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IMAGE OF GOD AS SEEN BY THE CHARACTERS IN THE NOVEL "COLOR PURPLE"



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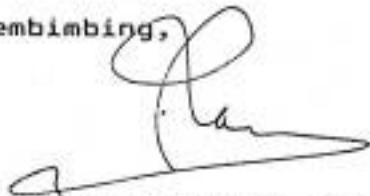
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Pada hari ini, Rabu tanggal 6 April 1994. Tim penguji menerima baik skripsi ini dengan judul :

IMAGE OF GOD AS SEEN BY THE CHARACTERS IN
"THE COLOR PURPLE" NOVEL

yang diajukan dalam rangka menenuhi salah satu syarat ujian akhir guna memperoleh gelar sarjana Sastra pada Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Sastra Universitas Hasanuddin.

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Penguji I

Penguji II

Konsultan I

Konsultan II

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ABSTRAK

Penulisan ini bertujuan mengetahui bagaimana pandangan para tokoh dalam novel "The Color Purple" karya Alice Walker, salah seorang novelis sekaligus penyair terkenal di Amerika Serikat.

Pendekatan yang diterapkan dalam analisis ini adalah pendekatan intrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Dalam pendekatan intrinsik penulis menganalisis teks novel tersebut dan mengaji bagaimana citra Tuhan di mata tokoh utama dan tokoh lain serta seberapa jauh keyakinan mereka terhadap Tuhan mempengaruhi sikap hidupnya. Untuk menunjang pendekatan intrinsik, penulis menerapkan pendekatan ekstrinsik. Dalam pendekatan ini penulis memperhatikan hal-hal di luar teks, namun hanya dibatasi pada latar belakang sosial dan sejarah orang kulit hitam di Amerika. Pendekatan ini digunakan sejauh dapat memberi masukan pada penulis. Tokoh-tokoh yang dikaji yaitu Celie, tokoh utama (protagonis), Alphonso, Albert, (tokoh antagonis), Shug Avery dan Nettie selaku tokoh pembantu.

Hasil pengajian menunjukkan bahwa Celie, yang sebelumnya selalu yakin akan kebesaran dan kekuasaan Tuhan sehingga dengan keyakinan itu mampu mengatasi persoalan hidupnya, berubah pikiran dimana dia menganggap Tuhan tidak memperdulikan hidupnya bahkan membebani dia dengan beban hidup yang amat berat. Meskipun pada akhirnya dia menyadari kekeliruannya dan berusaha mencari kembali Tuhan yang ternyata ada dalam dirinya sendiri. Hal baru menurut Celie, Tuhan ada dimana-mana, di matahari, pohon-pohon besar, di alam raya. Sedangkan Alphonso meyakini Tuhan itu ada di Gereja namun dia tidak pernah berusaha mencarinya ke sana, bahkan sikap hidupnya mencerminkan bahwa dia sama sekali tidak memperdulikan ajaran agama. Albert yang berusaha mencari Tuhan di akhir hidupnya saat setelah menyadari kesalahannya. Sedangkan Avery berpandangan bahwa Tuhan adalah sesuatu yang tidak berjenis kelamin, dan Nettie adalah seorang pengikut ajaran Kristen yang taat.

CHAPTER I
I. INTRODUCTION



1. Background

Since literature is an expression of society, it depicts some aspects of social reality. Studying literary works will help us to have better understanding of life, environment social and culture. It also helps us to know more about human problems and difficulties. And this is the main reason why the literary work of particular society is extremely important to be discussed.

Sumardjo (1984:10), says :

"Kesusasteraan bukan saja memberikan kebahagiaan, kesenangan pada manusia, tetapi juga menjadikan manusia lebih mengerti pada manusia lain di manapun di dunia ini. Lebih mengerti kesulitan, penderitaan, keinginan dan watak orang lain. Untuk apa ?, agar manusia saling mengerti. Kalau pengertian ini terjalin, maka tidak akan pernah terjadi, pertengkaran, permusuhan, saling membinasakan, ...".

As we know that literature can be seen as a document of sociocultural that tells us what happened in our society in a certain place and also in certain time. And realizing that literature is concerned with all aspects of human life in our society, that is why it is necessary to analyze black literature as a part of American literature.

Black literature is a literature that has been written by black people in America. It is sometimes still regarded to be minor work. Black literature such as : fiction, poet-

that it is necessary to see how the strong belief in God has an important role in the life of human being. Because Religion is one the most powerful, deeply felt, and influential forces in human society. It has shaped people's relationship with each other, influencing family, community, economic and political life. Religious belief and values motivate human action and religious groups organize their collective religious expressions and also could give spirit and motivation to overcome all difficulties, misery, sadness. Celie's life experiences are so horrifying that we may thanks God ' It never happens to us.

Additionally, as far as the writer is concerning she also hopes that by doing the analysis of image of God by the characters involved in Walker's work, will remind readers that if we have a strong belief in God, all of difficulties in our life could be overcome easily.

1.3 The Scope of the Problem

The purpose of this study is to find out the image of God by the characters, i.e major and minor characters in Alice Walker's novel.

To obtain how the image of God by the characters above, the writer will focus the objectives are as follows :

- The definition of the Image and character themselves !
- Analytical description of how do the main character and other characters' think of the images of God

based on "The Color Purple" novel as seen of the background social and history of black people.

1.4 The Method of Research

The collection of data for this analysis is obtained through library research. It means that the writer reads some books about literature which is related to the title and "the Color Purple" itself.

