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African American History

Both Fredrick Douglass and Harriet Jacob's stories are similar to a certain extent because their escape from slavery was motivated by different factors. Fredrick Douglass was fed up with the idea of not being a free man and started thinking about escaping from his master (Douglass, 2021). At this point, Mr. Fredrick was working for Mr. Freeland, and though he regarded him as a friend, the thought of being a slave his entire life gave him the motivation to escape.

Harriet Jacobs's motivation to escape slavery was due to three events. Between 1838 and 1842, she was pursued by her master Mr. Norcom who wanted to make her his concubine (Jacobs, 2017). Due to her refusal, she was sent to work in plantations, where she learned that Norcom wanted to sell her children and brother to slave traders. Jacobs was determined to reunite with her children and avoid Dr. Norcom leading to her escape.

The Southern political elites resisted the efforts of the Northerners to expand slavery into the Western regions. After reading the works of Fredrick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, it is clear that slavery had many effects. Families were separated, women like Harriet Jacobs were victims of sexual abuse, and children born into slavery grew up and became adults in servitude. The two works paint a clear picture of servitude and its adverse outcomes, convincing white Americans to abolish slavery in the north and south. specific parts of the readings could have resonated with white readers in the 1850s and 1860, for instance, the power of knowledge. Harriet Jacobs and Fredrick Douglass learned to read (Douglas, 2021; Jacobs, 2017). Though they were slaves, Harriet and Douglass were in a class that could compete in knowledge and understanding from the white Americans at the time, albeit under challenging circumstances. Also, one of the specific parts of the readings that resonated well with white readers is where Harriet says that slavery is a curse to both the African-Americans and the whites (Jacobs, 2017).

To sum it up, the whites can relate to Harriet's arguments because it made fathers unkind, their sons vicious, and their daughters and companions inferior. Fredrick Douglass also reminded the whites about the advantages of reading and how it liberates a person forever (Douglass, 2021). The whites were privileged to access education and become better individuals, but that opportunity was not accorded to the slaves.

References

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