social and racial issues in cutting-edge society in her novels which belong to the top literature produced these days.

The most awarded Toni Morrison's e book is her fifth novel *Beloved*, which was awarded both Pulitzer and Nobel Prize. Based on the story of a slave named Margaret Garner who killed her own child in order to stop the toddler from the very identical life in slavery, the story

is about dealing with the killing and the dying of a toddler who returns after years as a ghost and later a real foreign woman who seems to be the incarnation of the deceased baby. The identify Garner is existing in the novel as nicely as an intertextual feature – the ultimate proprietors of Sethe are named Garners.

The story sets in 1870's, technology after the Civil War where black slaves already had their freedom but their lives have been nonetheless difficult. Main protagonist is Sethe who escape from slavery years in the past with her youngsters but killed one of them later in order to store her from a slavery life. Sethe lived with her spouse's mother Baby Suggs and recollections of both of the female are being instructed retrospectively all through the total story. The narrative of the story is mostly er-form but some chapters are informed in ich-form from Sethe's, her daughters' or Baby Suggs' and other characters points of view, frequently when they describe their recollections from the slavery days in the Sweet Home. Because the novel deals with a slavery theme, the book is frequently related with neo-slave narrative. Story combines elements from the real history and folklore as nicely as creative and even mystical ones.

Main persona is Sethe, her daughters Denver and Beloved, her spouse's mother Baby Suggs. Some supporting woman characters are Mrs. Garner, former owner of Suggs' family, woman Jones, instructor of

Denver, or Amy Denver, white woman who helps Sethe during her delivery. Sethe arrives to the Sweet Home, farm owned through the Garners, to be a replacement for historic Baby Suggs, whose son Halle has earned her freedom. Later she decides to marry Halle but is very sad due to the fact they cannot have a proper wedding although she longs for a real wedding dress and a ring. She makes her costume herself for the first night with her husband and she overhears their grasp nicknamed schoolteacher by his slaves talking about black slaves as animals which she remembers for the relaxation of her days. She is proud of herself and wishes to be self-sufficient but she truly does not refuse help of the others. Sethe loves her young people very deeply as proven when they reach their freedom. Although she was once sexually assaulted and misplaced her milk for her unborn toddler (which state of affairs she recalls many times) before the escape, she considers the freedom to be the most treasured present to her children and because of this trust she

tries to kill them when schoolteacher comes for them. Sethe is haunted by way of the memories of her slave life and does now not want to see her children residing the sameway. But killing her little daughter reasons her any other trauma and all these horrific recollections affect her lifestyles in the present. Her feel of guilt does not enable her to see Beloved as her reincarnated daughter for the first time and she tries to explain the catch 22 situation she had to Beloved and justify her own

actions. She is manipulated by using Beloved because she nonetheless fears her past and tries to make amends to the girl. But at the cease of the story she truly lets go the past, in all likelihood forgives herself, stops to worry and tries to live in the presence with Denver and Paul D.

Denver is the youngest baby and the 2d daughter of Sethe and Halle. She is very closed, sensitive and introvert however clever. She is eighteen years old however acts younger due to the fact of her loneliness and isolation. The only people she meets are her mother, grandmother and brothers, later only mother and the ghost existing in the house. She really fears a bit to go out without anyone else and can't picture the outside world.

Denver sees the other individuals as a risk to her little world, e. g. Paul D who is developed affectionate by Sethe. She aimlessly cherishes her sister Beloved however when she sees that the connection amongst Sethe and Beloved heightens, Denver ventures up and boldly requests encourage their neighbors and even lands a position for herself. She additionally was the person who discussed most with the phantom and was pulled in to the paranormal yet she is the one who really ousted the phantom with the assistance of the others. This character goes a long route from being a terrified young woman to an adult and sure woman. Dearest is accepted to be the little girl of Sethe, the young woman who was slaughtered as a infant yet returns as a resurrection in fragile living

creature and blood eighteen years after the fact. She is all things considered the focal point of the entire story and the primary piece of the ethical situation introduced.