The obtained data was analyzed by using intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

1.4.1 Intrinsic Approach

The intrinsic approach is an analysis method where the writer tries to understand the novel, by paying attention to the events that happen to the characters, written in the novel. This is based on Kenney's concept (1966:5) that analysis properly understood and rightly undertaken contributes essentially to the full enjoyment of fiction.

1.4.2 Extrinsic Approach

Extrinsic approach is an approach used to analyze a literary work by dealing with some aspects outside of the text, such as : politics, biography, religion, philosophy, period of the novelist.

In order to make the content of this thesis is relevant to the topic mentioned before, the writer used sociological and historical approaches.

1.4.2.1 Sociological Approach

The Sociological approach is an approach by using the social background as one aspect for interpreting the content of the novel which is related to reciprocal of social context. As Junus (1986:4) states:

"Pendekatan sosial ialah suatu pendekatan yang melihat karya sastra sebagai dokumen sosiobudaya yang mencatat kenyataan sosiobudaya masyarakat pada suatu masa tertentu. Karya sastra tidak dilihat sebagai suatu keseluruhan melainkan pada unsur cerita tanpa mempersoalkan struktur karya dengan berdasar pada konsep karya sastra sebagai refleksi dari realiti masyarakat tersebut. Pendekatan ini boleh mengambil imej atau citra tentang sesuatu, perempuan, lelaki, orang asing dan lain-lain, ...".

So by understanding the social background of the black people that can be learned from the sociological approach, the writer will be better interpreting the image of characters in the "color purple" novel.

1.4.2.2 Historical Approach

Historical Approach is an approach by using the historical background as one aspect for analyzing the content of the "Color Purple" novel. Harry Levin (1945:60) a theo-

rist in sociology of literature wrote that Novels often seem bound up with particular moments in the history of society and concerned with the nature of the situation in the history.

The writer considers that it is necessary to see histories aspect for knowing how do the image of God appear from the black people, especially the characters in the novel of "Color Purple".

1.5 Composition of Chapters

This writing consists of four chapters. Chapter one includes the introduction which gives the whole outlook of the writing, the background and the motivation of choosing the title, objectives of the writing, scope of the problem, and method of research.

Chapter two is about the review of literature. Chapter three is the discussion of the image of God as seen by characters by using analytical description and the last, chapter four is the conclusion.

CHAPTER II REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Explanation of Images, Characters and Sociological & Historical Approaches.

The term mentioned above are important. In order to get a clear description of those terms that will help the writer to analyze of how the image of God, as seen by characters in the novel of 'Color Purple', the writer presents definition of every term that are given by different books and also the conclusion by the writer.

2.1.1 Image

Image in Advanced English - Indonesian Dictionary (1985:414) means, :

- Citra;
- Bayangan;
- Sesuatu yang menyerupai;

while in American Heritage Dictionary (1982:642) it means :

- The concept of someone or something that is held by the someone;

Musain (1988:107), at al. gives definition, as follow :

"Imej ialah gambaran atau tiruan bentuk seseorang atau sesuatu objek yang tergambar dalam fikiran dan bentuk ini terukir atau dicipta atau digambarkan untuk model bagi menyatakan sesuatu pengertian".

5An other definition is given by Ferrine (1963:350), as follows :

"The word image perhaps most often suggests a mental picture, something seen in the mind's eye. An image may also represent a sound, a smell, a taste, a tactile experience, such as hardness, wetness or cold, an internal sensation, such as hunger, thirst or nausea or movement or tension in the muscles or joints".

Kennedy (1991:565), defines that image consists of several kinds. They are a sight (visual), sound (auditory), touch (tactile imagery as perception of smoothness or roughness) and taste of bodily sensation such as pain, prickling, goosebumps, etc.

In order to get a deeper understanding of image, let us read the following examples:

"The image of woman in literature is invariably defined in opposition to the real person whom literature somehow never quite manages to convey to the reader" (Methen, 1985:44).

With the same notion, Salim (1988:415) also gives example :

"Politician wanted to change his public image"

From the definitions mentioned above, it can be concluded that image is the concept of someone or something that is held by the someone.

2.1.2 Characters

Character is a person or animal presented in a literary work. The Characters in a novel are usually represented by human being, then it seems understandable why in many novels, authors tend to use people instead of animal.

According to Carlsen (1965:847), there are three kinds of characters. They are : a) Dynamic character, is one whose personality or attitude changes over the course of the work. The turning point in dynamic character's growth often coincides with the climax of plot. b) Static character is one whose personality and attitude do not change over the course of a literary work. c) Rounded character, is one who is drawn in three dimensions. Such a character shows enough different qualities and personality traits to seem believable. The opposite of a rounded character is a stock or flat character or stereotype.

Husain (1988:352) says :

"Character (watak) ialah manusia atau pelakon dalam cereka berbentuk naratif atau drama yang diberikan sifat-sifat tertentu termasuk perangai dan pemikiran yang dikenal melalui percakapannya iaitu dialog dan apa yang mereka lakukan".

Regarding characters, Forster in Sudjiman (1991:30) argues that there is a close link between the writer and the subject matter, he wrote as follows :

"Since the novelist is himself a human being, there is an affinity between him and his subject matter which is

absent other forms of art".

The said description above, it can be concluded that characters are particular people appearing in the novel and were full of word-masses. Therefore they do not come only to our mind and their nature is conditioned by what the writer thinks about people.



2.1.3 Sociological Approach

In chapter one, it has been mentioned and given brief explanation about sociological and historical approaches. However, for further understanding, detailed explanations shown in this chapter.

