

CHAPTER III

THE DEVELOPMENT OF TODD'S DIGNITY

A. TODD'S PERSPECTIVE TOWARDS HIMSELF.

When we take a look at Todd at the beginning of the story we get an impression that he is someone who push himself a little bit too hard. He thinks that his confession of his hurt as an awful one : "Give'em time....Say son you bad? Was he? There was that awful pain...(385)."Although he can not hold the pain he feel all over his body when he fell from the cockpit after he crashed with his aeroplane and lay in open land with the burning sun he insists to stand up.

Furthermore he thinks that the confession of weaknesses to anyone who is trying to help him is unacceptable character as if showing the dirt in his face to be mocked : "How you feel, son?" Todd hesitated, as though to answer would be to admit an unacceptable weakness (385)."

But later on he can not bear his hurt anymore then he admit it and let the old man help him. After that Todd is trying again to stand up on his broken feet because he is afraid of his officers' anger if he can not get the plane back to the field.

In the letters he send to his girl, Todd is always tell her how clever he is and how brave he is, proven with his ability to fly an aeroplane "Todd," she had written," I don't need the papers to tell me you had intelligence to fly. And I have always known you to be as brave as anyone else ...(386)." On the other way

implicitly. Todd tells us that he is not a confident man since he wants to tell everybody about his achievement and his bravery. He is afraid that his achievement is not acclaimed by someone he loved.

He is trying to prove that although he is black he can learn to fly like anybody else. His pride has blinded him for sometime to know why he is ordered to learn for a long time without knowing when and how he will use his skill in a real combat, a real war as a proof that he is really a young and black Air Force pilot that skillful and brave enough to fly an airplane :

“Don’t you be contented to prove over and over again that you’re brave or skillful just because you’re black, Todd. I think they keep beating that dead horse because they don’t want to say why you boys aren’t yet fighting. I’m really dissapointed, Todd. Anyone with brains can learn to fly, but then what? What about using it, and who will you use it for? I wish, dear, you’d write about this. I sometimes think they’re playing a trick on us. It’s very humiliating... (385).”

It is his girl who is trying to awake him from his dream and tell him not to be too proud of what he had because learning and practising is nothing without the real actualization. She needs to know that Todd is aware of what he had done and how he will use it in the future – something he forget for a long time.

Aeroplane and the skill to fly it have become unseparable parts of Todd that he has to wear it on every where he go and everything he does. Because they have become his most valuable equipments in dealing with the society. They have

become, probably, the most important things in his life : “I’m naked without it. Not a machine, a suit of clothes you wear. And with sudden embarrassment and wonder he whispered, “It’s the only dignity I have... (387).” He feels embarrassed at the time he is separated from the plane. It’s just like of a part of him has lost hopelessly. His dignity is broken into small pieces as the airplane crashed to the ground.

There is something that makes him insisting to go back to his plane, it is a fear. He is afraid of his white officers that will punish him for crashing the plane, but he is more afraid of being fired as an Air Force pilot something he proud so much : “If I tried to explain why I need to fly back, he’d think I was simply afraid of white officers. But it’s more than fear... (387).” Actually, it is the white officers’ appreciation that he worried so much because he considers that the white officers are the most competent to judge the ability and the continuity of his carrier. The white officers’ appreciation is his guarantee of his possession of the plane as the most important thing in his life : “Because it’s the most meaningful act in the world... (388).”

Alfred Adler’s core of personallity theory is *the striving toward superiority or perfection*. The goal of the striving toward perfection is not social distinction or a position of power. Rather it is the full realization of the ideal life. That is *the striving toward superiority or perfection* (Maddi,103). Todd thinks that he is just an ordinary part of the Black who has the right to hope to be someone better. He refuses to stick on the old and common pessimism widely spread in the Black society just like the old Jefferson’s tale told to him : “... Maybe

we are a bunch of buzzards feeding on a dead horse but we can hope to be eagles, can't we? Can't we?"(388). He is an optimistic young man who can not bear his fate controlled by the discrimination of the white. He believes that out of all discriminaton, he and his race can do more than just give up with the present condition. So the ideal to be an eagle as a representation of the better condition is inspired him to be a pilot which he considered as the most meaningful career in his life. The goal of the striving toward perfection is not social distinction or a position of power. Rather it is the full realization of the ideal life. He wants to be equal with the White by learning to fly. He expects that if he had such ability then the white will give him some respect and consider his intention to make equal communication. But in the other way the striving of superiority which Todd does, has pushed him slowly to condescend his own race as the representation of the weak. He respects himself as the different black.

