



## THE IMMORTAL SPIRIT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN THE WHITE SUPRAMASTIC AND MALE DOMINATED WORLD

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### ABSTRACT

*The African American Women suffered triple exploitations due to Gender, Colour & Racial discrimination. This research paper is an account of the agonizing violence inflicted on the Afro-American women in the color torn, gender bias and racially plagued American society during the 1960 to 1990 towards the 20th century. It is also the reflections of the Afro-American women's micro and macrocosm and journey from the deadly hopeless, lifeless situations and fearless battles to achieve identity equal to normal human existence in the male dominated, white Supramastic society.*

**Key words:** - white Supramastic society, discrimination, black experiences, domestic violence, sexual violence, objectification

These women writers highlight universal topics related to the freedom fight, the struggle of the Afro-American women emerging from gender, colour and racial bias and fighting against not only white supremacy but also male dominated ideology imposed on them. The ongoing and seemingly never ending battle for their survival and the black African-American women and the general life of these women as reflected in their writings has been described with immense intelligent sensitivity, emotions and feelings matching with the distorted, broken and enslaved hearts of those women. It has been rightly observed that African-American literature has been influenced by African Diaspora writings. It is the literature with consciousness and with social purpose. It has emerged due to necessity, struggled to find means of survival and endurance to live in adverse environment to reflect the actual situations and experience. It transmits the exact perception of the microcosm of black women and microcosm of the black women community. (J Saunders Redding)

Gloria Naylor's novel is the reflection of the Afro-American life which reflect collective consciousness, cultural racial group aspiration and the agonies of black women. As reflected



in the novel, women of Brewster place showing collection of black experience with sense of commitment and contemporaries i.e. matter of current times.

This also shows the concepts (observation) that the literature reflects the experiences regarding travel psychic reintegration, gender displacement, cultural conflicts and true picture of post- colonial capitalist white supremacist world. As observed in Paul Marshall's novels black community becomes representative of black's struggle for individual autonomy and communal wholeness. Their main characteristics- commitment, collectiveness and contemporaneity are the indispensable parts of this literature.

The black women have some different type of courage as reflected on page 7 of Eva's Man, the act of biting for castrating her lover and refusal of any verbal communication not to be looked upon as mad person during her grim battle of survival of the disease called objectification, meaning – the other person simply disappears into an inanimate object. The words like “act like whore, I am gonna \_ \_ \_ u like a whore”(pg 7) is just objectifying her own mother by her insensitive father. Converting Eva's childhood memories of her mother are getting objectified. Cornel in his essay black sensuality is nothing but degrading black body in order to rule and control ( page 85 ) Gay Jones in his novel Dora writes that women literature is a complex web of rape incest's, Ursa, the blue singer reveals Simon Corregidor fathered her mom and grandma ( page 137). Davier says motherhood is nothing but domination of man in women's body. Irigary says maternity only fills gaps of female sensuality. (pg 27) Female pleasure is misfelt completely. As per White Ford—women only sensuality, as mom only for generations and intruders will be liked. (Kubiteheek.) In the novel Jones says ‘women are only for making generations’.(pg 10) The disgraceful life of African - American women as reflected in Corregidor. The African black women are enigmatic characters (mysterious) with double negative embodiment gets shit on for being a women and for being black as well. As Ursa, the protagonist says that the black women are left cheated and beaten. Gloria Naylor in ‘women of \_\_\_\_\_’ described the exploitation of African-American women just like the other author.

### **Analysis**

While describing the violence, we come across not only sexual violence but various types of violence given are—domestic, interpersonal, sexual enslavement, social stigma, sexual misconduct and child sex abuse. The dictionary meaning of —violence is refusing the other person's equal states and preventing all the freedom and progress.

The racial, sexual and domestic violence related themes are allied and their parallel existence with dominated males and white supremacy is a fact. This study has played an important role to illustrate the aspects of racial, sexual, social and domestic violence against women existing in society as reflected in their novels. The concepts of domestic violence are the most



dangerous, horrible and like a hell. Domestic means protection where love, security and identity exist. Domestic violence means absence of these good and for enslaving without anything good. But only traumatization and mental trauma and it is more than a hell. No relationship exists for woman. Women have no meaning, no existence like mother, daughter wife, beloved, mistress etc. But only bad pains and agonizing life ..... hell bound eternal life. It is like dying every moment has been explained in all the novels.

Domestic violence is synonymous to not just physical torture but emotional, mental, psychological torture also. These injuries are more damaging than the physical injuries. At any age any relation such as mother, daughter, and even lesbians the women lack. From young babies to old women all suffer from domestic violence. The domestic violence stems out of objectifying and wild animal ideology. They are accused, abandoned beaten by their husbands nearly every day. As Jones Gayle's says, "African -American women literature helps to give them innovative voice. The discriminations at homes, women suffer from self identity crises from their childhood. In *Corrigidora*, Ursa says her husband Milt Thomas called her his 'pussy' meaning faithful and loving wife (page 46) objectifying, addressing by means of sexual organs name. The women define themselves by the noun 'womb' (page 110) suspecting husbands e.g. James Hun sadomasocastic and unhealthy environment at home made their life difficult. The black women were used, abused thrown out when asserted both by the white and black men. Sexual violence is the wrong and hurtful behavior originating from wrong belief that one sex is superior to the other and has less capability and intelligence and they are never equal. This feeling of inequality and discrimination breeds malice and hatred which ultimately leads to exploitation behavior. During the rape of Lorraine, the feelings are summed up on page 71. She was denied a voice to expel her pain. Lorraine retracts into the realm where she no longer feels the negation of effectively negate experience. Depicting exploitation of women in 1980 very vivid description is given on page 134. In spite of hopeless, agonizing life, the black women dream for freedom. E.g. Harriet Tubman says "my people must go free" and her slogan is "give us liberty or give us death"