Broom (1990:3) stated that Sociology is the study of society, groups and social behaviour. Sociology usually concentrates on the study of modern, urban, industrial societies, how such societies have come into being, how they change, and how they they differ from other societies.

A literary work, such as novel, can be approached from the sociological point of view. The social background which sometimes described by the authors in the novel, can give us a reflection of social reality in the certain time through some characters that based on a social characteristics.

By studying some literary works, it could help the writer to understand the American society as a whole. Such as what has been said by Auguste Comte, (1980:269) a sociologist, who usually emphasizes that society must be learned

a whole system, as follows :

"There can be scientific study of society, either in its condition or its movements, if it is separated into portions and its divisions are studied apart. It is no matter to matter social phenomena in the only right way. Viewing each element in the light of the whole system.

Related to Alice Walker, she is a member of a black societies, of course she expresses her society through trans-individual subjects as reflected in her novel. So, there is a collective mind in Walker that represent her society.

As Walker (1977:448) says :

"Since 1776 up to now the slavery issues in the United States of America actually still become a problem particularly in racial discrimination between black and white. The whites who usually feel that they have a power and see the blacks look down or that's we call "in group" where the members of in group (white people) think that the outsider "out group" in this case the black people in humane".

The whites who are in power and endows the blacks with their superiority, and the whites have to occupied at the high position in whatever activities. And politically the blacks as minority group must be regarded as the lower class in the society. In Group and out group, or in another word, we can say, as majority class and minority class will never show a commitment together, because one of the group feels the superior qualities (David Barry, 1983:43).

As has been touched above that black people consciously or unconsciously have got bad treatment from the white people unfairly as the same member of society. And this situation makes them feel alienation from their social role in their society.

Sociologically, alienation deals with the context of life playing, as Barry (1983:147) says :

"if someone has no role in the society, they can not influence and can not do everything, means that they will be alienated from the social context whether as a member of citizen their existence of human being".

In the black society alienation deals with the racial consequences that's caused by different features in physical appearances. The differences make them contrast each other and can be viewed as minority group in this case is black people and another one as majority group is white people. Black people is part of American society, but they are not accepted from the majority society themselves. And that's why nearly most of the Black's literary works reflected the search for self identity, the search for esteem and the search for language to express the richness of an oral culture.

The alienation of black people have transformed into many novels as manifestation of their feeling, for instance, in Alice Walker, she expresses her feeling through her novel "The Color Purple" by writing letters among the

characters and also the setting that tells us a quite place
explicitly it is far from the white communities

1.4 Historical Approach

Levin; (1965:66) says :

"The novel often seem bound up with particular moments
in the history of society and concerned with the
nature of the situation in the history.

With the same notion, Bryant says :

"We train ourselves to elucidate and interpret a
literary work by treating it as a particular mode of
the organization of language, analyzing its
structure and getting to know its historical
literary context and its cultural background".

History tells us that black people become the second
class after the white, while black women become the second
class among its society. Because of this condition black
people, especially black women, in particular fell oppressed
and inferior to white as well as - black men.

As a result they can not trust anybody to complain and
consult their fate, except God. God has important role in
Blacks life. According to Thompson (1974:124) that one of
the oldest and most persistent characterizations of Black
America is that they are very religious. This belief was
given such great, uncritical emphasis that it became a kind
of stereotype (Thompson, 1974:123). For so long Black Ameri-
cans have had to depend so much on religion to give meaning

to life and sustain their survival efforts. So it is not strange that church became popular place among the blacks.

A careful analysis of available information about history of the black, church suggest that it has influenced every aspect of the Black experience. The church has had the greatest influence in the social, cultural, and psychosocial maturation of Black (Thompson, 1974:124).

If we talk about church, we talk about two possibilities senses. the first sense is that the church as a building and the second, the church as Home of God. The church as the building is that it is become the center of all black activities. Church become the place where the black free to go. As Benjamin E. Mays says in Thompson that Negroes had nowhere to go but to church. It was a place of worship and a social center as well. there was no other place to go ... (Thompson, 1974:126).

This was the one place Negroes in my community could be free and relax from the toil and oppression of the week. Among themselves they were free to show off and fall important'. In church, the preacher taught the people to be honest and upright, the Gospel he preached was primarily an opiate to enable black to endure and survive the oppressive conditions under the hands of the White people in the community. (Thompson, 1974:126).

Black believed the tribulations of the world would be over when one got to heaven. Because of this strong belief,

eaten down at every turn by the white man have been felt arrived. Without this kind of religion this kind of oppression can't last for so long.

Why this kind of religion can be accepted by the black? Perhaps because they had no other sustaining institution of philosophy so black seem to have been quite susceptible to christian teaching (Thompson, 1974:128).

As a result black accept white's terrible treatment. Black couldn't protest vividly. Only to God Black can complain and consult their fate. They identify themselves as God's "chosen 'people'" and they regarded their oppressors, white people as 'pharaoh' (Thompson, 1974:126). So God here, is the place where black can find peace. In God, black also can relieve the soul from the burden of life.

In the Color purple showed how Celie, the main character of the story so religious that God is the only one she can talk to and trust. She believes that God will keep her secrets of her life.

2.2 Synopsys of the Story

The story tells about Celie's bitter experiences. She was an unlucky creature, a woman, black, ugly and poor. had been raped by her stepfather and forced to marry Mr. _____. She felt so weak and hopeless, so lonely and has nobody to talk to express her grief. She only can adress her letter to

god which she may think would bless her.