One important aspect of the core tendency reflected in the quotation presented above is that, in tension terms, Adler presumes that all people strive toward the increase, rather than the decrease of tension (Maddi,104). He believes that if he can not mastered the ability and technology he will be still an object of humiliation just like when he watched an ox team browsing in a field far from him :*"Thoughts of himself riding an ox through the town, past streets full of white faces, down the concrete runways of the airfield made swift images of humiliation in his mind (386)."*

Out of all the strong characters I have mentioned before, Todd is just like other human being who can feel pain and sorrow for all realities hurt him. There

are more than twice in this short story he feels anguish and lost control of himself as we can see on the last section of the story:

“Blasts of hot, hysterical laughter tore from his chest, causing his eyes to pop and he felt that the veins in his neck would surely burst. And then a part of him stood behind it all, watching the surprise in Grave’s red face and his own hysteria. He thought he would never stop, he would laugh himself to death (398).”

And sometimes the anguish may turn into pride and arrogant since Todd feels he is the only one who can gain such high ability and dare to act different to the white without giving up and the help he needs to stand with his head up equal with the white in such uncompromise and full of harshness world.: “It rang in his ears like Jefferson’s laughter and he looked for him, centering his eyes desperately upon his, as though somehow he had become his sole salvation in an insane world of outrage and humiliation (398).” And in the peak of his mixed feeling he fell into his own anguish and he doesn’t care of anything:”Todd was beyond it now, lost in a world of anguish (398).”

Sometimes the anguish is sourced from his bore of being considered as a meaningless human being without anything able to do and his fear to be humiliated like before he can fly an aeroplane: “But it’s more than fear...a sense of anguish clung to him like the veil of sweat that hugged his face (387).” The anguish that he can ignore when it rushed into his heart and forced him to desperate receiving it.

B. TODD'S PERSPECTIVE TOWARDS THE WHITE AND HIS OWN RACE

Actually, Todd's position is between two opposite sides in the story which put Todd into a difficult position and loneliness as he said :” Between ignorant black men and condescending whites, his course of flight seemed mapped by the nature of things away from all needed and natural landmarks (387)” The symbol of flight itself is put precisely to give an impression of Todd who feel far apart from two different worlds—the world of the white which always condescend him and the world of the black which is always be ignorant—that he doesn't agree so much to both of them and he chooses not to support one of those two sides. He feels lonely.

B.1. TODD'S PERSPECTIVE TOWARDS THE WHITE

Although Todd has reached such high level education and joining Air Force he is still inherited an old fear of the white that had widely spread in the whole Black society for years: “When Todd came too, he saw two faces suspended above him in a sun so hot and blinding that he could not tell if they were black or white... For a moment an old fear of being touched by white hands seized him (385).” Maybe it sounds irrational and overly suspicious considering his education and career, but if we take look again at the discrimination which had penetrated the flesh and bone of the Black at that time and Todd's powerless and badly injured condition then the fear become more acceptable. And at that time education and career is not a package of guarantee of not being prejudiced and

discriminated: “Nigguh, Army or no, you gittin’ off my land! That airplane can stay ‘cause it was paid for by taxpayers’ money. But you gittin’ off. An’ dead or alive, it don’t make no difference to me (398).”

Discrimination is a way to treat someone based on group classification, not based on individual qualities (Horton, p.66). We tend to make rejection and acceptance on someone based on his ethnic group identity without considering his personality and quality earnestly. Discrimination is usually practised by the dominant group in order to keep its special rights towards other groups in society.

