CONCLUSION

Black women, their lives and their tradition have been ignored not only by the canon, but also by the fellow victims like White Women and Black Men. The acute devaluation faced by them awakened them to protest by first valuing their own lives and then making the world acknowledge their presence. The African American women have had a long history of pain, struggle, and triumphs. Their inherent strengths have made them survivors. These are women who have passed on their struggle and tradition from one generation to another. Thus equipping them to handle the everyday pressure of being a Black person in White America.

Black feminist movements came up as the necessity of the times, during the Post-Colonial world of 1960s onwards. Like all the other marginals, around the globe the Black women also realized the need to raise their voice and establish their own identity. Alice Walker's "Womanism" came as an answer to their specific needs. It looked at the Black women from a fresh view point, and theorized their strengths and uniqueness which hitherto had been neglected by one and all.

After being fascinated by Walker’s theory, the researcher moved on to her fiction and noticed that her theory had spilled on to her creative writings. Walker’s creative writing were a manifestation of her Womanist theory. She also discovered that Walker’s personal commitment to propagate her theory. We can visualize a definite growth in the Womanist sensibilities of Walker, the person herself. As the years passed by Walker has been able to reconcile
with all the estranged relationships in her personal life. In a very Womanist manner she has been able to forgive her father for the indifference and distance that he had for his family. She is also been able to look at her former marriage and understand the issues that lead to its failure. Walker’s last three novels are essentially about this personal and spiritual growth.

After postulating her Womanist theory in her highly acclaimed non-fiction *In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens* in 1967, in 1970 Walker came up with her first novel *The Third life of Grange Copeland*. Walker’s journey as a novelist which began with this depiction of a man as a Womanist character and moved on to create increasingly effective portrayals of men and women as strong well-established Womanist characters. *Meridian*’s story is not only of the protagonist Meridian but also of Walker herself, who like Meridian was a Civil Rights activist trying to find her ‘Selfhood’. The seeds of spiritual quest sown in *Meridian* finally sprout in Walker’s last two novels taken up in this thesis namely *The Forward is with a Broken Heart* and *Now is the Time to Open Your Heart*. If *The Color Purple* established her as Womanist author then *The Temple of My Familiar* opened up the other side of this talented writer. *The Temple* not only brought out the Womanist concerns but also dealt with history from the point of view of a Black woman.

The two novels taken up in the third chapter are Womanist treatise all right but they open up many more areas of interest like female-circumcision, which by it self is a very serious issue, and the hither-to untouched area like father-daughter relationship. Walker has taken up the issue of circumcision of young girls in her other non-fiction work called *Warrior Marks* (1993) a
book written in collaboration with her friend Pratibha Parmar. Many women historians have felt the urgent need for women to tell their side of story of the human civilization, as much of it is missing in *HIS*story. Walker’s fictional take on the remembered history of the Black women from all over the world is an attempt at this unraveling.

Alice Walker undertakes the sojourn towards Womanism along with all her characters. This thesis concentrates on this very aspect of her fiction. Through the growth of the characters the researcher has tried to document Walker’s personal growth and commitment to Womanism. She is thoroughly convinced that there is a definite forward movement in her fiction. The Womanism portrayed in *Now is the Time to Open Your Heart* is much more advanced and firmly established in comparison to Walker’s first novel *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*. To conclude, this thesis establishes its initial hypothesis that Alice Walker’s fiction is an inscription of her Womanist theory, undertaken through the development of Womanism in her characters in a succession of one novel after another.

Due to the restriction of the title, this thesis has not included Walker’s poems and her non-fiction writing. These areas hold good future possibilities for Womanist research. There is a scope for research from eco-feminist point as well. Eastern Philosophy and Spirituality can also be read in Alice Walker’s work, as her writings increasingly grow spiritual, in tune with her own personal growth.