



## Epitome : International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research

ISSN : 2395-6968

### JERICO-JIM-CROW : THE REFLECTIONS OF SLAVERY AND CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



#### **Maske Gaurav Rambhau**

Assistant Professor, Department of English  
Jamkhed Mahavidyalaya Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar  
[guaravmaske68@gmail.com](mailto:guaravmaske68@gmail.com)

#### **ABSTRACT**

*The present research paper portrays the Reflections of Slavery and Civil Rights Movement in Jerico-Jim-Crow. It is written by Langston Hughes and William Hairston. It was a pioneering work in the urban contemporary gospel musical style based on the theme of the Civil Rights Movement in USA. In this movement many leaders had sacrifice their lives for the fundamental rights of Blacks. Equal rights to all human*

*being, it was a motto of this movement. But they are discriminated after the civil rights movement. The mindset of the whites has not changed after the freedom of the blacks from slavery.*

#### **KEYWORDS**

*Movement, gospel, race, equal rights, reflection, sects, etc.*

## RESEARCH PAPER

### Introduction:

Jerico-Jim-Crow is written by Langston Hughes and William Hairston. It deals with the American Civil Rights Movement. It is revealed issues of blacks about the slavery and Civil Right movement. It gives the fundamental rights to the Blacks. The blacks are freed from slavery but they did not get their rights. So, the movement had taken place here. There are number of characters played a vital role in this play. They are Boy, Girl, Old Woman, Old Man, and Woman. Jim-Crow who plays different role such as Trader, Klansman, Planter, Minister. Jim Crow is a white supremo in this play.

Blacks had been oppressed by the whites during slavery time. It was injustice with them. But now she is talking about slavery. They lived in tyranny of the whites. The old woman is narrating her past experience about slavery. They sold my children away from me --- sold them down the Mississippi River away from me. She doesn't know her children where they' would be, and my children didn't know where I'd be. But, in these days we looked at the stars, my scattered children and me. It was time of slavery. The family was separated from each other. There was a trade of slaves. The trader used to come and they get slaves for their work purposes as well as they sell to other masters/plantation owners. There is Boy and Chorus. It is concerning the racial discrimination as follows:

“Jim-Crow-(Trader): ‘How Much for this buck Negra her”.

Here is a trader buy that buck Negra. ‘Buck Negra’-it's a racial discrimination. They don't have any identity, they directly called Negra it means that t is a domination of the whites towards the blacks. They don't have any choice to their children. The plantation owner will purchase and they will put as worker in the plantation. When the trader took their children there was a pray of old Woman for their children. She advised to them you can watch and pray only here. There is not option to slavery. There is a dialogue of her;

“Old Woman: No protection, nothing---just slaves, we black women,  
And they did us like they chosed.  
Treated us like dogs. That's why I'm tired and I cry out:  
Oh, Lord! How long how long”.

The dialogue of old woman is discussed on the slavery as well as segregation of their lives. The whites had domination towards the slaves. Eventually, she lost her patience and she prays to God, how long will we bear this inhuman being's treatment. They slaves were treated as an animal such a dog. The blacks used to follow only orders of their masters without any debate. So, the old Woman believes in God. The God will escape us from this hell.

They further talk about the separation of their family members from each other. He mentioned that I don't know where's my son. The plantation owner had not allowed us to live together with our family members. All the slaves were separated from their family members. It is a white domination towards the blacks. They were downtrodden, oppressed, suppressed by the slaves' masters in the south America.

The Old man made an imagination of the freedom here,  
“O’ God I can still hear my children’s voces. But, somehow, I heard about freedom”

One day the walls of Jerico-Jim’s come down. The evils of slavery couldn’t be everlasting. I heard about the fight of leaders against the slavery. He further narrated the story of freedom; he spoke about the great leaders who had struggled for getting the civil rights to the blacks. So, as human being must consider equal as well as their equal rights to live in the world. The old man further talks about their social status in south America. There was no value to the Blacks as well as slaves in South America. They consider as a commodity for their purposes. They just used to follow their master’s orders without any arguments. The blacks had not any facilities in public places. If the blacks will find in the area of the whites; then police will catch them without any enquiry and harshly beat them. The old woman is also discussed here about her husband. He has moved to the north i.e., freedom. There was fight against slavery or civil rights. The whites had hug him due to he had a part of Civil Rights Movement. This is a kind of cruelty towards the human being. The Abraham Lincoln singed the Emancipation proclamation. It is a star which is twinkling in the darkness of Slavery. There is ensemble

“Slavery Chain Done Broke at Last,  
Broke At Last, Broke at Last!  
Slavery Chain Done Broke at Last!  
Gonna Praise God till I die!”.

