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Identifying Major Conflicts among the Blacks

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Abstract: Toni Morrison is an African-American novelist, born on February 18, 1931, in Lorain, Ohio, during the great depression. Her father George Wofford was a shipyard welder and her mother Ramah was a lady of high esteem in the society as a religious woman. They were perfect guides for their talented daughter Toni Morrison. Toni Morrison was the second of the four children of her parents. She didn't face the era of ruthless slavery as an African American but she obviously felt its resultant atmosphere in her teens.

During the Harlem Renaissance (1920s and early 1930s) Jessie Fauset was the only female black author to publish three novels in America. After that Toni Morrison as an editor at Random House brought several black writers including Angela Davis, Toni Cade Bambara, Henry Dumas, and Gayl Jones in the publishers' list. Fauste and Morrison both sought to create a canon of black literature.

Identifying major internal conflicts probe into the issue of internal differences among the blacks. It shows the fat problem of internal disparity existing at various levels of social, racial and religious beliefs in them. Toni Morrison's novels The Bluest Eye (1970), Sula (1977), Song of Solomon (1981), Tar Baby (1981) and Paradise (1998) are full of subsequent details which speculate on the problem of mutual disagreement among the blacks over unimaginable issues in their day to day life. It delineates a map of internal or innerself conflicts of the humdrum life of the Afro-Americans in the contemporary time.

Key Words: Toni Morrison, Internal disparity, Familial relationship, The Bluest Eye

IDENTIFYING MAJOR INTERNAL CONFLICT

The process of recognizing serious issues of internal conflict among the blacks in America is a new approach to interpret the selected novels of Toni Morrison. Thus, deriving the new objects for a meaningful scope of study presents startling facts of the blacks' contemporary lifestyle. Incidents, atmosphere, locations and style are providing an ample opportunity for extracting a lot more hidden interpretations for a next level pragmatic search in identifying *Major Internal Conflict* among the blacks. The paper will collect the scattered issues of all sorts of mutual indifferences among the blacks who are now two times far from the time period of slavery. It is approaching to reveal those

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findings which prove the shackled mentality of the blacks as they are now in a phase of the development of their 'self' and 'society'.

The African Americans are economically poor and suffering from a serious problem of meaningless ideologies in the contemporary time. The lack of education on the part of parents and consequently, on the part of children in a family pushes children toward the world of false myths, as detailed in the novel *Bluest eye* (1970). Neither the parents are wise enough to guide their children for their betterment nor the society provide healthy environment to groom them. Parents, who are depicted in the Toni Morrison's novels, are explained as the most irresponsible friends, philosophers and guides. They play abominable roles in their poor families and among their community. They carry enumerable flaws and often commit unpardonable mistakes with their mean and poor mentality. Cholly Breedlove, an abominable guy is a lusty drunkard in the *Bluest Eye* (1970). He is the biggest abuser of his wife. He molests her little eleven year daughter Pecola and then abandons the whole family without any care. He is an uncontrolled hound who is sick of his habit of drinking and obsessive of lust.

Children live in their own fantasies due to the lack of understanding. They are shown being easily cheated or deceived by making them realize their fantasies come true. It is not possible to see mental growth of children in a society in which delusive & misleading atmosphere. Pecola, an innocent girl in the novel *Bluest Eye* (1970) yearns to have blue eyes because her own mother is mad for blue eyed blonde girls. Her mother usually goes to watch movies; she loves the white actresses with their golden hair and blue eyes in movies. So, Pecola also develops this false sense of beauty. She thinks only the blondes are beautiful and black colored people like her are very ugly.

Soaphead Church, as the name suggests the exaggeration of religious beliefs, tries to rape Pecola by assuring her that she can turn her eyes blue by magic. Thomas Leester elaborates such a situation in his work When Home Fails to Nurture the self: The tragedy of being homeless at Home (1999), I that 'Home' is sort of training place where parents are supposed to guide their children to defend themselves from any danger; but what will be the situation when family member feel homeless at home, like Pecola. There are more characters in the novel who have lost the feeling of home like Pecola.'

Frieda and Claudia are two more examples of such victimization like Pecola. They never receive any love or guidance from the parents. Pecola confronts every situation in life alone unequipped with any parental guidance. It is more shocking to know that she is unaware about the biological facts, which are common among all the females. She is stunned to see herself bleeding between her things; it is her first menstrual cycle but she never knows about it. Her friend Frieda helps her to understand it. Frieda helps her to take it as a normal part of a woman's body.

