

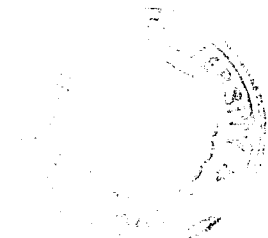
## CHAPTER-VI

### CONCLUSION

In the preceding three chapters, I have tried to analyse and comment on the specific behavioural pattern of heroes in Wright's outstanding literary works :Native Son, Black Boy and The Long Dream. An attempt is made to study the characters- Bigger Thomas, Richard Wright and Fishbelly Tucker-in the light of some modern Psychological theories, especially of Sigmund Freud, C.G.Jung, Alfred Adler and Erik Erikson. The interpretation of the incidents or encounters in which these heroes are involved is given according to the 'Psychoanalysis' and 'Phycho sexual' theories of Freud; Jung's theory of the 'collective unconsciousness'; the Adlerian concept of the 'inferiority complex' and Erikson's 'Psycho social' theory of personality development.

There is a dazzling similarity among them : They are all black. Each one is a Negro first and anything else afterwards. Again, each of them is minor and adolescent.

These young boys are brought up in a peculiar way in the black belt or ghetto. Bigger Thomas came of the poor black family. The grinding poverty had thrown him out of home. He is really sick of life at home. The home, for him, is not a place where all his basic needs are easily gratified. He had no father. Bigger's father was shot dead in the South when he was a child. So he remained emotionally starved in the one parent family atmosphere. Moreover, his mother couldn't shower



full affection on him as she had to work hard all day in the white houses, to earn her living and her children's daily-bread. Therefore, Bigger suffered more from the sense of 'being left alone'. The 'grinding poverty' and the 'parental neglect' forced him to come on in the streets. He was simply brought into existence but not properly taken care of. It had an adverse effect on his personality development. He lacked an emotional response from his intimates. As a result, he felt separated from them.

On the other hand, Fishbelly Tucker, who belonged to the upper middle class black family, was fortunate enough to have a full parental authority. But his parents overtended and spoiled him. Fishbelly couldn't help isolating himself due to the over watchful parents. Besides, Tyree, Fishbelly's father, had made a mess of his emotions with his faulty conceptions about life, woman and money.

Poor children as they were, they didn't know that a typical black subculture was shaping them so as to cope with life's problems. These heroes are the products of their typical black culture. And therefore, they feel, think and act in a peculiar way of their own.

Again, none of them is highly educated. They didn't simply fit into the educational system. Neither Bigger nor Fishbelly was emotionally attached to school, where as, Richard joined

the school too late and had no continual schooling. The forced migration had thrown Richard to the winds of misfortune. It took him from place to place. And later on, when he settled in his granny's house at Jackson, he was an 'unwanted burden' in it.

These characters seem to be influenced more strongly by the social forces than their own biological ones. Their Psychic energies have more to do with their 'social milieu'. As they were exposed to the 'double standard' in life of Mississippi, very early, they experienced the mounting tensions, anxieties, fear, and threat of death and lynching. As if, they were born to face the acute conflicts 'internal' as well as 'external'. They couldn't share the moments of joys and exploit the resources of nature with the whites. Moreover, they were, oftentimes, prosecuted or shot dead for trespassing the boundary lines marked by the whites. And therefore, they fell back upon their existence that had no meaning at all.

As a result of this 'social neglect', they continuously thought of their skin colour. All the time, they feel inferior before the whites. When they are face to face with the white world, they can't help losing self-confidence, and feel baseless and uncomfortable. This inferiority complex works on personal and social levels. There are many incidents in the lives of these heroes -that oftentimes plunge them into the world of the inferiority. Their inferiority is mainly rooted in the colour of

their skin of which they are always conscious.

Again, the powerful 'collective unconsciousness' is an integral part of their personalities. Richard's 'collective unconsciousness' forces him to burn the white curtain in Black boy. The inherited instincts, impulses and urges separate them, quite distinctly, from the whites. What enables them to be bold and enduring is, again, a joint product of their individual and collective unconsciousness. The collective unconsciousness largely shapes their responses and attitudes toward the whites. To a great extent, these heroes are a product of their primordial past which limits their personality development. A typical mentality of a black man was haunting them, even though they were uprising.