Todd’s feeling is full of anger caused by discrimination and humiliation he has been through in his life especially when he is in the South during the Air Force training. The professional training which is still burdening his mistakes as the mistakes of the whole Black race and the mistakes which is caused by his being Black then will be taken as a device against the Black:

“What does she know of humiliaton? She’s never been down South. Now the humiliation would come. When you must have them judge you, knowing that they never accept your mistakes as your own, but hold it against your whole race-that was humiliation (387). “

Much more than that, it is very difficult and unacceptable if someone is simply considered as being similar with other people. Strictly in such society everyone is lost individual uniqueness and qualities simply replaced by prejudices

as stated by Todd: "Yes, and humiliation was when you could never be simply yourself, when you were always a part of this black ignorant man (387)."

There is one motivation of the whites which is considered by Todd as one of the game rather than an experiment to measure the Black's brain capacity. It hurts to imagine how the White have the heart to train a black young man to be an Air Force pilot without any desire to order him to go the real battle and just make him as a part of show and pleasure just like what Todd's girl friend warned him in her disappointment letter. The white officers are probably trusting him to fly an Advanced Trainer plane but they think that it is too risky to order him to fly in the real because his low capacity black brain. They may also think that the plane is too valuable to be flought by a black man.

Sometimes he feels like a buzzard flying up in the sky which has black feathers and disgusting on feeding a dead body but can fly so well and beautiful when he saw the movement of wings with disappointment. The buzzard is gliding smoothly down, wings outspread, tail feathers gripping the air, down swiftly go behind the green trees. It is like the bird he imagines there, only the sloping branches of the pines remained, sharp against the pale stretch of sky. He lays barely breathing and stares at the point where it is disappeared caught in a spell of loathing and admiration. "Why did they make them so disgusting and yet teach them to fly so well?"(390). It is such question which is not only about the buzzard but also about Todd himself. He asks about the white officers' motivation who still consider him as a low and disgusting creature but teach him to fly an airplane.

And then when Todd sees by his own eyes how the people's response about him, then he feels something that really breaks his dignity as a black pilot when an old man often come to the field to watch the pilots with childish eyes. At first it made him proud; he has been a part of a new experience. But soon he realized they are not understand his accomplishment and they come to shame and embarrass him, like the distasteful of praise of an idiot. A part of the meaning of flying had gone then, and he had not been able to regain it. "If I were a prizefighter I would be more human, he thought. Not a monkey doing tricks, but a man. They were pleased simply that he was a Negro who could fly, and that was not enough (387)."

Furthermore, such kind of response has really separated him to make a fair and equal communication with the White. He lost his hope to be a clever and meaningful human being in front of them. He lost his faith that he is able in other man's perspective. He lost his expectation to be a respected man. He thinks that he is not able to brake all of the obstacles that block the possibility of creating a new meaning of mutual relationship.

"He felt cut off from them by age, by understanding, by sensibility, by technology and by his need to measure himself against the mirror of other men's appreciation. Somehow he feel betrayed, as he had when as a child he grew to discover that his father was dead (387)."

He felt betrayed as he has when as a child he grow to discover that his father is dead, because he give up his honesty and his proud as his capital in making a fair

and equal relationship with the hope that he will get the same response and the same judgement. But in reality he gets only humiliation.

Prejudice which means *a kind of judgement appeared before considering the whole facts* (Horton,p. 65) is what Todd receives most when he faced Dabney Graves. Todd receives humiliation concerning his brain quality because Ethnocentrism which tends to make him considering his group members as the good ones and everyone outside his group is bad :There is a reality that we make judgement towards anyone we don't know so well Because.he is black and flying an aeroplane. Dabney Graves, and maybe-other white men, may recognizes Todd's ability to fly an aeroplane but still he thinks Todd is crazy:

“This nigguh belongs in a straitjacket, too, boys. I knowed that the minit Jeff's kid said something ‘bout a nigguh flyer. You all know you cain't let the nigguh git up that high without his going crazy. The nigguh brain ain't built right for high altitudes...(397).”