From her letters we know her awful pregnancies, her children taken away from her and abuses of a loveless marriage. She loved her sister Nettie, who is very good at school. She tried to prevent her from marrying Mr. _____ and let herself to be taken by Mr. _____. Staying with Mr. _____, Celie was treated as a servant not as a wife, her stepchildren order her to do this, to do that, she is only regarded as a good housekeeper, a good cook and good to children. The children never help her even to get water in a bucket. She always do what what she is ordered to and stay there she is old as long as she is alive. She just accept any treatment as illustrated, as follows :

"Harpo ast his daddy why he beat me. Mr. _____ say, cause she my wife, plus she stubbron. Harpo ast me, how come you stubborn, how come you his wife. I say, just born that way. I reckon. He beat me like he beat the children. He say, Celie, get the belt, all I can do not to carry. I make myself wood" (Walker, 1982:22).

Another victim of men domination and oppression is Sofia, she is Harpo's wife. Celie's step-daughter in law. She is sentenced to work as a maid in the white mayor's house for sassing and biting mayor's wife. Sofia is a big and strong woman who wants to be free to do whatever she thinks good to her. She is ready to fight to defend herself and doesn't want to be under her to obey him, to do and to follow all his order, like Celie toward his father. Then

asks his father's advice :

"Harpo want to know what to do make Sofia mind. He sit out on porch with Mr. _____. He say : I tell her one thing, she do another. Never do what I say. Always back talk. You ever hit her.

Mr. _____ ast. naw sun. he say low embarras. Wives is like children. You have to let 'em know who got the upper hand. Nothing can do that better than a good sound beating. She need to be taken down a peg" (Alice Walker, 1982:34).

Miss Millie, the mayor's wife wants her to be her maid but Sofia said "bell no" then the mayor slaps her, she knock the man down, later the polices come, Sofia tries to fight but they drug her to the ground and put her in jail.

Other type of woman, Shug Avery leads a different way of life. She is brave enough to leave her husband and the children to seek for better life. She can enjoy her life, she became a famous singer, invited to sing in good places. She is beautiful, she wears nice clothes, hat, shoes and expensive bags, she lives on luxury, she enjoys living anyman she loves, she is free to go wherever she wants, to do whatever she wants. She is the most lucky one in this novel, yet she has willing to help Celie, to make her life happier, to love her and help her get on own feet, to make her value and respect herself that make others respect and love her. Without her help it's imposible for Celie to get better life, to love herself and to have courage to leave her husband and follows Shug, to do something for herself.

Celie, in the end of this novel succeeded freeing herself from rude treatment and unrespectful way from her

husband with the help of Shug Avery, the ex-wife of her husband. Shug Avery feels pity on her because Celie is the one that nursed her when she was sick, she bathed her, combed her hair and cared for her till she recovered from her illness. Shug brings Celie to go to Memphis, she loves her, motivates her and supports her with her strength and prayer. Shug encourages her to make pants, she is talented in sewing that later she succeeded in having her own factory where she is on her way making a living. We can see how Celie struggle for life, to liberate herself and gain the triumph. The letter for her sister Nettie also gives her strength to face her life, she loves her sister very much that she wants to meet her again before dies. She is very glad hearing news from Nettie that both her children who were stolen by her stepfather when she was sleeping and she thought had been killed by him former, are still alive under Nettie's protection, became a beautiful woman and a strong and respectful man.

At the end of the novel, she become "New Man", more nice to see, gain her respect and loved by her husband.

CHAPTER III

IMAGE OF GOD AS SEEN BY THE CHARACTERS IN THE "COLOR PURPLE" NOVEL

3.1 Analysis of the Main Character (Celie)

Dear God,

I am fourteen years old. I have always been a good girl. Maybe you can give me a sign letting me know what is happening to me. Last spring after Lucious come I heard them pussing. He pulling on her arm. She say it too soon, Fonso, I ain't well. Finally he leave her alone. a week go by, he pulling on her arm again. She say naw, I ain't gonna. Can't you see I'm already dead, an all of these children" (Alice Walker, 1982:1).

The writing technique used in this novel called 'epistolary letter'. God here is the one, the main character communicate with, why God ?, why not let say, a person ?. In my opinion that there is a close relationship with the background of Black people and it's history. History tells us that Black people become the second class after the white, while black woman became the second class among it's society - black man. Because of this condition, black woman and Celie in particular fell oppressed and inferior to white as well as black man. As a result she can not trust anybody to complain and consult her fate. So God has important role in her life.

God in Celie's mind is mighty and powerful. In god, she is free to express her feeling, thought and emotion without feeling worried and afraid. As we can read in following

quotation :

Dear God,

I tell Netty the next morning. Stead of being mad, she glad to go. Say she hate to leave me is all. Us fall on each other neck when she that. I sure hate to leave you here white these rotten children, she say. Not to mention with Mr. _____, it's like seeing you buried, she say.

It's worse than that, I think. If I was buried, I wouldn't have to work. But I just say, never mine, long as I can spell G-O-D, I got somebody, (Alice Walker, 1982:18).

When her stepfather raped her, she couldn't tell anybody even to her sister Netty. She trusted God to keep her secret and it makes her save from any intimidation. She always comes to God everything she got unbearable experience :

"He never had a kind word to say to me. Just say you gonna do what your mammy wouldn't. First he put his thing up against my nip and sort of wiggle it around. Then he grab hold my titties. Then he push his thing up inside my pussy. When that hurt, I cry. He start choke me, saying you better shut up and git used it"

But I don't never get used to it. And now I feels sick every time I be the one to cook. My mama she fuss at me an look at me. She happy, cause he good to her now. But too sick to last long" (Alice Walker, 1982:2)

Even so she tries to save her sister from the same fate, her father's sexual abuses.