One of the boarders of their house, Tar Baby tries to molest Frieda and he kisses her. Frieda thinks that she is now pregnant because of kissing. This time Pecola make her learn that just by a kiss she

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can't be pregnant. Frieda, Claudia and Pecola, these three children play the role of a friend, philosophers and guide for each other. It is really noteworthy to see their sensitiveness and level of understanding. It is perhaps due to the lack of guidance and affection from their parents. Lack of parental love has made them more sensible and sensitive in life.

The blacks are so poor even after earning an official freedom that they never hesitate to rent their houses to prostitutes to live. Moreover, it is strange to find that prostitutes are more loving for children. They talk to them with a great affection and love, and children like them more than their parents. It happens in the *Bluest Eye* (1970) that the house of these girls is given on rent to three prostitutes. Frieda, Claudia and Pecola use to go at the upper storey to meet these prostitutes. These prostitutes talk to them with a parent-like affection. They teach them more than their quarreling parents. They tell these girls many beautiful stories and often give chocolates to eat.

There are many more issues in the novel which are related to the marital relationship. Miss Della Jone's presence shows the subjugation of the women by the dominant male characters. Her husband abandons her just because she uses jasmine hair oil. He says that he likes to smell a woman as a woman. It is unbelievable to see that husband of Miss Della abandons her very easily. It reflects that it is very common among the male blacks that often a father or a husband leaves the family with shameful irresponsibility to children and wife. It is very simple and reasonable for them to leave family or to break martial relation for insignificant reasons. They never try to keep their marital life healthy, and sometimes they stoop to a level where they rape their own daughters.

The society of the blacks gives priority to rich blacks over poor dark people. If money is available with any black person, it becomes easy to survive in society. Society easily neglects rules for the rich. Maureen Peel is a light skin girl from a rich family in the novel *Blue eye* (1970). It is observed in the black community to see people rejecting the light skin blacks because of the idea that black girls copulate with the whites, and light skin blacks are illegitimate sons or daughters of them.

Liz Gant applauded Toni Morrison in *The Black Book (1978)* 'for having courage to address an aspect of the Black experience that many of us would rather forget, our hatred of over selves.' *The Black book (1978)* is an anthology of 3000 year of African Americans written by Middleton Harris and edited largely by Toni Morrison. One more book *African American Writers (2001)* gives more detail on such conflicts, 'Quit as it is kept, there were no marigolds in the fall of 1941........The secret kept quiet in the fall of 1941 is that the community, having internalized the racism of the dominant group, is itself largely the reason for the failure of one of its flowers, Pecola Breedlove, to thrive. That the failure has its roots in the ground of a particular African American community.'3

If we look at the part of women in the novel we find that mothers are also equally responsible for the hardship in the life of children. Geraldine is an over controlled mother. She shows herself as a follower of Puritanism. It is shock to know about her love for a blue eyed cat than her own son.

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Toni Morrison shows it more emphatically by writing it in jumbled lines to show the confusing life of the blacks.

Joy Renee Writes in her review on the novel that the 'stories like *The Bluest Eye* serve to bring the hidden wound to view and allow us to see ourselves from a different perspective where surface attributes are not the measure of our worthiness for love. Once we know, really know that to be is to be worthy, and then we will stop perpetuating the pain and begin to heal.'5

The above quoted paragraph is universally very appealing for the leaders. These lines say that external appearance many times overpowers us as per the opinion of people about our external look but the inner-self is more important.

Simpsom Ritashona comments on the sentence style in the novel. She writes it in her book *Blacks Looks of Black Acts*: the language of Toni Morrison in the Bluest Eye (1970) & Beloved (1987)₆ that the nonstandard dialect and the standard dialect both accessed by Toni Morrison in her both the novels. The syntax, selection of less polished words, falling expressions, lines without spacing and poem like structure of few lines are used by Toni Morrison to give life to her novels. Her novel's language is speaking the unspoken truths.