Such a reckless judgment has turned the pain in Todd's head to become an unstoppable anger. He feels an ultimate condescended action upon him since Dabney Graves order two men to bound him up in the straightjacket because he is considered as having mental illness.They look like some doctors, all dressed in white. When they're coming at last, Todd feel such a release of tension within him that he thinks he will faint. But no sooner he closes his eyes than he is seized and he is struggling with three white men who are forcing his arms into some kind of coat. It is too much for him, his arms are pinned to his sides and as the pain blazed

in his eyes, he realizes that it is a straitjacket. And confusion arouses from his head about what they do to him, "What filthy joke was this?(397)"

He had never imagined in his life that he will receives such kind humiliation and insult. He also had never imagined that a human being has the heart to insult and humiliate someone powerless and badly injured."Todd watched the drawling red face, feeling that all the unnamed horror and obscenities that he had never imagined stood materialized before him (397)." And for that reckless judgement there is nothing he can do but the outbursts of emotion ."Todd saw the other reach toward him, realizing for the first time that he lay upon a stretcher as he yelled."Don't put your hands on me!(397)."

B.2. TODD'S PERSPECTIVE TOWARDS HIS OWN RACE

Todd's perspective is full of condescending view toward his own race. It seems that he doesn't want to accept his condition as a black. He feels pity even for his black skin and he doesn't want to admit that he is also having black skin,"An Advanced Trainer," he said, seeing the old man smile. His fingers were like gnarled dark wood against the metal as he touched the low-slow wing (388)." He thinks like that as if he doesn't have black skin that is also touched many instrument in the plane for a long period.

He thinks that his ability will put him into higher rank and mostly, different with other members of his race. He really doesn't like to be considered as common black,"He heard him climb upon the metal wing, grunting. Now the

questions would start. Well, so you don't have to think to answer...(388)." And now his attitude makes him humiliate his own race 's intelligence quality.

He feels proud of his motivation to learn flying an aeroplane and proves that he is able to be different with other blacks, "Son, how come you want to fly way up in the air?" "Because it's the most meaningful act in the world... because it makes me less like you, he thought (388)."

He is angry and humiliated with the black's pessimism as it shown by the old Jefferson tale about the Black in heaven. He thinks that the Black will gain nothing if they are not able only to hope and dream then furthermore, dare to try anything to make the dream come true:

His blood punded as though it would surely burst his temples and he tried to reach the old man and fell, screaming, "Can I help it because they won't let us actually fly? Maybe we are a bunch of buzzards feeding on a dead horse, but we can hope to be eagles, can't we? Can't we?(392)"

In the realm of individual living, man will strive for perfection himself, and in the realm of group living, he will strive for the perfection of society. By all the efforts he had done and by all the patience he had kept while he was learning in Air Force, it is make sense that Todd needs more than only appreciation he never gets from other blacks. He needs to share his pride with other blacks, he wants them feel proud of him too. But all he can get is ignorance, "They were pleased simply that he was a Negro who could fly, and that wasn't enough (387)."

There is one time Todd doubt the Black's attitude that is always worry and suspect the White as a side which likes to make their life running peacefully with their various acts :

"By the way, the white folks 'round here don't like to see you boys up there in the sky. They ever bother you?"

"No."

"Well, they'd like to."

"Someone always wants to bother someone else," Todd said, "How do you know?"

"I just know."

"Well," he said defensively, "no one has bothered us."

Charles H. Cooley has mentioned that people transform themselves and their worlds as they engage in social interaction in terms of *looking glass-self theory*. This terms refers to the condition of someone which his self-conception which is based on the respons of other persons (Horton,p.235).

Todd almost fell into the common believes that the Black will go anywhere their White master and do what the White master order to do. They don't have the rights to anywhere they want to go and do anything they want to do:

"But why do you stay here?"

"You black son."

"I know, but..."

"You have to come by the white folks, too."

This condition is mostly caused by slavery and many of the Black who borrow some money with high interest that they can only pay back with the works for the rest of their life, "Thought they was men," Jefferson said, "An' some he owed money, like he do me..." "I got nowhere to go," Jefferson said, "An' they'd come after me if I did (396)." This condition that chains the Black to move forward and creating something different more than just working as slave.