Dearest is touchy, requesting, needs Sethe only for herself. When she shows up it is proposed that she has gotten away from an imprisonment of an obscure white man. She remembers nothing from her past just water and a scaffold when she shows up at the entryway in 124. At the point when Beloved gets some information about her hoops and knows the melody Sethe used to sing to her youngsters, everyone begins to trust she is the rebirth of the expired young woman. Her psychological condition does not compare to an adult woman in her mid twenties yet rather to a tyke. She declined to comprehend that Sethe murdered the infant since she didn't need her to live as a slave and that demonstration ought to have conceded her flexibility. Adored kind of supports the blame and the dread of the past in Sethe and declines to excuse her mom her transgression. At a certain point in the story the parts change and Beloved goes about as a mother to Sethe, who never had the opportunity to become more acquainted with her mom. Cherished is a symbolic character that may speak to the murdered child, as well as the dull side of the subjugation, the past and itself. Her character is additionally the one that drives the story forward – she changes both Denver and Sethe (in spite of the fact that she hauls her

through her own hellfire at first, Sethe improves toward the finish of the book) and in addition Paul D, and this change likewise impacts the entire neighborhood when Suggs family makes new companions. Last scene where Beloved is available is a parallel to a scene in the past – a man comes to 124, Sethe attempts to free her tyke and murders her.

Last the principal female character is Baby Suggs, mother of Halle and mother-in law of Sethe and grandma to Howard, Buglar, Beloved and Denver. She was sexually mishandled amid her days in subjugation and had eight children yet was permitted to keep just Halle. Halle needs to spare his old mother so he works additional on Sundays and procures the flexibility for Baby. With help of abolitionists she moves to Cincinnati, house . She progresses toward becoming evangelist and has numerous companions. As Baby Suggs witnesses the child murder of her grandchild she contacts her limit and remains in the house for whatever remains of her days. Child bites the dust subsequent to being free from bondage for a long time however without her youngsters. In spite of the fact that Baby lives sixty years as a slave she could keep her soul and some positive thinking however at last she was likewise broken by her background, for the most part losing her grandchild.

Some other strong female characters show in the story are just quickly specified.

Mrs. Garner is the spouse of Mr. Earn and sister of the teacher who acquires the Sweet Home after Mr. Garner passing. The Garners allowed their slaves

a few benefits and were considered being caring to their slaves however by and by they claim slaves. At the point when Sethe takes material to make herself a wedding dress, Mrs. Garner does not rebuff her and gives her studs as a wedding blessing. Later she talks with her sibling about Sethe being manhandled by his nephew.

JAZZ

The 6th novel of Morrison *Jazz* was distributed in 1992. The story sets in Harlem, New York amid "Thundering Twenties" or "the Jazz Age". The name of the book reflects the jazz music itself concerning the piece which is by all accounts free and conflicting. Likewise the storyteller of the story is difficult to recognize in light of the fact that there is by all accounts more than one individual to recount the story. These sort of storytellers are allude to as an inconsistent or deceitful storyteller. Inverse to an "all powerful" storyteller, dishonest storytellers change or adjust the truth as indicated by their perspective and can include subjective components and emotions. The story is about despondent destiny of Violet and Joe Trace's marriage. Perusers

take in the entire story reflectively with numerous flashbacks to the

adolescent of the heroes in Virginia, the primary data to be perused is that there was a burial service of a young woman whose body was disregarded by another woman. Later it is uncovered that the dead young woman was Dorcas, youthful admirer of Joe Trace, and his significant other Violet was the person who defiled her body. Violet is said to be weird and insane woman who cherished just her flying creatures she had home in a confine. As specified before, the story has "a sentiment of jazz music" and can be perused additionally as an annal of Black individuals amid alleged Harlem Renaissance. There is additionally another intertextual significance covered up – the character of Dorcas depends on a genuine Harlem woman who was shot to death. Picture taker James Van Der Zee distributed in his *The Harlem Book of the Dead* a photography of a dead woman resting in peace after she seeped to death from a shot injury. The woman's character was kept obscure so Morrison chose to make a story utilizing this one character as a wellspring of motivation.