The racial difference, the colour of their skin and the neglected social position created a peculiar Negro sensibility. Each of them can't prosper, nor can cling to the skin, either. They can never join hands with the whites, nor can they live far away from them. Sometimes they were unable to understand reality. This is the Psychology of a Negro. This is what it meant to be a Negro in the white world.

Much analysis is done from the Freudian point of view. The central or most important murder scenes in Native Son are the output of Bigger's Psycho sexual problems. In Back Boy Richard's killing a kitten;defending himself against the attacks from

Aunt Addie and Uncle Tom; leaping out of the buggy; sleep walking scene and his abusing the water bucket reveal his intra-psychic conflicts and some defense strategies used by his ego. In The Long Dream, Fishbelly's Psycho sexual problems are exposed in some events like the death of Chris and Gladys; his emotional response to his father when 'Tyre was with Mrs. Sims in the car' and his reaction to Jim, his step father.

Bigger Thomas, who proves that a Negro boy is definitely something because he can create a wild conflagration that might swallow the whites, is the only criminal character among them. The 'fear of the whites' was the dominant emotion that ruled their lives. To get out of this fear, Bigger kills Bessie, his beloved; Richard leaves his jobs and fights Harrison and leaves for Memphis from his native place; and Fishbelly flees to Paris leaving behind his father's property. All their lives they feared the whites. And due to this fear, they always thought that they had no place in the Mississippi South. Each faces a confused state of mind. As they had no faith in the whites; as the tremendous fear was overwhelming them, they were extremely detached from the white society and civilization. Never in all their lives had they attached to the intimate relatives. Very early in their lives, they had realized the inability of their parents to protest in the white world. Really, they were the isolated and alienated souls. Nodoubt, the 'puberty and adolescence', the most disturbing phase in human life, was

separating them from their parents and community members.

Among them, Bigger and Fishbelly are the 'introvert' persons. While dealing with the other members of society, they always turn inward upon themselves, and are interested in their own thoughts and feelings. Their actions are in accordance with their disturbed states of mind. The character that shocks us with his behaviour is Bigger. In the first murder scene he is a victim of his unconscious id-motives. Whereas, the second murder is planned and carried out by him independently. So he is a criminal hero. Like an accomplished criminal, he kills Bessie and never ruminates over his deed. Nor is he guilty of it. On the other hand, he thinks he had acquired a place in the white world with his cruel deed. There is no doubt that he is an abnormal person from the Psychological point of view. In fact, his every action is the symptom of a Psychological problem.

It is, again, important to note that, his 'non sexual' needs were more stronger than the 'sexual needs.'

There is a remarkable consistency in their behavioural pattern. Each one fears whites; hates them; falls short of abilities; becomes the victim of the inferiority complex; is colour and racial conscious; tries hopelessly to get rid of the inferiority; finds himself baseless and insecure in the white world; has a strong attraction for the whites and then repels; is compelled to suppress or repress the genuine emotional response to the

white world; tries to upsurge in social life and, anyhow, manages to have an identity in the predominantly white world.

These heroes are set in different life styles. Fishbelly fears the whites all his life and runs away from them. Though Bigger fears the whites, he tries to behave with a little social awareness, infact, he is blind to the danger. While Richard goes one step ahead of them. He faces the white South and tries to cope with life's problems.

These depressed and oppressed souls are the products of the black and white cultures. It is said that the personality is the product of inheritance and society. Their inheritance had limited their life-activities and the white South had refused the flowering of their personalities.

The Southern social environment with its various cultural agents had moulded their personalities. To use Erik Erikson's words, some Psychological traits like mistrust, fear, guilt, shame and doubt, isolation, despair, stagnation and role-confusion were already formed in them.

To sum up, Wright's heroes are hungry for recognition. what they want is the freedom to feel, see, express and act. In the Mississippi atmosphere, the moral and cultural restrictions were such that most of the avenues of the gratification were blocked. And so, their personality development was faulty and

abnormal as long as they were in the Mississippi South or ghetto.

It is interesting to know that under the social and moral restrictions that were imposed on them by the Mississippi South, these heroes developed 'self-seeking motives'. And therefore, in order to find out new and better outlets for their forbidden motives they developed and utilized the power of their ego and tried to seek their fortune.

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