



ENUNCIATION OF IDENTITIES AND ROOTLESSNESS OF BLACK WOMAN

(From selected Poetry of Maya Angelou)

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ABSTRACT

Maya Angelou was one of the firebrands Black woman poetess in American African Black literature. She was an ideal model for the coming generation of Black woman in America. She was one of the women of the letters who has projected the factual conditions of Black woman in America on the level of social, political, economical and psychological condition in writings. In American Male Black writing we come across only the Black man's point of view writing but do not find out Black woman's pathetic conditions, her social and sexual exploitations and her invocation against her double slavery. Her each and every poem indicates Black woman's identity less, placeless, purposeless and aimlessness life in the American continent. Black woman's life was valueless and exploitative one among the American native people. White master had played with Black woman's life very unkindly and mercilessly. He supposed that Black woman as a thing which could be used as 'use and throw things'. He also supposed that Black woman as a breeding machine, only for begetting issues; he was buying her from the market. In her childhood she was being snatched and sold in the market; due to this she could not remind her parents and her childhood. She had totally become identity less and rootless from her whole life. She had not any freedom to talk against the white master or to reply anything about her personal life's problems and sorrows. She was living her life as agricultural animals. There was double slavery in fortune; as a mistress of white man and as a breeding machine.

Keywords: *Identity less, Placeless, Purposeless and Aimlessness, Unkindly and Mercilessly, Breeding Machine, Snatched and Sold.*

INTRODUCTION

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1P a g e



May Angelou was an eminent Black poetess in American African poetry. She had been projected pity and sorrowful life of Black slave in American continent; especially the Black woman's social, economical, psychological and sexual exploitative life. Her life had not value as a human being in the society. She was being treated as an animal and use and throw things. In the following poetic lines she expressed these things, such as:

*They used the finest cunning
their naked wits and wiles
from living on the edge of death
They kept my race alive (Angelou 108,109)*

The crafty and cruel techniques and practise had been used by the white master to handle the black slavery in America. Partiality and self-centred mentality of white master was the main reason for the unfortunate life of Black Negro in America. Socially and psychologically Black people were secondary and inferior to the White people on every walk of life, such as they thought that Blacks were unintelligent sub human beings on the Earth. Black race and colour was the major factor behind the Black slavery. They contemplated that White colour is superior to the Black colour. Mostly the European people were white in colour where as the African people were Black in colour because it was that geographical factors were/are responsible but the white people were considered that God had made this difference to serve white people. To clarify suitably W.E.B.DuBois has given the evidence and reason behind the Black slavery in following mentioned paragraph:

There is no doubt of the presence of all these various elements in the mass of 10,000,000 or more Negroes transported from Africa to the various Americas, from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries. (W.E.B.DuBois03)

The Black African people were more industrious and respected in the direction of works and duties; they were searching for works for the daily livelihood. African continent was not that much fertile and cultivated land to get employ to each and every people. European people especially the American people (capitalists) had required workers to do heavy and hard work in the industries and the agricultural works because at that time there was not sufficient population in the European continent as a result they were demanding the African people to the New land as their workers. There was not that much easy to the African Black people to communicate with their relatives once in a week or month so they used to stay in America more than one year meanwhile Black people used to work as a fixed labour on the decided wages. This fixed labour on the decided wages system had changed into the Black slavery system. This Black slavery dogma had converted into the various exploitations of the Black people like social, economical, psychological, physical and even sexual exploitations. In the following poetic lines Maya Angelou has maintained exile and alienation life, such as:

*I've sailed upon the seven seas
And stopped in every land,
I've seen the wonders of the world,
Not yet one common man. (Angelou 224)*

Black people had been exporting to the America from the African continent. African people were helpless for their daily livelihoods by hook or crook they wanted to live life in their country. American capitalists had required industrious labour to do hard work in their various cotton industrious and sugar farms. American agents had been providing them workers on the fixed price. Even the American government at first had given permission to the agent for providing workers to the America. These agents were doing injustices and various exploitations like mental, psychological and even sexual harassments during the journey of many one month or two months days. Black people had been committed with various types of untold experiences and incidences. Each and every Black man/woman experience was different one. During the journey they were identity less and rootless one. These untold experiences Maya Angelou has described in the following poetic lines:

*Now she is rising /remember her pain
remember the losses/her scream loud and vain
her history slain/now she is striding
although she had lain (Angelou 84)*

Black woman had been received the untold pains and experiences from the white masters. She had been lost each and every thing from her life. She never had been remembering her parents and other blood relatives like brother, sister, uncle and etc. She had been totally lost her history. She had become identity less and rootless woman in the world. In her youth she had become sexual object of white master. White master was supposed her as his breeding machine because she and her all children were under control the white master. She had to follow all rules and regulations of white master. Black people were identity less and rootless one in America during the Black slavery period.

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