The simple reason for why he almost fell into such condition is his desperation caused by his injury. When he is able to regain himself then he is back to the former Todd, a strong and persistence one. He wants to refuse to surrender and obedience with that common believes, but when he feels the hurt attacking his whole body, he thought maybe that believes will be his own destiny too, "He turned away from Jefferson's eyes at once consoled and accused. And I'll have to come by them soon, he thought with despair. Closing his eyes, he heard Jefferson's voice as the sun burned blood-red upon his lips (396)."

C. TODD'S FORMER CONCEPT OF DIGNITY RELATED WITH HIS MOTIVATION TO LEARN FLYING.

Adler emphasis is clearly seen in his concept of *fictional finalism* which expresses the goal of the core tendency. The word finalism merely refers to the reaching of an end or goal atate and the tendency to go in that direction. The word fictional is crucial in that it indicates that what the person is striving to reach is an ideal or fiction (396)."

On the other way, the family atmosphere during the early that leads to the development of styles of life that are destructive or constructive. If parents respect and encourage their child, a constructive style will develop. A destructive style results from parental disrespect and abandonment. Constructive styles, which are the highest form of living are defined in terms of cooperation and generous interaction with people in the process of striving for perfection. Destructive styles are defined in terms of competitiveness and jealousy toward others in striving for perfection (Maddi, 107).

At the beginning it was only child's obsession about a plane model suspended from the ceiling of the automobile exhibit at the State Fair that Todd admired so much. Although his mother said that the toy can only owned and played by the white and rich children but she can stop him to dream and keep asking her to buy him one. Todd remember that, "I wanted a plane more that I'd wanted everything; more than I wanted the red wagon with rubber tires, more than the train that ran on a track with its train cars (393)."

The most touching part of this story is that when Todd is fall from the roof when he try to grab a real aeroplane that he considered as a plane model owned by the white children like just what he planned before: "Some little white boy's plane's done flew away and all I got to do is stretch out my hands and it'll be mine! (394)"

And when he had fever for several hours and kept in bed for a weak caused by his fallen from the roof, he always dream to grab one but he always miss it. He heard his grandma said : "Young man, young man, Yo' arms too

shortTo box with God...(394).” The comparison of plane with the *box with God* maybe only a form of desperation that come for the heart of an old woman who spent her life without a chance to make her dream come true. Maybe she wants to make her grandson to believe that the idea of having a plane is really far-fetched for a person like him. But there is no one who could stop him dreaming about an aeroplane until he get a chance to be an Air Force pilot.

Although it seems that Todd’s family never encourage him and disrespect his idea but Todd has its own way to make his dream come true. He is never grown up to be s destructive style which is always jealous and competitive in striving for superiority.

The aim of the tendency to strive toward superiority is complete perfection and this carries the definite connotation of overcoming any limitations in potentialities that may exist in the person. If someone-the Black- ask him why he wants to fly an aeroplane , he will answer it with lie simply because he doesn’t want to hurt the one who asks. Just like when he is asked by the old Jefferson why he wants to fly then he will answer that he wants to fight and die as a pilot. He said that to fight and die as a pilot is the good way. But this is only a lie. He wants to fly because he wants it so much, much more than anything he’s ever want in his life. He wants to make his dream when he was a kid come true. But the bigger reason is that he wants to fly as a way to be better than other blacks. He believes that flying is the only reason for him to build his dignity in front of his race.

So, it is clear that the flying is *fictional finalism* of Todd, and we know that he will do anything to make his dream possible even when his family assures him that his dream is something impossible

There is a time when Todd is sinking deep down in his dignity and ignoring the possibility that he might be a part of a game played by the White. He is busy to tell his girl friend that he is able and clever enough to fly an aeroplane. But soon his girl warns him to think over the real goal of his career and not to be cheated by his own dignity.

