

## ‘Their Eyes Were Watching God’ by Zora Hurston ‘Beloved’ by Toni Morrison – Slave Narratives- A Critical Analysis

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**Abstract:** Zora Neale Hurston's 'Their Eyes Were Watching God' and Toni Morrison's 'Beloved' depict two individuals of color Janie and Sethe, who are deceived by both bigotry and sexism, continually managing the tradition of subjugation, and attempting to develop another world for themselves. Subjection doesn't just affect the ones who are encountering, yet additionally the ones who have proactively gone through, and even who were brought into the world after the finish of servitude. The two books show the enduring effect of racial abuse came about because of the organization of bondage. Janie Crawford is a dazzling person in African-American writing and is concentrated as an image of solidarity, shortcoming, freedom, and restriction. Janie, the primary person is a youthful African-American lady, burning for more control of her life during when ladies had next to zero say. Female voice is spread all through the novel with Janie, the hero, looking for normal and shared love in a public town. Janie lives in a humble community with her grandma, and she had three relationships with three unique men. Hurston proposes that female voice is the patriarch which is stifled, and the main genuine way for ladies to have a voice is through men. 'We are results of our past, yet we don't need to be detainees of it. In the book 'Beloved' by Toni Morrison, the traumatic history of the characters collectively drives the story and shapes their characters' respectively. Morrison's use of flashbacks and events of the past displays the impact history has had on the main characters of this novel. The novel's protagonist, Sethe, had arguably the most trying past as recounted throughout the novel. This paper is an attempt to depict the lasting impact on protagonists of their past slavery.

**Key words:** Unique, turmoil, maternal, psychological, fictional.

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

Zora Neale Hurston's 'Their Eyes Were Watching God' and Toni Morrison's 'Beloved' portray two black women Janie and Sethe, who are victimized by both racism and sexism, constantly dealing with the legacy of slavery, and trying to construct a new world for themselves. Slavery does not only impact the ones who are experiencing, but also the ones who have already gone through, and even who were born after the end of slavery Both novels demonstrate the lasting impact of racial oppression resulted from the institution of slavery. For Janie, even though she lives in the period after slavery ended, the principles of slavery still affect her community and individual identities. Janie's early life is largely shaped by perspectives of her grandmother Nanny, an ex-slave who firmly believes "de white man is de ruler of everything" (14) and prevents Janie from marrying no one else but Logan Killicks because he, as a socially respectable and financially stable man, can give the protection that Janie needs. Nevertheless, the marriage of Janie and Logan proves to be an unhappy and destructive one. As Janie questions her submissive role as Logan's wife, Nanny thinks Janie is too young to realize the importance of stability in a black person's life.

### 2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Zora Neale Hurston's 'Their Eyes Were Watching God' and Toni Morrison's 'Beloved' depict two individuals of colour Janie and Sethe, who are deceived by both bigotry and sexism, continually managing the tradition of subjugation, and attempting to develop another world for themselves. Subjection doesn't just affect the ones who are encountering, yet additionally the ones who have proactively gone through, and even who were brought into the world after the finish of servitude. The two books show the enduring effect of racial abuse came about because of the organization of bondage. Janie Crawford is a dazzling person in African-American writing and is concentrated as an image of solidarity,

shortcoming, freedom, and restriction. Janie, the primary person is a youthful African-American lady, burning for more control of her life during when ladies had next to zero say.

### 3. ANALYSIS:

Security should be prioritized over love and happiness. The conflicting arguments between Nanny and Janie not only epitomize the failure of many black women's pursuit of true love, but also reflects how slavery continues to circumscribe the lives of black offsprings. In *Beloved*, the effect of servitude is exhibited through Sethe's powerlessness to protect herself from her horrendous experience as a slave. Despite the fact that she takes off from Sweet Home, Sethe is continually drenched in her re-memory. Occasions from the past barge in on her present.

"The image is still there," as Sethe says, "in the event that you go there and stand where it was, it will reoccur; it will show up for you, hanging tight for you."

More than scenes of being whipped assaulted and her milk taken by white men, the most tormenting memory for Sethe, maybe, is killing her own girl adored out of assurance from subjugation. Without a doubt, she attempts to oppose the past by quelling her memory leaving things.

"How they are". She frequently contemplates everything that Child Suggs has said to her, "'Lay them down, Sethe. Sword and safeguard. Down. Down. Both of them down. Somewhere near the riverside. Sword and safeguard. Try not to concentrate on war no more."

She attempts to follow Child Suggs' recommendation and goes to the clearing where Child Suggs used to teach, attempting to feel the force of recuperating by reconnecting with Child. By the time she is stifled by cherished and neglects to put down the past. The possibility that "nothing at any point kicks the bucket" is additionally exhibited when Sethe limits herself to 124, totally gets her contorted maternal personality, and becomes consumed by Darling, who sinks Sethe into the revulsions and enduring of the past. The apparition of servitude holds Sethe back from pushing ahead and assumes control over her opposition against the past.

