

PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY IN TAR BABY

BY TONI MORRISON

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Abstract

Everybody wants to have its own identity in the society. People live in the society with the identity acquired from the family's or ancestor's name. Earlier it was believed that women can only take care of their family and home and their work was to cook food in the kitchen for the family and children. Professionally, it was not important for a woman to have her own identity. A woman was only known in the society as one's sister, daughter, or a mother and for centuries, the world was dominated by patriarchal societies. In the patriarchal dominated society, men used to believe that only men can work and earn bread and butter for the family and women's prime contribution to the family was to set up the kitchen and make arrangements for food for three times. This thought was acquired and run in the families from their previous generations. This male domination was also made powerful by the religious and cultural norms. Conservative cultures can also be blamed for this maligned thought and giving one gender priority over the other. The patriarchal dominated society and gender discrimination was also prevailed in the developed countries equally as was in the underdeveloped nations.

Keywords: *patriarchal dominated society, gender discrimination, maligned thought*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Social prejudices such as discrimination on the base of gender and caste, color and class discrimination was present from the time of evolution of the societies. These all patriarchal dominated societies have neglected the role of a woman in the society. Patriarchal societies never believed in giving independence to their women at home. They had no right to take decision on their own. There were always made believe that they are not safe in the outdoor cruel world without the support of a man. The novel Tar Baby also studies the issues and prejudices in the lives of Black society. Black community served the White only because of their color and Whites have always thought to believe ruling on these Black people. White people always believed that it is because of their color that they are superior as opposed to the Black color people. These oppressed Black people served the Whites for several hundred years and generations to generations, but their slavery never ended. Though they lived in the advanced countries like America

and advanced European countries but their suffering never ended. They lived in a pitiable state tolerating physical and mental cruelty.

Toni Morrison, the writer of the novel belongs to the Black family. Her family shifted to America from Africa. She herself had experienced this color and gender discrimination and expressed these suffering through her novel's characters. *Race is shown here via the description of physical and biological traits. The narrator describes the Yardman's teeth as good looking and his face as ugly. This description of his face goes in parallel with his occupation as well his blackness. So, the power of white racists leads blacks to be disabled to take care of themselves. The expression "nothing to enjoy" because of his blackness, which means that there is "something to enjoy" in the other race and here the binary opposition is completely shown between the two races. The company would chuckle her out of the foyer, so why was she and everybody else in the store transfixed? The height? The skin like tar against the canary yellow dress? The woman walked down the aisle as nevertheless her several colored sandals were pressing gold tracks on the floor. Two upside-down V's were scored into each of her cheeks, her hair was wrapped in a gelée as yellow as her dress. (Walid, P. 7).*

Her unique writing style made her exceptional in her works. The name Tar is depicted from a bonding material which keeps the things together stuck and bonded. The major protagonist of the novel, Jadine works like a tar to keep the family together. Moreover, her color was also Black which writer used to give the name of her novel. The phrase Tar Baby is used by the Whites for the children of the Blacks. The protagonist, Jadine, is an attractive, Black female. She works as a model because she is beautiful and fascinated with her mesmerized looks. She wants to build her own identity in the community. She is in love with a boy and his name is Son. He also belongs to a Black family. The story revolves about Jadine's life and her struggle to establish her own identification. Though Son behaves with Jadine severely but she starts liking each other's company. Son tries to woo Jadine and tries to feel her physicality by coming closer to her but Jadine does not like his touch and this behavior of Son makes her angry. She wants to revolt against this sexual behavior of Son. International Journal of Sociology and Political Science This offensive behavior of Son exposes the filthy mindset of the male dominated society. Although, Jadine feels offended with the sexual-oriented behavior of Son, but she does not take any strong action against him. She only warns him against his misbehavior. This inactivity towards an unacceptable behavior echoes the weakness of a woman.

2. Conclusion

Tar Baby exposes the pain and oppression of a Black woman. Toni Morrison suffered a lot in her life and paid an irreversible price for being black. Black women still live in the state of fear. Black women experience the sexual misconduct even by their own community even. Jadine aspires to have a good life with her beloved. Where she wants to have Son in her life but she does not want to sacrifice her identity when Son asks her to leave the country and settle in America. She does not want to understand with the identity she owns. In spite of all these imbalances in her life, a woman wants to have her own identity in the society. All women have the good to living with their own identity in the community.

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