If we look at the details of the profession of prostitution in the contrast between the two novels *Bluest Eye* (1970) and *Sula* (1977) then we find that Toni Morrison presents it in the later novel as a small separate part but in the earlier novel prostitutes are presented playing the role of mother. It is more interesting to see the reaction of the children of a prostitute in the society and vice versa. Nel and her mother Helene are very esteemed civilians in the society. It is just because Helene never let fall the shadows of her past on her and her daughter life. She has managed to break the familial cord where the business of being prostitute has been very common.

This novel *Sula* (1977) is on more strange issues as the white are found living in houses of the blacks as reenters, as Tar Baby, who ties to molest Nel, is a white man. He lives as a boarder in the house of Eva (Mother of Hannah). Reading this situation compels the reader to think that it is the case where the concept of black and white has diluted up to such an extent that blacks board white peoples in their house on rent.

Toni Morrison also touches the cord of religion in the novel by presenting Helene as a good mother as well as a religious character. Helene is a religious and well mannered lady. Her husband works

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at a ship. He hardly comes to meet her and Helene has still maintaining her secular life. It gives lesson to the women in black community to be strongly ethical.

Helen Wright was an impressive women, Heavy hair in a bun, dark eyes arched in a perpetual query about other people's manners. A woman who won all social battles with the presence and a conviction of the legitimacy of her authority. Since there was no Catholic church in Medallion then, she joined the most conservative black church..... It was who never turn her head when the latecomers arrive.

Toni Morrison opens up the novel with the details of an incident where the blacks are being cheated by the white masters. She shows that even after this the blacks are so strong to make their tough life enviable for the whites.

Toni Morrison never instructs to condemn the whites but emphasizes for encouraging the poor blacks by presenting a short story of the place 'Bottom Of Sky' in the novel. She tells that the whites give a hill to the blacks to live as per their promise to give a bottom region. They order to the blacks to live upon a hill because it is the bottom of the sky. Blacks made that hill heaven like place by hard work and the whites cut it down up to their own region in jealousy. The purpose behind telling their story is to encourage the blacks in America.

The novel also explores the cases of suicides and insanity among the blacks due to their traumatic past of the era of slavery. Shadrack goes mad when he experiences a bomb blast in the battle field. He is an army man and goes mad by the deafening sound of a bomb blast in the war. It seems unconvincing to find a soldier going mad due to the blast of a bomb. It is absolutely right opinion of the reader. Blast of a bomb is not the cause of madness of Shadrack. He is a man of fragile psych. He has already an unknown fear of loosing life before this incident takes place in the battle field. It may be the impact of the historical facts about blacks. He might have read or heard about the traumatic period of slavery in South America. It has made him afraid of the idea of unknowingly losing life. He finds it very scary to lose life in a bomb blast. He goes mad after experiencing the battle field. He has lost his sanity and every year propagates the idea of committing suicide to all the people as a mad person. He argues that to commit suicide is better than losing life in a battle field or under slavery.

Toni Morrison satirizes one more aspect of the black society that they are rejected by their own people by finding flaws in them. It gives them immense satisfaction to deem themselves good and the others full of deficiencies. Valerie Smith, the editor of the book *African American Waiters* (2001) writes:

Towards the end of the Sula, the same community that had allowed Nel and Sula to forge the terms of their togetherness by making

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their differences a subject of discussion, and not a reason for exile, constructs Sula as the demon witch 'other' who, at least temporarily, causes the matrons of the Bottom to become better mothers by allowing them to Define their 'virtue' against her 'evil', just as earlier they had made moral alliances against her mother's promiscuity.8

Sula feels throughout the novel that she is again and again rejected by the society. It leads her to be more bad and controversial. Society plays a very crucial role to ruin her life by never making her feel any sort of protection. She feels isolated and rejected, and later we find her losing her mind like Shadrack.

Toni Morrison reveals new aspects related to the intentionally blurred history of the blacks in her novel *Song of Solomon (1981)*. This novel also comprises the difference between the ideologies of the new generations which rejects the ideologies of their elders.

The new generations in the present time are totally unaware of the painful past which has been experienced by their forefathers.

Milkman Dead is two times far from the enslaved past of the black community. Toni Morrison advises for the new generation to understand their parents' abnormality in ideologies. It is emphasized to explore past and find reason behind the abnormality in their parent's behavior. The wounded past in the southern USA has killed their parents' free thinking. The painful past is over powering them to think with a new fresh approach for their children.