While both Sethe and Janie experience a significant impact from the repercussions of bondage, their picture as dark females applies a more prominent degree of weakness and hardships on their excursion to remake self-worth and look for insurance for them and ones they love. Janie is continually impacted by Babysitter's advance notice that "men people white or dark are making a let cup out of her" (20). The savagery of being a person of color is uncovered in caretaker's story.

Hurston has arrived at the resolution that because of the social order in view of race and orientation, individuals of color have the most awful state of all gatherings. Despite the fact that Janie's subsequent spouse, Joe, isn't like Logan, who deals with her like a work and even takes steps to kill her; Joe controls Janie's right to speak freely, contribution around, and, surprisingly, her appearance before residents. Besides the fact that he prohibits Janie to go to public occasions, Joe likewise requests her to "tie up her hair" (55) on the grounds that he just sees her as his prize that is "just for him to check not those others" (55 out). Confronting Joe's endeavour to separate her from the local area and destruct her personality, Janie attempts to get out of Joe's quieting control yet falls flat. She slowly "squeezed her teeth together and figured out how to quiet" (71). As a matter of fact, her job as the "donkey" of her significant other's isn't changed from Logan to Joe. The comparative savage imagery of people of colour is additionally recommended in *Darling*. Sethe once hears the teacher giving an illustration about her in which he trained the white young men to classify her "qualities" (228) as one or the other human or creature.

To slaveholders, female slaves were their assets that can be utilized in any means. They are a simple piece of flush that can be effectively debased and disfigured. For ladies slaves like Caretaker, Sethe, and Child Suggs, assault is a standard since them equivalent to multiplication machine for the white men and have no privileges over their own bodies. With the shortfall of and intellectually obliterated by the establishment of subjugation very much such as themselves. For Sethe's situation, the arrival of teacher incites her activity of killing cherished on the grounds that she can't bear her girls being whipped and assaulted by white men. It saves her girl from going through the sensations of embarrassment and shame she has endured as a female slave. The maternal sense of safeguarding youngsters is twisted under orientation persecution and dehumanizing impact of bondage.

In these books, we see that the strain from men, either white or dark, forces a further hindrance upon ladies sweats over racial persecution. This layer not just obliterates their capacity to affirm their own identity yet additionally twists their parenthood into a limit and damaging one.

Because of both racial and orientation mistreatment, Sethe and Janie utilize different ways of dealing with especially difficult times to liberate themselves from the waiting impact of subjugation and recover their personalities. For Janie, her actual runaway from Logan, like Sethe's gateway from subjection, doesn't naturally make independence and confidence for her.

"Liberating yourself was a certain something; guaranteeing responsibility for liberated self was another" (Morrison, 112).

Janie's genuine change possibly happens when she understands that she has forever been experiencing the manner in which others trust her to. Understanding that her impression of self and love is first destroyed by caretaker then, at that point, debased by Joe, that's what Janie states "she loathed the elderly person Babysitter who had wound her so for the sake of affection". While her underlying verbal battle with Joe against his strength over her is stifled by his bossy and pompous reactions, Janie's internal conflict of being belittled by her significant other is flooding and prompts her to understand that she wants to guard her respect and construct a liberated self as opposed to the surface character laid out by Joe. Contrasted with Janie, who principally accomplishes her journey for equivalent marriage and self-personality alone, Sethe wouldn't unravel herself from the phantom of horrible past and be looking for another life on the off chance that Denver and the local area had not helped her out.

In view of both racial and direction abuse, Sethe and Janie use various approaches to managing particularly troublesome times to free themselves from the holding up effect of enslavement and recuperate their characters. For Janie, her genuine runaway from Logan, similar to Sethe's escape from coercion, doesn't normally make autonomy and certainty for her.

"Freeing yourself was a sure something; it was another" (Morrison)

Janie's veritable change potentially happens when she comprehends that she has everlastingly been encountering how others trust her to. Understanding that her impression of self and love is first obliterated via Overseer then, corrupted by Joe, that is what Janie states

"She detested the older individual Sitter who had wound her so for warmth".

While her fundamental verbal fight with Joe against his solidarity over. She is smothered by his bossy and vainglorious responses, Janie's inner turmoil of being put down by her soul mate is flooding and prompts her to comprehend that she needs to monitor her regard and develop a freed self rather than the surface person spread out by Joe. Appeared differently in relation to Janie, who mainly achieves her excursion for identical marriage and self-character alone, Sethe wouldn't unwind herself from the apparition of horrendous past and be searching for one more life if Denver and the neighbourhood not helped her out.

Recollections make significance in our lives, and permit us to recall what we've had to deal with. Not all recollections are great ones nonetheless, and In 'Beloved' by Toni Morrison, memory is weakening in the existences of Sethe and different characters. Sethe is detained to her, and can't get away from the recollections of when she was subjugated. Sethe's girl, Beloved, addresses the past, and exemplifies Sethe's recollections. Darling addresses the past, and demonstrates how memory and re-memory of the past has control over individuals.

