

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ELEMENTS IN ALICE WALKER'S MERIDIAN

H.Seshgiri¹, Dr .M. Ravichand²

¹Research scholar in English, JNTUA, Ananthpur,

²Professor of English, Sri Vidyanikethan Engineering college ,Tirupathi

E-mail: girienglish99@gmail.com¹., ravichandenglish@gmail.com.²

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ABSTRACT: Autobiography is a document of life, taking a simple raw material like human life and transforming it into pure art. It is a marvelous piece of literature that enriches real human life. There is no need for an autobiographical novel describing the author's own story and the standard of the novel. Any event or storyline should be similar to the author's life. The present paper is designed to make the life elements of Meridian Hill more dramatic, but the story bears a closeness to Walker's own life, which serves the literary purpose of not becoming a novel autobiography. Moreover, the fights, struggles and affairs of Meridian and her background can be seen in many ways to Walker's life.

KEYWORDS: Autobiographical-author life-struggles-elements-Meridian.

I. INTRODUCTION

Alice Walker was the leading African American woman writer who won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Walker utilized the expression "womanist" to assign her ethical position on the issue of sexual orientation. She has gotten extensive consideration from researcher and pundit. Therefore Charles Dickens's "David Copperfield" and "The Great Expectations", Leo Tolstoy's "Child Wood", DH Lawrence's "Sons And Lovers", James Joyce's "A Portrait Of The Artist As Young Man" And Samuel Butler's "The Away Of The All Flesh" are popular autobiographical novels and attract readers and critics using their character creation, setting and technique. Alice Walker's great novel Meridian is such a category and the story's line is so close to her life. Therefore this paper reveals the autobiographical segments of Alice Walker's Meridian. Once a journalist asked her in an Interview with Claudia Tate in 1983, Walker reveals the differences between Meridian and her that: "Meridian is better than me. She's a wonderful person. I've been around for a long time and more middle class than Meridian"

Meridian is structured into three major parts: the first part focusses on Meridian's instigation into adulthood and she gets ready for forwards journey; the second part describes Meridian's vigorous participation in the civil rights movement after she leaves her child and the third part concentrations on "End Penance and Proclamation. Meridian Hill and Walker are variant in features significantly in several ways. But both Walker and Meridian started and led their life journey from suffering to self-definition while their journey tries to pull away practice bypassing to tarnish the racism and verdict that had been dominated black Americans for centuries.

II. CHILDHOOD AND PRIMARY EDUCATION

The novel begins in the present and moves back and forth, and Alice Walker chronologically complicates this narrative. Meridian's childhood does not look healthy, she classifies herself as a delinquent and is not always appreciated because Meridian's association with her father feels not healthier than that of her mother. Even when she finds her golden bar at the age of seven, nobody in her family pays courtesy to her, so she puts in the ground it under the tree for comfort. In contrast Meridian, Walker was self-conscious and hideously shy, sometimes humiliated, seemed outsider, and observed her childhood days because one of her brothers was unintentionally injured in the right eye by a shot from a shotgun. In this regards the most common emotion between Meridian and Walker is that their childhood days are not happy days like other children. The events of those days made them unhappy.

During 1965 summer Walker visits to East Africa. She came back to class as pregnant and chose to have a premature birth. In any case, her choice isn't simpler around then since premature birth is as yet illicit in the United States. A lady searching for annulling undesirable pregnancies face the danger of traveling to another country for the methodology or covert and costly. Walker, who had little any desire for her condition, chose to end it all in the event that she was unable to get a premature birth. In this same way it is to be

brought up that during her school days, Meridian goes into a sexual co-existence with Eddie, bringing about her pregnancy turns into a mystery marriage.