Milkman Dead hates his father. He finds him as an abnormal guy. Somehow he goes to find his historical roots and finds the answers of all the questions which have been arising in his inner self about his family. He finds the answer about his father's cruelty for the black people in the society. He is startled to know that his father earns rent by boarders and behaves with them very rudely.

Milkman Dead finds the details that his grandfather was a great man. He fought against the whites. Later, he was killed by his own black people. It was a murder of a black man by the black people because they were jealous by his success. The father of Milkman Dead, Macon Dead saw his father dying and decided to become perpetrator for his own community people. Macon Dead is now rich by earning rent by his own people. He tortures them for rent which is opposed by his own son Milkman. Macon has been satisfying personal grudges by torturing his own community people because they killed his father. Milkman later finds it and realizes that his father has painful memories of past, so he is very cruel. Thus Milkman reconciles with all his internal conflict of rejecting his parents.

There are many reasons for which Milkman hates his father. Macon, his father has left his little sister Pilate alone and gone to earn money a long time ago. Pilate reappears in the novel. Pilate takes

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a new entry in such a situation where Macon is living indifferently with his wife Ruth. Ruth has been dying to have sex with her husband. Pilate intoxicates him and Macon gives pleasure to Ruth. Milkman is the result of that planned intercourse between his parents. It is strange to know that Pilate has no navel and people know it. They reject her for strange physic. Even after this rejection, Pilate is one of the finest characters than any other character created by Toni Morrison in her works. Toni Morrison says about the novel *Song of Solomon(1981)* that it is for the blacks who should fly like Milkman in search of past to find reasons for their world at wrong. In the very beginning of the novel Milkman is born in the Merciless Hospital; a person jumps down form the same hospital at the same time. He commits suicide because he can't fly like an aeroplane and birds; just after it or at the same moment Milkman is born. Merciless hospital is a sort of place where the poor blacks are not allowed to come but Milkman was a son of a rich father.

Poverty is the biggest cause behind the sufferings in the black community irrespective of time period. The blacks even hate those people who show their richness. Milkman is beaten by the blacks at Shalimar because he is a rich black. Macon never likes his light skin wife Ruth. She is a daughter of a doctor and it is rare to find a doctor in a black community. Macon always compares his richness with his father-in-law. Macon also dislikes the love of his wife for her father. After death, Ruth kisses the hand of his father and Macon hates it. Throughout the life Macon wants to take revenge by his wife. He teaches Milkman to become a cruel businessman like him but her mother Ruth tells him to be a doctor like her father. Milkman is caught between the parents' different decisions for him.

Milkman decides to find the historical past of his parents to find the reason behind the abnormality in his parents. He goes to Virginia. There he finds the details about his grandfather that he was a great man but murdered by the blacks. He later goes to Shalimar. There he is saved by a girl Guitar as he is beaten by the black people of that place. Guitar tells him about the present condition of that place. The blacks keep on killing seven times the whites kill any black person. It is mentioned in a recent article that:

Toni Morrison placed the murder of Emmett Till in the novel, *Song of Solomon* to remind the reader of the history of racial violence and to show that racial conflict still exists. In Song of Solomon, Guitar, Milkman's friend, belonged to the Seven Days. The Seven Days was a group of seven black men who killed white people to keep the black and white ratio equal, in retaliation for whites killing blacks. In the Emmett Till case he was killed for talking to a white woman. Both cases showed senseless killings. Ironically, Milkman holds a view opposite of Guitar's and ends in mortal combat with his former friend, a sad reminder of how whites killing blacks has evolved today into blacks killing blacks.9

Milkman allows himself to excuse his parents by knowing about their painful past. Toni Morrison gives a message by this work to the present generation to understand the historical context behind

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the abnormal behavior of their parents. Pilate like people in the black society can bring, 'liberation in the thought process of the people in a family as well as in the society'.₁₀

Morrison's comparison is often done with the William Faulkner due to the similarity of the themes and pattern of their works;