"I keep hoping he find somebody to marry. I see him looking at my little sister. She scared. But I say, I'll take care of you with God help" (Alice Walker, 1982:4)

Here we notice that Celie is ready to sacrifice herself for

her sister. Clearly that she invites God to help her when she has to save her sister Nettie from their stepfather who will rape her. It shows that God has power to help her to face hard problems. According to Celie, in God's name everything will save.

When Celie bore her baby, her mother asked "whose baby it is ?" Celie answers "God's". She could not mention a name, except God. See the next quotation :

"She ast me bout the first one whose it is ? I say "God's". I don't know other man or wnat else to say" (Alice Walker, 1982:3).

She couldn't answer it because the child is natural child. Celie instead of saying the real father, she said that it is "God's".

There is a distance between God and human being. God is placed in higher place while man is in lower one. So why God is big, powerful and mighty while man is small weak and nothing. For that reason man should surrender all the fate to God. Man should believe the trials and tribulations on the world would be over when one got to heaven (Thompson, 1974:126). And this belief makes Celie except all her horrible fate without daring to complain to other people. Only to God she surrender her fate.

Celie's ugly look and her stupidity make her condition worse. She feels so weak and desperate that she can not even resist when her presumed father asked her to marry with

Mr. _____, who is merely needs household help rather than a wife. In this case she feels completely hurted to look at the way her father offers her to be married. It seems that it is like the one who sales a horse. It is not the feeling as the first consideration out it is about the usage purposes. And the following quotation will make us clearer :

"... , but I can let you have Celie. She the oldest anyway. She ought to marry first. She spoiled. But you don't need a fresh woman no how. I got a fresh one in there myself and she sick all the time.

... , she ugly, Mr. _____ don't say nothing. I stop crying. I'm so surprise.

She ugly, he say. But she ain't to stranger to hard work. And she clean. And God done fixed her. You can do everything just like you want to and she ain't gonna make you feed it or cloth it" (Alice Walker, 1982:9).

Here, it really shows how man's cruel domination is done to victimize woman physically and spiritually.

In Mr. _____'s house (her husband), Celie is treated just like a slave, she has to do whatever he orders her to do. Mr. _____ is so cruel that he likes to beat her. Mr. _____ beats her with belt, worse than beat children. Celie makes herself a tree, she does not cry, even so she never complains. It also shows in the following quotation:

"He pick up a rock and laid my head open. The blood run all down tween my breast. But I don't cry. He got four children instead of three. Two boys and two girls. They scream, they cuse me of murder" (Alice Walker, 1982:13).

Her step children also treat her as they like, therefore Celie feels so alienated in Mr. _____'s house. She has nobody to whom she can share her feeling to her sister Netty who is away from her. That is why Celie forms her habits to pour out her feeling by writing letters addressed to God, who she thinks help her to overcome her problem and one she trust most. According to Celie though God is exist but he can not be seen. In Celie's image God is invisible. She thought that God is white and man.

"God coming down by Chariot, swinging down real low and carrying ole Sofia home. I see 'em all as clear as day. Angels all in white, white hair and white eyes. Look like albinos. God all white too, looking some stout white man work at the bank. Angels strike they cymbals, one of them blow his horn, God blow free" (Alice Walker, 1982:96).

When Shug Avery asked her what her God look like, she answered it that God is big, old, tall, grey bearded and white. He wear white robes and go bare footed. God has bluish gray eyes. He is cool, white lashes. This the quotation :

"Then she says: Tell me what your God look like, Celie, aw, naw, I say. I'm too shame. Nobody ever ast me this before. So I'm sort of look by surprise. Besides, when I think about it. It don't seem quite right. But it all I got. I decide to stick up for him, just to see what Shug says.

Okay, I say. He big and old and tall grey bearded and white. He wear white robes and go barefooted. Blue eyes she ast. Sort of bluish-gray. Cool Big though. White lashes. I say, "Alice Walker (1982:201).

and lowdown. Celie hates man because man treated her horribly. She was raped by her step father, her children were sold by him, and she was given to a white man to be his new wife and suffered for years from the cruelty of this man, while white has been the source of all continuous suffering of Celie. They killed and hang his father because of the business. And the death of her father will influence her life particularly in material problem as she said :

"Well, his store did so well that he talked two of his brothers into helping him run it, and as the months went by, they were doing better and better. Then the white merchant began to get together and complain that this store was taking all the black business away from them, and the men's blacksmith shop that he set up behind the store was taking some of the white. This would not do. And so one night, the man's store was burned down, his smithy destroyed, and the man and his two brothers dragged out of their homes in the middle of the night and hanged." (Alice Walker, 1982:148).

Her mother became insane and always cruel to her as the result of white's treatment. In this story, we can see the racial discrimination and how the white people see the black people look down and always treats them inhuman, such as Sophia when she was refused to be a maid for the white family. As can be read in the following quotation :

"When I see Sophia, I don't know why she still alive. They crack her skull, they crack her ribs. They tear her nose loose on one side. They blind her in one side. They blind her in one eye- she swole from head to foot. Her tongue the size of my arm, it stick out tween her teeth like a piece of rubber. She can't talk. And she just about the color of a egg plant" (Alice Walker, 1982:91).

So we can imagine how the black woman has been treated by the whites a proof that there is no compromise between whites and black. For that reason, she can not trust God anymore. But it doesn't mean that she has no God. Like what she says to Shug :

"All my life never care what people thought about nothing I did, I say, but deep in my heart I care about God. What he going to think and come to find out, he don't think. Just sit up there glorying in being deaf. I reckon. But it ain't easy, trying to do without God. Even if you know he ain't there, trying to do without him as a strain (Alice Walker, 1982:200).