However Meridian sexual incitement came ahead of schedule to beat the age of twelve years like Walker. Meridian sweetheart Eddie assume an enormous job in Meridian, which serves to best part her developing negativity. Struggle emerges during her pregnancy, which makes troubles her life totally. She accepts that parenthood is burglarizing her personality, and the remark she imagined, she is "Disturbed with the essences of her body, getting pregnant with less screwing than anybody she has ever heard" (139). Being cautioned by a mother's negative remark on parenthood, she can't endure these missteps to be a mother at an early age. Consistently she dreams of homicide Eddie and she is overcome with self-uncertainty and void. This leads her to the idea of wretchedness and implosion

III. COLLEGE DAYS

Meridian is a good high school student and has a high IQ. She is offered to go to Saxon College in Atlanta on a high school principal's scholarship. The scholarship offers from a wealthy couple in Connecticut who are horrified by the civil rights violations they seen on television. She struggles to be a good student she can and to be "distracted" from the voice in her head. Witness increases her guilt. She sees herself as a sort of oddity, "belonging to an underserved minority." She studies herself in Saxon and "does not want to give a long break to respond to this spiritual decline". Walker fights with such stringent regulates over her life and is moved to Sarah Lawrence College, north of New York City. Walker coming back to Georgia in the summer of 1965 to campaign electors in Liberty County. As soon as she sits down to write Meridian approximately ten years later, she raises the inhabitants of the spirit to walk on muddy roads and register to vote.

IV. ACTIVIST IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Generally, as a creative activist, Alice Walker 1965 following her start joined in the civil rights movements. She first started out door-to-door agitation in Georgia and recognized the human beings for voter registration, but later very soon she went to New York town and initiated successively within the department of town welfare. At that point, she gained a fashionable writing fellowship at the "Bread Loaf author's conference". The Impediments inside the technique of Liberation.

In this same way Meridian's story concentrations on her life as a civil rights activist. Before she joins in civil right movements trapped in the cultural context and maternity that come to be a vehicle for her revolution. She thinks in two ways: the internal mind expressions that culture compromises some substitutes to women for suffocation and redemption of the traditional life and maternity. The outside mind contemplates the family life of the Hills. Walker argues that Meridian is not calm enough to break free from the mythological image of maternity imposed on her by culture and society and to distort the external frame. When seventeen-year-old Meridian, an isolated wife and mother, learned of the past and present of the huge world in 1960, she undeniable to abandon her child and enrolled at Saxon College to improve her life and save the lives of children.

Meridian is very aware of injustice and turns to politick when she is a young mother. The first act that encouraged her to enter in the civil rights movement was the bombing of the home, the demise of innocent black children. Just as expressions of inequality, such as lack of education facilities and meagre medical services, incited to Meridian to obligate later actions in her life, the mistrust and absoluteunkindness of this act prompted Meridian to join the civil rights movement and turn into dynamics subsequently ferocious when she watched the situation in television in the Black area.

It is a turning point in the life of Meridian Hills, she coincides in this, that she came to see during early morning three and four a.m. "the house was demolished by firebombs not just the house, but the entire cluster of houses on that street" (69-70). For the first time in her life, she was the twitches of thinking about the big picture of the world, the situation of African Americans in the country, specifically in the south. After the incident, her reiteration begins with the white supremacy, her knowledge of the bomb, the acquisition of her home, and her knowledge of the destruction so far. This act of violence, to induce her to join the motion, in the civil right movement. This thing, from ignorance for knowledge, from her rights, without thinking of rights. She Joins the Movement by the hopeless, conceited activist and artist Truman Held. Meridian and Truman were both arrested and beaten against the detached facilities. While the fight for their rights, Meridian loved Truman and in a relationship after her sexual experiences and a child and an abortion she did not fully double once seemed unfair. In this movement she was "vain and behavioural" (p. 99) activist and artist Truman Held. She changed because of Truman with Exchange white student, Lynne Rabinowitz.

Walker interprets the steps to focus on the problematic relationships of Meridian, Truman and Lynne. Truman marries Lynne as he needs the impeccable woman, the perfect woman in the world, and the white woman is the next entity to power he can get in America. Truman eventually returns to Meridian three years later he conjugal Lynne, and states that loving Meridian makes her feel "strong and resolute". Meridian's love for Truman is a "purge". Meridian is intricate in the civil rights movement and the Atlanta movement. She wants social impartiality. She wants black women to stay to be equal..

