

CONCLUSION



C O N C L U S I O N

There is no poetic justice in the world of Faulkner's old protagonists. Virtuous and vicious are doomed to death. This is the realistic portrayal of mankind by Faulkner. Through the three volumes of stories Faulkner presents a really enchanting and realistic picture of a race of uncompromising and haughty old protagonists. Through these three volumes he presents the influence of three epoch making historical incidents through which his old persons live. They live through the Civil War, the World War I and the Great Depression of 1929.

The old protagonists in the second chapter are associated with the stable society based on classical ideals. The ruin of the landowners and the devastation of the plantations by the Civil War posed a serious threat to their existence. Thomas Sutpen is the representative of the Southern aristocrats who were ruined and reduced to nothing. The portrayal of Major De Spains through the Yoknapatawpha tales suggests the awkward position of the plantation owners in the phase of their fast fading glory. Faulkner's intense affinity with the agrarianism of South is reflected through the McCullums of "The Tall Men."

In the old protagonists of the Yoknapatawpha stories, the

criminality is reflected. It can be attributed to the primitivism of the South. There is too much of violence in the world of old persons. The idea of superior social status is so deep rooted in the racial unconscious of the old persons that in order to belong to the class of aristocracy, Faulkner's old protagonists like Thomas Sutpen and Wash Jones in "Wash", Capt. Alec Grey in "Victory" and Emily Grierson in "A Rose For Emily" indulge in violent activities and do not hesitate to reject the family. Faulkner's old persons never care for the public opinion. The agrarianism of the old South is deeprooted in the racial memory of the old protagonists of Faulkner. Therefore, they are reluctant to change. They are very particular about the ideas of social status. Some of them indulge in extra-marital affairs or they have to witness it. Thomas Sutpen seduces the granddaughter of Wash Jones, his faithful servant. The elderly priest in "Mistral" is possessed by ^{the} lustful desire for his ward who is young enough to be his daughter. Emily Grierson had her illicit love-affair with Homer Baron whom she kills in the end when he defies her. Aunt Jenny in "There was a Queen" is a morally upright woman but the sexual affair of Narcissa is a fatal blow to the moral preoccupations of the Sartoris. She is shocked and dies instantly. Sutpen, Emily, Capt. Grey

do not have any respect for the traditional values. The old protagonists are self-centred. If they are offended they conspire to bring about the downfall of their contenders. In the old protagonists of Faulkner there is no admission of guilt and submission to the law of changeability. The world of old persons is full of frustration, violence and death. These persons are haunted by the past and it is their pride that isolates them from the society. They fail to make life worth living and do not realize the fulfilment of their aspirations. With some exceptions, most of the old protagonists do not have the matrimonial bliss. They lead a lonely life and perish in their attempt to go against the law of changeability. The obstinate old protagonists do not admit of any interference. The vengeance motive is present in most of his old protagonists. They get their contenders in trouble corner them and try to crush them.

In the struggle for identity they are sure to lose. Then the question arises that why do they indulge in violence? Why do they behave so? The answer is quite obvious. The primitivism of the land based society with its typical caste system, the milieu in which they grew are responsible in shaping their negative views towards life.

In Faulkner's world of old protagonists there are widows and spinsters. Faulkner's female protagonists are deprived of the conjugal bliss. They lead a lonely life and fight for their survival in the absence of any male person. The matriarchs like Aunt Jenny "There Was a Queen" Rosa Millard ("My Grandmother Millard and Gen. Bedford Forrest and the Battle of Harrykin Creek ") Old Samantha Ewing ("The Golden Land "), the grandmother of Elly ("Elly") Danny's Old Mother ("Pennsylvania Station ") have a remarkable sense of responsibility. For them life has been a series of misfortunes and trials. Death is unnatural for them. Rosa is murdered, Aunt Jenny dies of a shock at the amoral behaviour of her daughter-in-law. The grandmother of Elly is killed in an accident. Danny's mother in "Pennsylvania Station " dies of shock as she has been deceived by her own son. Even the male persons die unnatural death. Thomas Sutpen is murdered by Wash Jones and Wash Jones by the posse. Uncle Willy dies in a plane crash. Dr. Martino dies an unnatural and mysterious death. Old Samantha Ewing, Captain Alec Grey, Old Mrs. Boyd experience death-in-life. The possessive old protagonists of Faulkner try to crush the identity of their young contenders and loved ones. They are partially responsible for the ruin of their family. Emily's possessiveness brings

death to Homer Baron, her lover. Old Mrs. Boyd's possessiveness brings death to her son Howard and the family is disintegrated. It is the possessiveness and the rigidity of the grandmother that instigates Elly to revolt against her authority. The rise and fall of Capt. Alec Grey is the offshoot of the World War I that created a class of army officers who were rejected by the peace-time society.

The Great Depression of 1929 seems to have affected the lives of Ira Ewing and his old mother Samantha Ewing. The materialism has culminated in spiritual corruption. The old woman acquires the opportunism in order to realize her aim of returning to Nebraska. Her son exploits the sex-scandal of his own daughter for monetary gains. This process of socio-economic and socio-historic change throws much light on Faulkner's realistic conception of the old protagonists. The so called social and religious guides like Dr. Martino and the Priest are not free from wickedness.