Violet and Joe follow are miserably hitched and living in Harlem when Joe experiences passionate feelings with eighteen years of age Dorcas Manfred. They meet when Joe is pitching beautifiers to Alice Manfred, Dorcas' close relative. After some time Dorcas feels tired of Joe so she needs to wind up their relationship and discloses to him she is tired of him. Dorcas is attracted to a youthful well known man whom she

moves at a gathering with. Joe goes to the gathering searching for her what's more, he shoots her to her shoulder. Dorcas advise everybody not to call a crisis and later she seeps to death due to this untreated injury.

Violet appears at the Dorcas memorial service and terrifies her face which causes huge disorder. Violet is envious at the young woman even after her demise and this pushes her to go to visit the young woman's auntie, Alice Manfred. They really progress toward becoming companions as they share feeling about the disastrous occurrence. After some time, Joe and Violet are seen to attempting to recharge their marriage with a little assistance from Felice, Dorcas' companion.

As a parallel to a story going ahead in Harlem, perusers take after the historical backdrop of Violet furthermore, Joe, their family foundation and how they met. Both Violet and Joe families have muddled history, e. g. Violet's mom Rose Dear dedicated suicide leaving Violet having an inclination that a vagrant or Joe's mom Wild is said to be insane vagrant.

Violet Trace is the primary character. She is spouse of Joe Trace and she is right now miserable with that position. They live respectively however by each other and Violet aches for a youngster. Since they have none she is keeping winged creatures in an enclosure including a parrot who says to her "I adore you". In any case, after the burial service of Dorcas she let every one of the winged animals go.

This is one of her deeds she is considered being insane for. The vast majority trust that she is insane not in light of the fowls. Violet endeavored to take a child once yet later was unfit to clarify why. She likewise sat amidst the street and was not able leave – Violet later expresses that it craved watching another person. A portion of her neighbors even said they anticipated that her would go to Dorcas' burial service and scar her face. She is said to have breaks, these minutes when she just get distraught. After the burial service mischance individuals begin to call her Violent. What's more, Violet gets into one of her breaks and begins to ask everybody about the dead young woman as though she needed to discover everything about her like some mystery she is yet to find. Be that as it may, she was not generally "brutal" and odd. She is depicted similar to a decent and vivacious individual when she was youthful. After she wedded Joe she needed get away from where her mom slaughtered herself so they moved to the City (Harlem is alluded as the City by the two accomplices) on her proposal. After the horrendous experience on the Dorcas' memorial service when she progresses toward becoming companion with Alice Manfred and Felice, she understands that she needs to stand up again to make things better as she did when she was youthful and left Virginia. When conversing with Alice, she goes up against her own past and fears furthermore, the reality she didn't need a youngster when she was youthful. She additionally understands

that she sees Dorcas as somebody from her past. Toward the finish of the story we can again observe that she is beginning to recuperation from the dramatization controlling her outrage and disappointment and dissatisfaction with her past and needs to reconnect with her significant other Joe.

Dorcas is the third piece of a miserable love triangle Violet-Joe-Dorcas, depicted to have a light skin straight hair and being neither lovely nor appalling. She is a youthful excellent young woman, a vagrant living with her close relative Alice Manfred. Her folks passed on all in all a heartbreaking demise when she was a little child – her dad was executed in a streetcar and her

mother passed on in a consuming house amid riots the simple same day. Since that day Dorcas has lived with her close relative. Alice is more seasoned sister of Dorcas mother and is exceptionally defensive of Dorcas, even overprotected. As a young person, Dorcas feels caught in that overprotective condition and needs to find the world all alone and being viewed as a genuine woman. She understands that when she meets Joe. When she begins meeting him in a leased flat, she doesn't consider results of dating a wedded man who is old enough to be her dad. Joe expedites her little endowments every one of their gathering and she is exceptionally glad at first. Be that as it may, she gets exhausted and declines to see him any longer guaranteeing she is tired of him. She gets

herself another young man named Acton who should be a genuine man who will make her a genuine woman. At the point when Joe shoots her at a gathering she picks to pass on being watched by individuals around and along these lines she kind of stays with Joe by grasping the destiny he decided for her. As was specified before her character was based on a genuine obscure woman shot to death from Harlem.