V. END PENANCE AND NON-VIOLENCE MOVEMENT

This part opens with the Atlanta memorial cortege of Martin Luther King, Jr. Eight years later, Meridian struggles with interrogations of extremism and how the movement eventually turned out. The author takes fanciful steps into last part of the novel. Meridian stands as an observer to the basic parcel and an overcomer of the development. She has not had any desire to execute individuals in the development and convert them to another way to deal with transformation. She has arrived at a point in her life where she is not, at this point hesitant. Tuning in to the old music, she is moved by the magnificence of the dark church.

Her commitment to the transformation will be her "memory melodies". For it is "the melody of the individuals, that changed by the encounters of every age, that holds them together, and if any piece of is lost, the individuals endure and feel like are without soul" (p.201). so as to change their general public, the dark individuals must comprehend their own legacy and change themselves. It is the way toward endeavoring social change through: the development that Meridian finds her very own way. This revelation is itself the center of the novel. Truman apologizes for harming Lynne's inclination. At the point when Truman approaches Meridian if her adoration for his is changed, her reaction "No, I see you free ".(p.216) shows that she has discharged herself from the sexual bonds and she means to seek after her own completeness.

Meridian's quest for personality in all regards can be characterized as her endeavor to communicate the absolutely of self and how that self is identified with the world. It is a quest for opportunity, Joy and satisfaction in being a lady, and for self-esteem. With regards to the dark abstract custom it is a quest for escape from the body and opportunity for the spirit by finding "reality" in the dimness. Walker proposes that Meridian is "free finally" Her ties are not with a man, a family or with a particular network. Parenthood for her incorporates raising of youngsters as well as supporting life, the congruity of life. She considers her to be as indistinguishable from every single dark individuals and composes.

There is water on the planet for us brought by our companions however the stone of mother and god evaporates into sand and us, cast out alone to recuperate and re-make ourselves (p.213) It is in this feeling Meridian's quest for self-confirmation and completeness obtains a mythic measurement. Not at all like Nella Larsen's Helga Crane in Quicksand whose anguish is existential on the grounds that she is bound first by race and afterward by sex, Meridian grasps her dark legacy, her lady's legacy and connects her kin. She is a freed dark lady who recognizes what she should take from the past to make another future. Truman realizes that in her "journey" Meridian would come back to the world "scrubbed of infection." He could never observe "his "Meridian. "The new part had become out of the old "(p.219) Thus Meridian's fuse into the network is, fundamentally, another birth into profound completeness in Race, Sex and Gender.

Therefore there was an organization formed in the 1950s called Sojourners for Truth and Justice that was fighting for the dignity of black women. Meridian knew what the tree represented for all of the students on campus and as well for her, so she begged the others not to cut it down: "Meridian begged them to dismantle the president's house instead.". The second time the readers may see her not being able to fight with violence is when Truman visits her, and she looks back at her past. To join one of the groups fighting against inequality, she had to declare that she would die for the revolution. It can be observed at least twice that though Meridian was a part of the movement, she was not willing to kill for it and rather chose the non-violent approach.

She was a homeless teenage pregnant girl that Meridian was able to take under her wings against the will of her house mother: "She must not stay here...Think of the influence. To join one of the groups fighting against inequality, she had to declare that she would die for the revolution. These two examples from her life show that she is willing to fight for the rights of her race, but she is not willing to cross the line and start to fight with violence. End of novel Meridian resides in a small town, encouraging for the black inhabitants to vote and attempt to change their lot. Alleviated of her sickness, Meridian get ready to transfer on, leave-taking from Truman overdue to linger the work that she started in Chickoma.

VI. CONCLUSION

Even when writing was about her own life and actual events, Walker did not write those things as per they were. She was an illustrator and therefore put them most operatively. So she used her natural life well for her own sake. She came from her personal experience and thought but accessible it with the aid of her mind's eye. She used his character with her knack so that her novel was autobiographical other than societal documents. Although Alice Walker's *Meridian* is not autobiographical work some incidents and personal experiences of *Meridian*'s are similar to author's life.

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