

ABSTRACT

Todd is young black man who succeed to join the Air Force pilot training during the World War II in 1944. Flying is his dream since he was a child. He wants it more than anything.

When he is succed to fly an airplane, then arouse unstopable pride in his heart. He feels his dignity raise so high. But suddenly he realizes that he was only an objek of the White's game. He only becomes a show that being watched by the people and he is never being ordered to go the real battle to prove that he is clever and brave enough to fly an airplane. And suddenly his dignity as a pilot is dissapeared..

One day he is ordered to fly to a certain place where he can get the wing as the symbol of graduation. He is so happy and he tends to regain his dignity back by flying as good as he can. But the exaggerated pride and exultation makes him to forget the basic rule in flying airplane. Then he crashes in a field owned by a white man. As the plane crashes, so does his dignity.

When Todd is lying on the ground, he is found by the old man Jefferson and his son who then tell him a story about his experience in heaven. At first this story is told by the old man just to make Todd's pain easier but Todd take it as a mockery because he realizes that he had made a mistake just like symbolized by the story. This story symbolized the mistake that usually made by the black who reach success and lost in exultation.

The white field owner then comes and gets rid of him when he is still in bad injury because he is just a black. At first it makes his dignity breaks into pieces. But then the humiliation and harshness from the landowner make him stronger in facing other horror that may happen in the future.

ABSTRAKSI

Todd adalah seorang remaja kulit hitam yang berhasil masuk ke pusat latihan Angkatan Udara Amerika pada saat Perang Dunia II tahun 1944. Terbang adalah mimpinya sejak masih kanak-kanak. Ia mendambakannya lebih dari apapun.

Pada saat ia telah berhasil menerbangkan pesawat latih di dinas Angkatan Udara, timbullah perasaan bangga yang tak terbendung. Ia merasa harga dirinya melambung tinggi. Tapi tiba-tiba ia sadar bahwa ia hanyalah obyek dari permainan orang kulit putih. Ia hanya menjadi tontonan orang banyak dan tidak pernah ditugaskan ke pertempuran untuk membuktikan bahwa ia cukup pandai dan berani untuk menerbangkan pesawat tempur. Dan seketika harga dirinya mulai lenyap.

Suatu hari ia ditugaskan untuk terbang kesuatu tempat dimana ia bisa mendapat tanda kelulusan. Ia sangat gembira dan berniat untuk mengembalikan harga dirinya dengan cara terbang sebaik-baiknya. Tetapi perasaan bangga dan senang yang berlebih-lebihan telah membuatnya lupa aturan dasar dalam penerbangan. Kemudian jatuh di sebuah ladang milik seorang kulit putih. Bersamaan dengan hancurnya pesawat, hancur pula harga dirinya.

Pada saat Todd terbaring kesakitan ia ditemukan oleh seorang tua bernama Jefferson dan anaknya. Jefferson kemudian bercerita tentang pengalamannya waktu mati dan masuk surga. Todd merasa terhina karena seakan-akan cerita itu menghina kesalahan yang telah ia perbuat.

Pemilik ladang kemudian datang dan mengusirnya dalam keadaan luka parah karena ia seorang kulit hitam. Pada awalnya, harga dirinya juga hancur. Tetapi penghinaan dan kekerasan yang dilakukan oleh pemilik ladang malah membuatnya kuat dalam menghadapi kekerasan yang mungkin terjadi di kemudian hari.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION