PREFACE

Considered a champion of the search for individual identity, Paule Marshall is praised by critics for exploring the psychological trials and concerns of African-American women. She began her career as a writer when African-American women’s literature was at a major crossroads, a crossroads that became the starting point for the African-American women writers’ courageous revision of American history, society, and literature from an African-American perspective. Marshall’s insistence on the relationship of woman as self and as part of a community makes us feel that she is no less than some of the best African-American women writers – like Zora Neale Hurston, Gwendolyn Brooks, Alice Walker, and Toni Morrison – though she has not received the critical attention that she deserves. The present thesis intends to explore Marshall’s treatment of women, and how they reconstitute their lives and restructure their self by viewing themselves positively, placing themselves squarely in the context of their own community and culture, contributing to the survival of blacks as whole, and embracing black cultural past.

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(T. ARUNA SHANTHA KUMARI)