This ensemble is regarded with the freedom which got by the Blacks. They were fighting between the whites and Blacks. She didn’t know about her saviour was able to hear her voice or not. Their souls were so happy due to they got freedom and they broke the chain of Slavery.

### **The Effects of Civil War:**

It is now related to the side effects of the civil right movement. Here, the girl is talking about the situation of Blacks in Sothern America. After the American Civil Rights Movement there were a number of problems had been faced by the blacks. She discusses here about the Civil war; it came too late to free my grant-grand-mother- but I was born under the blanket of freedom. But after this war in Reconstruction times, life wasn’t easy. Most of us didn’t know how to read and write then. We had no schools, no work, no homes. Jim crow has played different role of whites. He doesn’t want to offer equal rights to blacks. He considers himself as a ruler. He doesn’t believe in the equal rights to the blacks in southern America. As a result of the Civil Rights Movement the blacks got help from newly freed men of the South. The quakers sent teachers. Thus, after this movement the blacks are got the opportunity to get education. It is an impact of this movement. Everyone got confidence in their day today lives.

This is a critical condition of blacks in the southern America, even if you have got the freedom here. Unfortunately, the blacks are not considered and liable to the equal rights and status in the society. He further talks here related to the education. He says that though you have taken higher education in colleges or universities but it is not value for us. so, you will not offer dinner with me in the White House. Finally, the planter suggests to the blacks, you should learn how to survival instead of equal rights and whole freedom in your life. This is called racial discrimination, segregation, suppression, oppression of the blacks in the South America.

So, the blacks are banned at the swimming pool due to their color and race. This is injustice with them. They are not allowed to jump into swimming tank due to their black color and race. This is injustice with them. Jim Crow mentioned that we love the segregation like hound dog loves a bone. It means that they would put them segregated from the main stream of society. The whites are not allowed them to come into main flow of development and using the basic facilities for their own purpose. Here, is a dialogue of Boy and Jim Crow as a Minister as follows:

*“Boy: I went to get a haircut at the campus barber shop.*

*The white barber took one look at me and you know he ran to call a Cop.*

*Jim Crow: You better leave segregation alone.*

*‘cause we love segregation like a hound dog loves a bone”*

So, blacks are not allowed to use the dime or Atm machine to the blacks here. They wanted to buy a bite to eat, but they all had sent into jail due to they sat at the place of the whites. It is an unhuman being behavior with human being. If they sat at the place of whites, then what was a problem to the whites? It is nothing but the tendencies of the whites to analyze the blacks through their race and color. They are downtrodden, poor, separated and oppressed in the south America. So, they cannot allow to seat in the place of whites. It is known as a racial discrimination of the blacks in the southern area of America. So, here is also Jim suggested that we love segregation of you. Therefore, the blacks can't use the public places which are reserved for the whites. If you sit here this place will be spoiled.

### **Conclusion:**

This paper has focused on the blacks issues and problems during the slavery and Civil Rights Movement in America. This is a worst situation of the blacks in South America. They are not considered as human being. The blacks always serve them without any argument. Even though, they got freedom but the psychology of the whites has not changed here. When the Jim Crow entered here; there was jubilant shouters had shown a separate door for the Colored as well as water too. It is also talked more here that is; keep the race pure. It means that if blacks enter from the whites' door, then their race will be spoiled here. There is a separate arrangement of water for Colored. It will be spoiled with the touch of the blacks. The human being must be considered as equivalent to the other human beings. It should not be discriminated on the basis of their race, color, religion, cast, creed etc. Both have same blood color, then why the Blacks were segregated and discriminated.

### **REFERENCES**

- Ramprasad, Arnold, “Future Scholarly Projects on Langston Hughes”, in Black American Literature Forum, Vol.21, No.3,1987, PP.305-16.  
[britanica.com/event/American Civil Rights Movement/](http://britanica.com/event/American-Civil-Rights-Movement/)  
[https:// en.m.wikipadeia.org/wiki/Jerico-Jim-Crow/](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerico-Jim-Crow/)  
Langston, Hughes's, “Jerico-Jim-Crow”, Folkways Records and Service Camp., 701 seventh Ave., NYC-USA-1964, P. 2.