She still believes that God exists, but now God is in a different picture.

If I can say, Celie's later concept of God is invisible God. According to Celie God is invisible. So her concept of God is changing. Because Celie considers Shug Avery, the ex-wife of her husband who is very close to her. Shug brings Celie to go to Memphis, she loves her, motivates her and supports her with her strength and money. Shug encourages her to make pants, she is talented in sewing that later she succeeded in having her own factory. She is on her way making a living. Shug makes her life happier, loves her and helps her get on her feet, respect herself that makes others respect and love her. Without Shug's help it's impossible for Celie to get a better life, to love herself and to have the courage to leave her husband and follow Shug.

But When Shug loves somebody else, Celie is broken heart like what we can see in the following quotation :

"My heart broke, Shug loves somebody else.

....

I feel like shit.

Hold it, I say, Sug, you killing me
She halt in mid-praise. Her eyes fill with tears
and her face crumple. Oh God, Celie, she say, I'm
sorry, I just been dying to fell somebody, and you the
somebody I usually tell.
Will, I say, if words could kill, I'd be in the
ambulance.

She put her face in her hands and start to cry. Celie,
she say through her finger, I still love you.
But I just sit there and watch her. I don't say
nothing, I'm too far away.

The quotation above shows how Celie is disappointed because the woman who always gives her strong motivation loves the other man and will leave her. And this is the reality which makes her to remember God again. Finally she realizes that everything in this world is controlled by God's will. If I can say, Celie's later image of God is visible God.

In her mind, man can find God in everywhere, God also can be found in herself. in star, trees, sun, moon, sky, peoples and everything man can find God. God now, in her image doesn't have gender, yeah it, God ain't he or she, but it. (Alice Walker, 1982:177).

"God is inside numan being because man come to the world with God. The thing I believe, God is inside you and inside everybody. You come to the world with God (Alice Walker, 1982:177).

According to Celie, God is the one who brings happens upon her life. Celie doesn't need to find God in Church anymore. She believes, God is in herself. God is not separated to man. Not only in Celie herself she finds God but also in everything. In trees, sky, moon, star, sun, people.

"Dear God, dear stars, dear trees, dear sky, dear peoples. Dear everything, Dear God.

Thank you for bringing my sister Nettie and our children home" (Alice Walker, 1982:292).

God is not separated from man. Man is part of God. Nature is a part of God. So there is no distance between God and men. Because in God there is man and vice versa. That is what, Celie believes in God. She finds her "New God" after passed a debate with Shug.

I dare to say that her image of God is like Emerson's image of God in over-soul that man can find God in nature, in everything. God and man are not something different.

It seems that Celie doesn't follow certain religion as she did before. :

"Hard to be Christ too, say Shug. But ne manage. Remember that. Thou shalt not kill, he said. And probably wanted to add on to that, starting with me. He knowed the fools ne was dealing with.

But Mr. _____ not Christ. I'm not Christ, I say. You somebody to Nettie, she say. And she be pissed if you change on her while she on her way home" (Alice Walker, 1982:150).

According to her 'her previous God' did not listen to her. It means God doesn't care about her sufferings and sadness.

"Let 'im near me, I say. if ne listened to poor colored woman the world be a different place, ... (Alice Walker, 1982:175)

So it won't bring any happiness, peace and self confidence to her. Now her 'later God is different' she feels that she be come a part of everything.

"But one day I was sitting quiet and feeling like a motherless child, which I was, it come to me : that feeling of being part of everything, no separate at all. I knew that if I cut a tree, my arm would pined (Alice Walker, 1982:176).

It means that she doesn't feel lonely. It seems that it decreases her sufferings for feeling inferior and oppressive.

What she thinks about God now is that God brings happiness is her life. God is everything, God is not separate to man but man can find God in herself. God through nature-

trees, sky, moon, people, sun and soon. We can say that nature teaches man about over-soul or God.

3.2 Alphonso (Celie's Stepfather)

We are introduced to some characters (the antagonists) like Celie's stepfather, Celie's husband and Harpo, her stepchildren, who for some certain reasons also perform these characteristics.

One of them, Alphonso her stepfather. He's bad, a man who raped her stepchildren. His wife, Celie's mother could not love with him, then he came to Celie, forced her to service him. He has two children from Celie. The children were taken away from Celie by him while she was sleeping and sold them to the others man over Monticelo.

Alphonso and Celie were in a bad relationship. He said Celie was an evil and looked descent with uncovered breast where milk running down, and also he tries to rape Celie's sister, Nettie. He looked at Nettie with a desire, but it could not be happened, because of God help.

He hurts both Celie's and her mother. He married a girl came from Gray. The girl was of Celie's age :

"He come home with a girl fom Grey. She be my age but they married. He be on her all the time. She walk round like she don't know what hit her. I think she thought she love him. But he got so many of us. All needing something" (Alice Walker, 1982:5).

Other case of his bad side, are as follows :

"He beat me today cause he say I winked at a boy in church. I may have got something in my eye but I didn't wink. I don't even look at mens. That's the truth. I look a woman, tho, cause I'm not so scared of them. I kept mas at her. But I ain't. I felt sorry for mama. Trying to believe his story kilt her" (Alice Walker, 1982:6).