*I ask no monument proud and high  
To arrest the gaze of the passers by  
All that my yearning spirit craves  
To bury me not in a land of slaves.*

The black women sing and write songs of freedom, liberty and equality of freedom and dreams. As Alice Walker writes 'we shall overcome' The quest for autonomy, dignity and access to opportunity to earn an adequate living Is complicated and frustrated by the antagonizes of race. Class gender conflict, objects of continuous racial exploitation, placement and exploitation through violence go hand in hand. After her son's birth mastic Michel tries to change to discover self-identity in society.



Naylor portrays women as a symbol of a women exploitation, and humiliation. The story of these women starts the thinking process to find root cause of sufferings and escape pains of the captivated life. Naylor's writings lead to acquiring equality of identity. The Rebellious co-operative women Michael change from submissive, passive and traditional women in a progressive growth (change)

Sila Boyce in *Brown girl and Brownstones* is also example of victory of dependent, naïve to overcome the discrimination. American society dispute of displacement to achieve identity. Lorraine, in the *women of Brewster place* also suffers the rape, hostility of discrimination and understands the man considers women as object of harassment and mere pleasure.

In *Eva's Man*, Jones depicted women's quest for a meaningful identity and women story of resistance. Eva proves that women are strong enough to break the boundaries and survive. She is a woman who is accused of being mad, sexual and murderer, but her power of will and determination enables her to stand proudly. Not struggling for domination but peaceful citizens and for survival, these painful experiences of the women are not fictitious but have been derived from actual experiences of life.

*Eva's man* focuses on repressed, violent, terrifying and obsessive aspects of African-American women's experiences. Women are punished rather than rewarded for their sexuality. Eva remembers the conflicts in between her parents and the same thing is repeated when James objects her university friends visiting her for exchanging notes as infidelity. The female characters are submissive and surrender to the destiny. She poisons and mutilates her lover but gets greater imprisonment. The women are pushed at the bottom of the class and race. It's a horror story of black women's struggle in the male dominated world.

In *barley's Café* Naylor appreciates woman's culture, flexibility and strengthens and also bring good changes for themselves. Men are allowed more sexual freedom than women. But Salina rebels against the prescribed morality of the community by violating the rules of morality through premarital sex in *Brown girl*, by Paul Marshall's heroic quest and qualities required achieving identity. The *Brown girl* is a very special work of African - American literature. The sacrifices of women depicted throughout in the novel 'Daughters'. The marginalized and victimized mute women have been described. A strong voice is to woman thought in these novels showing the journey of identity, self-definitions, and problems of displacement, racism, sexuality and discrimination.

#### Conclusion

The changing women image from suffering to the assertive ones, redefining self-defying traditional roles are depicted in the novels along with immigration, displacement and cultural conflicts. They are now ready for a change with renewed vigor, more confident and



leadership qualities having women is the important sources of leadership is the old content of major changes brought.

The objectification, the domestic Violence and all other atrocities are due to the ignorance of man. She lives on with the immortal spirit to give birth to new life with the spirit of Immortality and forgiveness in the eternal hope to see a new dawn of wisdom of equality, eternal peace and total freedom which inherently comes by birth and ensured by empowerment through education and development . Is an account of the multiple exploitation and their attention of the basic rights to live and to achieve freedom by freedom by cracking the shell of slavery and exploitation. This work is a comprehensive study of black identity political, social ideology through study of their autobiography. The study has thrown light on black identity and black racial problems. It also serve as a guiding light to rise out of the wretched conditions based on discrimination in the journey of human .....identity and respect. This study gives the true picture of the African American struggles in the white dominant society of the modern American Era. It deals with the theoretical context he has tried comprehensive Black Identity in the light of social political and racial issues the black identity and the black racial problems and psychological annihilation for all black people.

It depicts the struggle for freedom and Identity. The depiction of the average black people in ghettos and their wretched condition is described very well. It gives the realities of black women protest, which gives the miserable plight of racial discrimination and their struggle for racial identity. Their urge to rise above the discrimination and inequality and the freedom from white supremacy through all these works.

They used history and experiences to project an emerging new woman in the Afro-American society. The major themes of the novels are identity crisis, racism, sexual violence, domestic violence, problems of emigration, and sexual harassment. This study is significant because it focuses on the issues of Afro-American women's struggle for daily assaults at home and work place and in the white society. Fighting the daily assaults includes struggle with their men and their community, for their rights. At the work place Afro-American women are discriminated because of their race and gender.

They are denied, the place of equality and equity. The picture presented in the novels is indeed bleak and pathetic. These different novelists have their agenda to fight out oppression, racial, sexual and domestic violence. The themes of protest and domestic trauma are also explorations for the struggle of women for betterment. These novelists are significant because of their recognition of such issues. Afro-American women are not struggling for domination, but it is only for survival for growing peaceful citizens. This is the prominent feature of Afro American feminism.



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