Critics have already identified several facets of Morrison's Faulknerian influence. Typical comparisons point out structural similarities such as syntax and cadence, and thematic similarities centering in historical concerns and social codes. Two pairings repeatedly emerge as scholars generally read Beloved with Absalom, Absalom! and Song of Solomon with Go Down, Moses.11 Exploring more issues in the black social milieu, we find the inclination of the present generation to live a nuclear life is dominating. Toni Morrison defines the atmosphere of the present era in the black communities by telling a fine colorful story of a black boy Son and a rich black model Jadine, in her novel Tar Baby (1981). There are many other characters in the novel who love to live free life. Margaret is a son of a rich English man Valerian Street. Valerian has sent him to study at abroad and waiting for his son to return. His son Margaret never turns back to his father. Valerian yearns for the love of his son but Margaret never likes to come back. Valerian funds the education of his servant's daughter Jadine while living life is seclusion at an island. She becomes a model and the story of the novel moves further. Son, a dark black boy who loves natural life unlike Jadine, comes on the island. Valerian finds him an intruder in his peaceful family life but he welcomes him as his own son has been not returning back. Valerian tries to compensate the absence of his son at island Isle de chevaliers by the presence of Son. Jadine has fallen in love with Son at first sight though both are opposite in nature. Jadine, who is cared by Valerian as his own daughter, is a light skin black girl and Son is a dark color boy. Son and Jadine marry and Son likes to take her to his town Eloe. 'Son has a home--the completely black town of Eloe and there he abides by the ideas of respectability held by his father and his Aunt Rosa. He asks Jadine to sleep at Aunt Rosa's, apart from him, and he comes to her secretly only when she threatens to leave if he does not.) To amuse herself in the traditional town, in which she is uncomfortable, Jadine takes photographs of the people and steals their souls, stealing their individual beauty and grace. In the photographs, they seem graceless, poor, and stupid, even to Son, who usually sees them with loving eyes.' 12 Jadine, a city girl feels very strange among the villagers. Later, she separates from Son due to their incongruous relation. Son tries to again unite with Jadine by the help of Therese, a half-blind, fifty

Jadine, a city girl feels very strange among the villagers. Later, she separates from Son due to their incongruous relation. Son tries to again unite with Jadine by the help of Therese, a half-blind, fifty year old black woman, who says her breasts still yield milk but it doesn't work for him. Jadine is the Tar Baby and son is a Brier Rabbit according to the stories of Uncle Remus in the novel.

Sydney and Ondine childs (Cook & Butler) feel superior than the other black populace. Jadine, though a daughter of a cook, feels herself as a perfect girl from a rich family. She hates village life, as she loves to be a model at New York. Her hatred for villagers has become a cause of divorce from Son. Son is just opposite of her because city life is a, 'Stone of Sorrow' (Tar Baby, 217) and Jadine feels there as, 'refreshed'. (Tar Baby, 221)

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There are several other conflicts, which are to be resolved among the blacks. Toni Morrison's novel *Paradise* (1998) is a recently written popular novel. It focuses on the difference between generations and about atrocious atmosphere for women, in the black society. Various reviews has been written on *Paradise* (1998) and it is strange that most of the reviews have been proved wrong about it. Carole shield says about it that:

'It is a long, complex, fluent novel and a great ----- of a narrative'.

It is definitely a nonlinear, poly vocal and multi-stranded text whose de-construction is beyond the boundaries. *Paradise* (1998) dramatizes a battle between sexes along with many other issues of disparity. It starts with scene, where a gang comes at Convent and kills all the women living there. This gang is from the newly created town Ruby by the new generation of the town Haven.

Rubyites are against the women. They say that the causes of failure behind their forefathers are these women. They deem the women at Convent as witches. Convent is a place at the outskirts of the male dominated town Ruby. Few women have been residing in it for a time period. They all have been taking a refuge in the Convent as their own lives have been killing them. They are rejected and insulted in the society. Mavis who has lost her twins in a mishap is one of them. Her twins died in her car by suffocation. Her husband has been blamed her as her other children. They even try to murder her to compensate the loss of twins. She has to run away from there to seek a peaceful refuse at Convent. Gigi, as another woman at Convent has got a shock to see a boy shot dead in a parade. Seneca, one more woman in the group at Convent has found her sister her mother. Pallas (Divine) is a daughter of a rich man. She runs away from her house for her boyfriend. She is raped by a gang mid between. These all girls are very disturbed by their life. So, they take refuge at the Convent.