Alice Manfred is other imperative female character. She is a dowager and a watchman of her young niece Dorcas. She sees the outside world as loaded with risk allurements for youngsters and that every one of them are wicked and can be a danger for her niece. Consequently Alice continues being exceptionally overprotective of her protégé. Whenever Violet visits her after Dorcas' passing, she is frightened at first. She considers both Joe and Violet hazardous in spite of the fact that she doesn't fear them truly. Disregarding all desires both old women kind of see each different as they get to know each other and move toward becoming companions.

What more they enable each other to mend their physical scars, for Alice's situation her association with her own particular sexuality. Felice is last of the critical female characters. She is Dorcas' closest companion. Felice lives with her grandma since her folks live and work somewhere else. She thinks about Dorcas' issue with Joe and she covers for her

despite the fact that she doesn't affirm of her conduct. She has all the earmarks of being more developed than Dorcas of their companions.

Toward the finish of the book she helps Violet and Joe reconnect and on account of her missing guardians is seen by the couple as their own. Felice has a high good guidelines and fearlessness in this manner being possibly the most grounded of all.

There are additionally other female characters in the book. All of them are parts of the foundation story from the history or the youthful long stretches of the heroes. Malvonne Edwards – Neighbor of Violet and Joe. She leases her flat to Joe so he has a place for his gatherings with the youthful sweetheart.

Climbed Dear – Mother of Violet and little girl of True Belle who submitted suicide. At the point when her significant other left her and their children in obligations she loses her quality to battle and escapes from live.

Genuine Belle – Violet's grandma who goes with Vera Louise Gray when she leave Virginia. In any case, when she discovers that her girl slaughtered herself she returns home and raises Violet and her kin. Genuine Belle is extremely hopeful and positive individual who snickers frequently. She can be viewed as a partner to Felice, they both are solid characters who help individuals around them to begin once again. Genuine Belle too unknowingly makes injury Violet since she is

begrudge that her own grandma was a family to an outsider, to a child of Vera Gray, her fancy woman however not to her own grandchild.

Vera Louise Gray – Daughter of manor proprietors who has a child with a black man and subsequently she is send away by her family. Genuine Belle abandons her family to go with Vera.

Wild – Black woman who lives in the forested areas. Despite the fact that it is never expressly said perusers can accept that she is Joe Trace's mom. Her cause is dubious and her name was given to her when she nibbles a man who helped her amid conveying her child, presumably Joe.

In 1987, Toni Morrison started working as Robert F Goheen Professor in the Council of Humanities at Princeton University. She became the first black woman writer to hold the chair. While accepting the honor, Morrison said, 'I take teaching as seriously as I do my writing.' There Morrison took part in African American studies, Women studies programme and at that stint she started working on her next novel, Jazz, about life in the 1920s. This book was published in 1992 and in 1993, Morrison was awarded with the most prestigious Nobel in literature. She was the eighth woman and first black woman to get the honor.

About the impeachment in 1998, Morrison wrote that, Since Whitewater, Bill Clinton has been mistreated because of his 'Blackness'. Years later in the mid of this investigation Clinton started getting

advantage of this statement by Toni and has been called the first black President. This particular phrase became a positive propaganda for Clinton supporters. After all he showed all the needed traits for the tag: born poor, single parent household, working class, saxophone playing, Mcdonald's and junk food lover from Arkansas. Hence Clinton roasted the statement and gained huge popularity among all sections till in 2008 Morrison corrected the context of her statement saying: 'People misunderstood that phrase. I was deploring the way in which President Clinton was being treated, vis-à-vis the sex scandal that was surrounding him. I said he was being treated like a black on street, already guilty, already a prep. I have no idea what his real instincts are, in terms of race.' In 2008 Presidential elections, Morrison openly endorsed and promoted Democratic party candidate Barack Obama over Republicans Hillary Clinton, without any harsh criticism of the latter.