From Celie's letter and brief explanation above show us how Alphonso treated his stepchildren. He be the main source of Celie's sufferings and sadness. not only that, Alphonso is like others father are usually regarded as the head of the house hold by law and tradition. He makes decisions on economic, social, and psychological welfare of his wife and children. But the father's authority in black society is too dominant, that nobody will take an opposition on it. The portrayal of Celie's obedience to her stepfather, clearly seen when she should obey to what her father asks her to do, including marrying a man who she doesn't love. But at the end of the story, the cruelty man, died. Until she passed away, he never cares about God, what kind of religion he had, and also he never goes to the church :

"The man us knowed as pa is dead.
How he die, I ast.

He died in his sleep, well not quite in his sleep.
Your stepdaddy been dead over a week.
When us went to town to hear the will read.
Yesterday, you could have knocked me over with a
feather. Your real daddy owned the land and the house
and the store. He left it to your mama. when your mama

died, it passed on to you and your sister Nettie. I don't know why Alphonse never told you that" (Alice Walker, 1982:251).

3.3 Mr. _____ (Albert)

He's Celie husband. He is in the same shape almost her stepfather. When Harpo asked his daddy, why he beat Celie, his answer was because Celie was his wife.

As I have mentioned in earlier of chapter III, it was described, how Albert's cruel to Celie. And finally Albert has changed his way of life :

"I know you won't believe this, Miss Celie, say Sofie. But Mr. _____ act like he trying to git religion. Big a devil as he is, I say, trying is about all he can do. He don't go to church or nothing, but he not so quick to judge. He work real hard too. (Alice Walker, 1982:229).

The brief description above shows that Albert tries to find God finally, however he doesn't go to church to find God. He followed Celie's way, was find God in himself. At the end come back to Celie's life and life together as her husband. It's seems that he has no any religion before, that is why all of his attitudes is out of control.

3.4 Shug Avery

Other side point of view of other characters to God is Shug Avery. She is the ex-wife of Albert. Shug Avery helps Celie because she feels pity on her, moreover, Celie is the

that nursed and cared for Shug when she was sick till
cooping from her illness. With love, Shug Avery brings
lie to Memphis, then to motivates and supports her with
rength and money. Shug teaches and encourages her to make
nts until finally Celie Succeeds in having her own
ctory. Not only that, she also gives some arguments if
lie is talking about God with her.

So when Celie is disappointed to God, she was very
ock :

"Celie, like she shock. God gave you life, good health
and a good woman that you love to death.

....

She say, Miss Celie, you better hush. God might hear
you.

....

It is a sinner, say Shug. Cause I was born. I don't
deny it. But once you find out what's out there,
waiting for us, what else can you be" (Alice Walker,
1982:200).

we notice the quotation above, it is clear for us how
ug try to debate Celie when she confuse of God's power,
ecause she thinks God doesn't care about black. However Shug
very tell her that she got everything from God :.lm6

She say, Celie tell the truth, have you ever found God
in Church ? I never did. Just found a bunch of folks
hoping for him to show. Any God I ever felt in Church,
I brought in with me. And think all the other folks did
too. They come to church to snare God, not find God.
(Alice Walker, 1982:201).

Here, that Shug considers that there is a picture of God in Church, and the bible was written by the white. Therefore it's just for whites.

"Ain't no way to read the bible and think God white when I found out I thought God was white and a man, I lost interest. You mad cause he don't seem to listen to your prayes.

....

Here's the thing, say Shug. God is inside you and inside everybody else. You come into the world with God but only them that search for inside find it. And sometimes it just manifest itself even, if you looking or don't know what you looking for ... (Alice Walker, 1982:262).

According to Shug Avery, God is inside everybody, not a man, or a woman, but something, it can be felt, not can be seen. It is clearly for us that her image of God is like concept of God in Christian teaching. She goes to church for praying.

So she tries to find God in Church, however she found nothing, so she believes the bible not for her. But it doesn't mean she has no belief in God. And now there is a strong a belief in her heart that God in herself, even in everywhere she is, and she doesn't need to go to church to find God.

3.5 Nettie (Ceile's sistes)

Nettie runs from home, she hates her stepfather. She

s educated woman, smarter than Celie. She teaches Celie everything she needs to know, like spelling, events in the world and also she suggests Celie to go against Mr. _____'s children for they always Celie too many things for them. Nettie finally go. She says that she hate to leave Celie and he is like being burried. First letter of Nettie to Celie.

Dear Celie,

You've got to fight and get away from Albert. He ain't no good. When I left you all's house, walking, he followed me on his horse. When we was well out of sight of the house he caught up with me and started trying to talk. Well, I started to fight him, and with God's help.

....

Anyhow, I got a ride into town on somebody's wagon. And that same somebody pointed me in the direction of the Reverend Mr. _____'s place. And what was my surprise when a little girl opened the door and she had your eyes set in your place. The lady you met in town is name Corrine. The little girl's name is Olivia. The husband's name is Samuel. The little boy's name is Adam. They are sanctified religious and very good to me" (Alice Walker, 1982:133).

Nettie stayed with a missionarist of American and African family. She was going to Africa with the family for a christian religion mission. Corrine is good for Nettie. She did not treat Nettie as a maid. They went to New York before leaving to Africa. Nettie was surprised with New York, especially with the Color People who are rich and some of

them better than the white men.

Nettie learnt many thing about Africa, many Africans were murdered and sold as slave. She also saw how the Africans prayed their gods, as can read in following :

"And we were sort of swpt along among villagers, about three hundreds of them, to a place without walls but a leaf roof, we all sat down on the ground, men in front, women and children behind. Then there was loud whispering among some very old men who looked like the church elder back home" (Alice Walker, 1982:158).

It shows that the roofleaf became the thing the African worship. They believe that it's their gods.