These women are found by the people as menace for their community. They are never invited in the village to involve in their day to day life. Once they are invited in Arnette's reception but badly humiliated there. Patricia notes about the hatred of the men for women at Ruby in her project, she gives reason behind it the two disallowing. The old father turned on the trek from Louisiana and Mississippi to Oklahoma in the late 19th century. It shows, 'light-skinned against black'. (Paradise, 194) The second disallowing has taken place during the returning form the World War II initiated from the dying Haven to the Ruby. Ruby has made the rule of pure bold and Pat feels it has become the cause of her mother's death. Light skin women are called prostitutes. According to Patricia, if light skin mother is pregnant, father won't go at hospital because they looked down on you, Mama, I know it, and despised Daddy for marrying a wife with no last name, a wife without people, a wife of sun light skin, a wife of racial tempering.(Paradise, 197)

Rubyites says about the Convent that it is not a, 'sanctuary', but a, 'Coven'. (Paradise, 276) It is a place, where abortion, lesbianism and other supposedly unspeakable sins are committed. These Convent women are blamed for the decline of the village Ruby. This is the reason that many

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families are kept in isolation in the Christmas play, as they are not belonging to the eight rocks old fathers of Haven.

Ruby and Haven (during 8-Rocks) both are the male dominant towns. The Rubyites hate women due to two disallowing in the past. They are very rigid in following their traditions. A communal oven is passed from Haven to Ruby. Steward and Deacon's grandfathers welded a statement on it. It has a warning

Beware the Furrow of his Blow. The new generation, like Misner, wants to change it: Be the Furrow of his Bow. (Paradise, 86-87)

It is interpreted and misinterpreted by the villagers. Misner interpreted it in a positive way by giving a message to villagers to work hard.

Sarah Appleton Aguiar writes in her essay *Passing on Death: stealing life in Toni Morrison's Paradise* that all the women would have been killed before reaching at the Convent. Sal might have killed Mavis with a razor; Pallas might have drowned while hiding from a gang. Rubyites say about the Convent:

how it floated, dark and malevolently disconnected from the God's earth.(Paradise, 18)

Before going to kill the Covent women all the man says, 'Listen, nothing ever happened around here like what's going on now. Before those heifers came to town this was a peaceable kingdom. The others before them at least have some religion. These here sluts out there by themselves never step foot in church and I bet you a dolor to a fat nickel they ain't thinking about one either. They don't need man and they don't need God.' (Paradise, 276)

When they reach at Convent, they misinterpret a letter which is written by a lipstick but they take it written by the blood. Toys and other small baby clothes are found of Pallas's kid but they take it as the toys for the Convent women's sinuous deeds. Men justify the killing of the Convent women by saying the Convent women are witches since they don't need man they don't need God. Rubyians discover a cross in the convent and the missing idol of the Christ. All the women disappear after their massacre at convent and no one make out that where they have disappeared. They appear again one by one later in the novel and prove the power of the women. Later the scene changes and a road is made by which the outsiders can easily come and go in the town Ruby. Misner notes, 'The future panted at the gate. Roger Best het his gas station and the connecting roads will be laid. Outside will come and go.' (Paradise, 306)

Deacon Morgan begins the actual work of the cross road which leads towards the house of Misner with the transformation in the inner self. Deek now hates to listen the killing incident of Convent.

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The incident at Convent converts Deek and he says that he has become a sort of man unlike Old Fathers:

the kind of man who set himself up to judge, rout and even destroy, the needy, the defenseless, the different.(Paradise 302)

Consolata stops the men from firing on the three women who are running away from the building in the novel. Deacon is startle at it and he later changes unexpectedly due to the influence of Consolata. Consolata and Misner become the pioneers to change the rigidity in the people of Ruby. They are liked and adored by the 9 eight-rock. Thus, in the novel, women are shown at the mission to fight against the dominion of the males in the black community.

Toni Morrison's novels are beyond the stereotypical concept of slavery of the blacks. She is now dealing with the internal disparities among the blacks who have achieved freedom. She is investigating into the lives of the darks and making the reader feel that the black community is now living a second phase life in their communities where the internal conflicts are emerging as new problems in the contemporary time.

From *The Bluest Eye* (1970) to the *Mercy* (2008) Toni Morrison exposes the real issues in the lives of the dark people in America in the contemporary time. She is very realistic and honest in her approach to reject wrong view for the black community and revealing the new problematic situations in it for its redemption. She deploys her intellectual to see behind the shown false images of the free blacks in the land of uncolored whites. She urges to take the life of the black families as common and normal as the white families.

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