Toni Morrison never liked being called 'Poetic writer', according to her the label seem to give attention to the lyricism of her work and marginalizes real motive of her literature and denies power and resonance of her stories. Being one of the critically acclaimed and reader's favourite she has all right to choose what praise to accept and what to leave. But she has not denied everything bestowed but has accepted the title 'black woman writer' wholeheartedly. Her ability to portray the instances with such dexterity led some critics to call her the

'D.H. Lawrence of the black psyche.' She has also strong hand in examining the human relations, races, sexes and the struggles between civilizations.

Her major works are: *The Bluest Eye*(1970), *Sula*(1974), *Song of Solomon*(1977), *Tar Baby*(1981), *Beloved*(1987), *Jazz*(1992), *Paradise*(1997), *Love*(2003), *A Mercy*(2008) and *Home*(2012). Her major non-fictional works are: *The Black Book*(1974), *Playing in the black:Whiteness and the literary imagination*(1992), *Race-ing Justice, Engendering Power:Essays on anita Hill, Clarence Thomas, and the construction of social reality*(editor) (1992), *Birth of a Nationhood: Gaze, Script, and Spectacle in the O.J. Simpson case*(co-editor)(1997), *Remember: The journey to School Integration*(April 2004), *What moves at the margin: Selected Nonfiction*, edited by Carolyn C. Denard(April 2008), *Burn this Book: Essay Anthology*, edited (2009).

To start with *Beloved*, one of the most important and popular novels of the world and of Morrison. We can see the surface theme of this work as racism and effects of slavery. Much of the novel focuses on these two themes, on a community of slaves and their struggles to get their lives on track. The novel questions, through the eyes of a school teacher, what the difference is between a man and an animal. In its vibrant portrayal of the Negro Community, their desires and troubles, the novel shows that a black man is like any other man. The novel also addresses

the concern of whether it is better to endure the injustices of an unfeeling people or to fight against them.

Closely associated with the theme of race and sexual violence, each of the character in her work has endured a furious past, complete with the worst horrors imaginable. Sethe was raped and forced to murder, Paul D was imprisoned and put in a cube in a ditch, Stamp Paid was forced to give her wife away to be used as a sex toy and the list of cruelties goes on and on. Many of these men and women tried to stood up and fight back for their existence like Setge and Paul D chose to repress the past. Others too worked actively against it like Stamp Paid. However no respite have they got by their efforts but with time they too learnt to deal and survive in the same situations. They all learned to accept and deal with the past, which is very alive in present, only then can a future be found.

Another theme in *Beloved* is that of the banality of evil. Slavery at that time in America was not just an institution but a way of living, a mind-set that was very difficult to uproot and far reaching in its consequences. Though the Garners treated their slaves kindly and in return they too were being respected by people such as Sethe and Paul D. However later Paul realize, 'Everything rested on Garner being alive. Without his life each of theirs fell to pieces.' Though treated kindly, the Negroes in Sweet Home were little more than toys to be manipulated by

the Garners. The theme also reflects in the description of the Bodwin's household, which includes the statue of a black boy and the words inscribed 'At Yo Service.' The Bodwins have taken an active part in the fight against injustice and slavery, yet fail to comprehend the mindset behind the statue. With such images Morrison demonstrates the extent of severity of slavery and the urgent need to abolish it from society.

Moral ambiguity too has played a major part in the story, the question hovering throughout was, 'Was the murder right or wrong?'. And the answer that one get from the story is that maybe it was right thing to do at that situation but She didn't have the right to do it.

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