Sethe's recollections of her slave days never appear to blur, and she is continually helped to remember her days at Sweet Home, when teacher would torment her and different slaves. Notwithstanding being past these horrible times, Sethe encounters mental agony that is almost similarly as unsafe. This aggravation notwithstanding, is self incurred by Sethe and her brain, and exhibits the long lasting scarring impacts that subjection has on individuals. Horrendous recollections from the past mentally harm individuals and it is undeniably challenging to take control over the past since it has such a lot of control over our psyches. Sethe shows the "authentic injury and proceeding with end of the world of bigotry" (Berger 115) and the impacts it has on her present-day self, notwithstanding being past the worse situation imaginable. Sethe is fixated on the past. It generally torments her, so she can never truly embrace current circumstances. In any event, learning about such demonstrations upsets the personalities of a peruse, and one can barely comprehend the impact it would have on the people who really experienced and saw such horrendous occasions. Strolling by a school for whites, Sethe hears teacher helping the children to place the creatures and slaves in a single classification.

He says "Which one are you doing? One of them said 'Sethe'... No. That isn't the way. I advised you to put her human attributes on the left; her creature ones on the right. Furthermore, remember to arrange them" (Morrison 228).

This impacted the manner in which Sethe saw herself and the other slaves. While they at first think they are a piece of the local area at Sweet Home, the appearance of teacher shows to them that they are seen very much like any animal on the ranch, and their main worth is their work creation, and actual multiplication. Rather than taking off from 124 like her siblings, Denver does the inverse and never leaves or goes past the yard. She is stuck as a youngster, reliant upon her mom, 124, and the phantom of her dead sister. Denver knows that something from her mom's previous drove her mom to kill her sister, and she realizes that thing is still out there. According to Denver, "Regardless, it comes from outside this house, outside the yard. So I never take off from this house and watch over the yard, so it can't repeat and my mom will not need to kill me as well" (Morisson, 242)

In spite of her growing up and aging Denver's way of behaving might in any case be delegated youthful. It isn't until some other time in the story do we see Denver create. She, as well, is trapped before and can't move beyond what

Sethe did. Sethe's powerlessness to get away from her past likewise traps her little girls before. Cherished stays a child, wandering the house as a phantom, and Denver goes about as a youngster, never branching out of the house. Despite loving her mother, she is also scared of her because she knows what she did in the past and can never get over it. Later, Denver becomes dependent on Beloved, saying "I am Beloved and she is mine" (Morrison 253). Because Beloved represents the past, Denver has become one with the past. She and Sethe both become extremely attached to Beloved and she becomes part of their identity, demonstrating how memories and the past control our minds.

The legacies of these past experiences cannot be eradicated by Sethe, Paul D and Denver, however hard they try; for each of them, in both interconnected and separate ways, such seeds have taken root in the hidden places of self and inevitably grow until such time as they can be ignored no longer but must be delivered up by memory into the harsh light of present day.

The past affects Sethe, Denver, and others, in the present. Memories are ingrained in their minds and affect how they live currently despite having already taken place. They are possessed by their memories and its effects. Although Janie's second husband, Joe, is not like Logan, who based on race and gender, black women have the worst condition of all treats her like a labor and even threatens to kill her; Joe restrains Janie's freedom of speech, involvement in town, and even her appearance in front of townspeople. Not only does he forbid Janie to go to public events, Joe also demands her to "tie up her hair" (55) because he only sees her as his trophy that is "only for him to look at not those others" (55). Facing Joe's attempt to shut her off from the community and destruct her identity, Janie tries to step out of Joe's silencing control but fails. She gradually "pressed her teeth together and learned to hush" (71). In fact, her role as the "mule" of her husband's is not changed from Logan to Joe. The similar bestial symbolism of black women is also suggested in Beloved. Sethe once overhears the schoolteacher giving a lesson about her in which he instructed the white boys to categorize her "characteristics" (228) as either human or animal. To slaveholders, female slaves were their possessions that can be used in any means. They are a mere piece of flesh that can be easily degraded and mutilated.

For women slaves like Nanny, Sethe, and Baby Suggs, rape is a usual and acceptable thing because they equal to procreation machine for the white men and have no rights over their own bodies. With the absence of their husbands most of the time, their suffering is exacerbated by witnessing their children being physically and mentally destroyed by the institution of slavery just like themselves. In Sethe's case, the return of schoolteacher provokes her action of killing Beloved because she cannot bear her daughters being whipped and raped by white men. It saves her daughter from going through the feelings of humiliation and disgrace she has suffered as a female slave. The maternal instinct of protecting children is distorted under gender oppression and dehumanizing effect of slavery. In these novels, we see that the pressure from men, either white or black, imposes a further barrier upon women slaves over racial oppression. This layer not only annihilates their ability to assert their own sense of self but also warps their motherhood into an extreme and destructive one.

#### **4. CONCLUSION:**

To sum up as a result of both racial and gender oppression, Sethe and Janie use different coping mechanisms to free themselves from the lingering influence of slavery and reclaim their identities. For Janie, her physical runaway from Logan, similar to Sethe's escape from slavery, does not automatically create individuality and self-assurance for her.

"Freeing yourself was one thing; claiming ownership of that freed self was another"

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