Another Nettie's letter from Africa and her vision about black out there is a kind of celebrating black life history. Slavery is the most dark side of black life in America, but Nettie's letter, we know that they only sold those who were able or wish to follow the tribes's way of living, as for example Tashi's aunt.

By going back to the history, to Africa, from which place the black come from, Nettie seems want to say that it could help to get more understanding about blacks root, about ourselves. Nettie's ability to criticize and adore the African way is very helpful as a counter balance to understand and love their own self as Negro in America. For example, it is really a fresh view point to black America to know that black people in Africa belief that white people is black people children. And if Adam is white, that is because he was one of black albino's children who was not being

killed.

Also they do not accept white's opinion that black African always go naked and should be dressed as civilized community does, because according to them, since they are covered by color they are not naked. Their word for naked is white.

Nettie adored her ancestor people (African), by regarding them as people of independent opinion and outspoken, and who also have extreme self-centeredness. She also says that every nigger got a kingdom in his head. For both Celie and Nettie, who has experienced many difficult things in their life (especially Celie), this knowledge would be broadened her mind about all the situation around her.

Corrine, the Samuel's wife died. Then he married Nettie. She is a bright woman with whom her husband could discuss everything and share everything. The kind attitude of Samuel develop well in the side of he is very religious man. He believes that although God can not be seen by human being but God always control all attitudes, everything in this world, including his family. They are good christian family, who has belief that God is invisible.

One of reasons that make this novel good to analyze, I think because it is succesful in absorbing social phenomena and may expose reality and facts, values, and characters of

the society. It is talk about women problems in Black society in modern time. The unhappy life and the grivance of black women problems in other place in the world. They are regarded as nothing at all if they are weak, dependent, stupid and have responsibility.

We have seen how Celie, the main character whose life is so miserable, Shug who is quite lucky in her life, Albert whose characterization as cruel as Celie's father has in many cases, Nettie's family who is very religious.

CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSION

we can draw conclusions from the study that :

- (a) Image by the characters was the concept of God that is held by them.
- (b) Image of God by Celie (main character) first, was God as the place where she can express her feeling and her bad luck freely. God is Big, powerful and mighty. But her image later is changes in the course of her experiences of life, cause it can not make her free from sufferings and sadness. So she can not trust to God anymore, eventhough it doesn't mean she has no God. Now she thinks that God is a man. Because God is white and men and she hates whatever relates to both words, therefore God is not suitable for her. At the latest she thought God doesn't have gender. She considers that God can be found everywhere also in herself. She doesn't need to find God in church but in the trees, sky, moon, stars and sun. God is the one who brings happiness upon her life.
- (c) Alphonso, Celie's stepfather doesn't care about God. he never knows what kind of religion he has, but deep in his heart he really believes in God, in that way he hates evil and everything symbolizes evil.

- c) Albert. Celia's husband, first he doesn't have any religion, but at the latest he tries to find God in church. after he realizes all his mistakes to Celia.
- d) Nettie. Celia's sister is a good christian. Her belief in God is like God in christian teaching.
- e) Shug Avery, believes that God is inside everybody, not a man or a woman, but something, he can be felt, can not be seen.
- f) In this novel the author may also suggest the way to overcome the grivances, the life miseries in the women world. The women help each other, the stronger pull out the weaker, the lucky one motivates the unfortunate, they share the feeling of sisterhood. The one without education will lack of confidence and self-esteem but she may be given a chance to dig out other human source that she might have for better life in the future.

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APPENDIX

ALICE WALKER'S WORKS

Alice Walker was born on Februari 9, 1944 in Georgia. Her parents is a sharecropper in Eanton. She married Mel Laventhel, a white activist Civil Rights Lawyer and had a daughter by him (they have since separated).

She be as a college student in the 1960s. First at Spelman College and then at Sarah Lawrence. At this college she wrote her first novel, it would be published in 1970.

Her career as a writer began to flower, as she taught at Jackson State, at Tougaloo and Wellesley College and was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute From 1971 - 1973.

She has written some poems. Some of them are :

1. Once (1968)
2. The Third Life of Grance Copeland (1968)

She gave those poems to her teacher, Muriel Rukeyser who admired them and sent them to an agent. Published in 1968, the poems are notable not so much for their formal skill as for their renderings of the Africa which she had visited and of her native Georgia (particularly in the poem Once) as it was embroiled in the struggle for civil rights.

Upon graduating from Sarah Lawrence, she received a writing and planned to spend it in Senegal, west Africa. But instead, after working as caseworker in New York City Welfare Departement, she volunteered in the Summer Course in Missisipi. This decision came, as she was to put it later,

out of the realization that " I could never live happily in Africa - or anywhere else - until I could live freely in Missisipi".

A second collection of her poems' Revolutionary Petunias was published in 1973 and nominated for the National Book Award. In 1976, she published Meridian, a novel whose heroine is involved in the civil rights movement. More conventional in it's writing than either her poems or her stories, it is mainly interesting as a register of social history. In recents years they have appeared a second collection of stories, You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down (1979), and her much admired novel The Color Purple (1982), an American Book Award Winner, notable for it's imaginative use of epistolary convention to create a richly vernacular speech.

In her collection of "womanist" prose writings, In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens (1983) and as an ironic parallel to the visit to Flanery O'Connor's House, Walker describes (in Looking for Zora) her discovery of Zora Neale Hurston's work, I love Myself When Iam Laughing (1979). She admires her black forebear's insistence on the richness of Afro-American folk culture, and admires too her anger, her rejection of "the sobbing of Negrohood" in favor of livelier, more energetic creativeness.