

Analysis of a Passage from June Jordan's Essay

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliations

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I have chosen the first paragraph after the title of June Jordan's essay. This first paragraph contains all the themes depictive of all the woes and troubles that have clouded African Americans for generations since enslavement. I have chosen this paragraph particularly because it contains a universal theme of slavery and all the finer details that illustrate its prolific degradation of the black community's standards. They include illiteracy, hard labor, sexual assault, family separation, pain and suffering from brutal beatings and worthlessness among many other multiple forms of disillusionment. This paragraph appreciates black poetry extraordinary for any international student or learner. I can say it's an immense contribution to fight against injustice. It further explains a lot of insights that make the black community to always strive to change things.

The paragraph makes use and demonstrates vivid imageries that portray the devastating picture of Wheatley Phillis back in the days when slavery was law. That is how the whole prose poem becomes significant to my understanding of why Wheatley is relevant to Jordan. The reason why the paragraph is also important is because of the styles used. For instance, in the line "Come from a country of many tongues tortured by rupture, by theft, by travel like mismatched clothing packed down into the cargo hold of evil ships sailing" (Jordan, 2006), I find allusions made to the country from which Wheatley originated. She comes from a multiethnic country that is currently in disarray due to colonization and white exploitation. This is the rapture.

In the same line, I also find the inhuman afflictions that historically illustrate the genesis of trouble for the minority American black community. The quoted line compares the disarranged second hand clothe packaging to a manner in which Africa's first poetic woman,

Wheatley among many others, were piled onto the decks of a slave-ship around the waves of American slavery. Lastly, to Jordan, this paragraph of the poem is important in that at the end of almost suicidal and unbearable life of Wheatley, she comes out stronger and very educational to rest of the black community. To June Jordan, Phillis Wheatley is an innate inspiration for a lifetime.

Reference

Jordan, J. (2006). The Difficult Miracle of Black Poetry in America: Something like a Sonnet for Phillis Wheatley. Poetry Foundation. Retrieved from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/68628/the-difficult-miracle-of-black-poetry-in-america>