

STRONG HORSE TEA BY ALICE WALKER: A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT: This review is about the history of those black skinned people who were treated like slaves in the past because it was believed that black skinned people were born to serve others in fact they are slaves who have no right to live like humans. Alice Walker in “STRONG HORSE TEA” focuses how Rannie Toomer lost her only child and how she has become the victim of white men’s exploitation who suffered from superiority complex and they considered themselves torch-bearers and civilized but in reality they are in need to be civilized and they are savage, ignorant, cruel and prejudice. [Stem Cell. 2010;1(1):58-59] (ISSN 1545-4570).

Keywords: Alice Walker, Rannie Toomer, Strong horse tea

SUMMARY

Generally People believed that it is an age of machines where science has progressed a lot, man is touching the heights of sky and making discoveries in almost every walk of life, man has started to move in the air and the discovery of atomic bombs and missiles has proved that how much man has progressed and has known how to cure and control those diseases which were impossible to control in past. Modern man is thinking that he has learned how to live a healthy and wealthy life by following his savage or dark desires. On the one hand man is moving upwards where he is progressing a lot in different fields while on the other hand he is equally moving downwards where he shows the darker and criminal aspects of his personality by behaving rudely to their fellow human beings.

It is well known that the European countries started to explore and colonize so many areas of this world at the start of seventeenth century and the peak of this colonial power of Europe was shown by the second half of nineteenth century. Germany Belgium, France and above all Great Britain obviously rolled over almost half of the world. A noticeable sense of confident and pride also came along with this marvelous achievement that was about European

civilization that it is the best civilization on this earth. And at that time black-skinned persons were considered slaves and it was believed that they were born to serve others. Strange is that white skinned persons were considered civilized and torch bearers while on the other hand all black skinned persons were considered cheap, inferior and above all slaves which were in need to be civilized according to the white skinned people. But reality is that such white skinned people themselves were tyrant, cruel, cheap, savage, and inferior and prejudice and they themselves were in the need to be civilized because they were white at face but dark at heart.

Alice Walker is a well known female writer of USA who is famous for “The color purple”. and it is obvious that she has written a lot on the rights of black people because she herself was a black woman even her heroines are black women struggling to emerge from a history of oppression in the society of white people and abused by Black males who have failed women and themselves.

Alice believes in the equality of men and women. “Strong horse Tea “reflects Walker’s views about black people. The story based on a young female rannie toomer and her ill son. Rannie Toomer is shown

the victim of white men's savagery and exploitation as she is unmarried but having a child Snooks. Her son is her world. When story opens Rannie Toomer is in the helpless situation because her only son Snooks is too ill and he is dying of double Pneumonia and whooping cough and Rannie is in great difficulty. She tries her best to save her son, she wants to call a real Dr for his medical check up and treatment but Dr. would not come to check Black lady's child. Rannie Toomer does not realize her position and hopes that Dr will come. She is shown as a loving mother who is too attached to her son because she is having no other connections and that is why she does each and everything she could. The heroine Rannie Toomer in "The strong horse Tea" is shown an intelligent and mature lady who does not like conservative things that is why she rejects Sara who is a neighboring lady and who is considered to be a witch and knows the treatment of pneumonia by herbs and magic, she advised Rannie Toomer to try some home remedies but Rannie scornfully rejects because she does not believe in that swap magic that Sara practices. She again and again calls for doctor but she did never think that she is a black lady for whom there is no pity and kindness in this world of white people. Rannie and her son Snooks suffered a lot mainly because of their skin color. Both son and mother are in bad condition and suffering from hunger, illness and are ignored especially because of the discriminative behavior of so-called civilized (white) people who treats every white like a slave and it would be an insult for a doctor to treat a slave child, no matter how innocent he (Snooks) is. Tired and hopeless Rannie Toomer goes again and again to the Doctor but white Dr does nothing infect he is constantly repulsed with her bad breath and unwashed appearance. She was hopeful that doctor will come and Snooks will be all right that is why she waits a lot but doctor gives no importance to Rannie rather it was just like the insult of white doctor to treat black lady's child, so doctor gives no time and importance to them.

Defeated and hopeless at last Rannie allows Sara to do something to save her child. After examining Snooks Sara announces that only one thing that can save his life is "STRONG HORSE TEA" (horse urine). Rannie goes outside into the rain, chases down the horse and uses her shoe as container to catch the tea and we see that while she is collecting a horse kicks her down but she continues. And the feelings of pity aroused as we see that Rannie is collecting tea on the one hand while on the other her son has just passed away in the hands of Sara.

It was the disaster and end of the world for a mother to lose her only child only because of the ignorance of the white Doctor. And it shows not only injustice, cruelty, savagery, exploitation of the white but the darker aspect of the society of white where success worship is its religion.

Rannie Toomer becomes the representative of all those black ladies who suffered a lot because of such skin discrimination. Alice Walker wants to convey that black people are not animals. It would be injustice to treat them like animals rather we must treat them like all human beings. It must be noticed that such discriminative sort of behavior leads humans to decay. The question we have to ponder over is "Are we the members of such evil practicing society?"

Acknowledgments:

Researcher would like to thank Mejoor Nazar Abbas, Ms. Anjum Naseem and Mrs. Shaukat Jahan for their technical assistance in writing this review.

3/3/2010