When many men watch him in his pilot suit with their childish eyes he likes it because his dignity is raised. He is proud of being a part of a new experience. But then he is very dissapointed since he know that the people watch him simply because he is black who can fly. They don't want to understand how big his sacrifice is and how hard he try to be an Air Force pilot. They treat him like a monkey doing tricks not as a human who gains such high achievement. And after knowing that, his dignity as a man who has reached high achievement disturbed and he feels nothing but anger for that. On the other side, a part of his dignity as a black young pilot is lost because he is not able to make sure his quality and his speciality in front of them and he is not able to regain it.

It is also his dignity which pushed him to make reckless action that caused the crashed. When he is ordered for the first time to receive the wing as a symbol of graduation in Air Force, his heart is full of pride and exultation. His dignity assures him that he is able to mastered his plane with all the equipment inside it "...the instrument would have told him at a glance.(387)." He forgets that

experience, calmness, and serious attention are necessary in flying an airplane. And when Todd covers them with dignity then the result is suicide because it makes him forget the basic rules in flying an airplane. After that regret is only what he can do :

“You were a fool, he thought, remembering how before the spin the sun had blazed glared bright against the billboard signs beyond the town, and how a boy’s blue kite had bloomed beneath him, tugging gently in the wind like a strange, odd-shaped flower. He had once flown such kites himself and tried to find the boys at the end of the invisible cord. But he had been flying too high and too fast. He had climbed steeply away in exultation. Too steeply, he thought. And one of the first rules you learn is that if the angle of thrust is too steep the plane goes into a spin. And then, instead of pulling out of it and going into a dive you let a buzzard panic you. A lousy buzzard!(389)”

This is also a proof of how Todd cannot control his feelings. He lets his dignity and joy controlling him. And panic is the final and predictable result of someone who ignore his thought and obey only his feelings in such emergency situation.

D.THE LESSONS THAT TODD GAINED AFTER HE CRASHED WITH HIS AEROPLANE.

The emptiness maybe is the rightest word to describe the feeling of Todd when he recognizes that he had been thrown away from the cockpit after the plane had crashed. He feels so far apart from his most meaningful part of his heart. He is just like a soldier without arm in the battle. He losts something he had dreamed about since his childhood. And he is ashamed for it." And with sudden embarrassment and wonder he whispered, "It's the only dignity I have... (397)."

He feels naked because as a black young man he has nothing to be proud of and to be his device in facing outer world. And he realizes that he is dependant upon that and rely his pride on it. After humiliation that he received from the people who looked at him just like a monkey doing tricks because simply he is just a black who can fly without understanding his accomplishment, there is nothing left but his dignity although it had broken into small pieces.

Those small pieces still raises his confident in front the old Jefferson whose existence is as a representation of general condition of the Black at that time. Todd's saying that his ability to fly an aeroplane makes him less like Jefferson is a way to amuse himself that he is still worth enough, at least in front of his own race. He maybe thinks that although he can't raise his dignity in front of the White, he still can raise and hold his pieces of dignity in front of his own race.

But when the conversation between Todd and the old Jefferson turns into hint to each other, Todd is aware of his exaggerated mistake although he denies it

even angry with him. Jefferson tale is not a new one. It tells about Jefferson himself who experiences died and goes to heaven. That man receives six good wings and refuses to use a harness when he fly just like what the other black men who go to heaven do. He does everything following his heart in exultation. When Saint Peter tells him to use his harness because he is speeding too much then he follows the order. Time by time, he forgets the warning and flying with speeding again. Saint Peter is angry because flying with speeding is a danger to heavenly community. And then Saint Peter takes the wings back and gives him a parachute to go back to Alabama.

Todd is angry because the tale is almost precisely similar with him. He feels mocked by Jefferson because he said that it was the usual mistake of the black men who died and go into heaven to forget the heavenly rules because of their exultation and say that the mistake is an accident as an excuse. The old Jefferson may be implies that the Black is usually making exaggerating actions when they were set free and blessed by worthy gift because they were confined and suffered for a long time. Furthermore they will use the freedom to embarrass the other people,"But I forgot, like colored folks will do, and got to flyin' with one wing again. This time I was restin' my old broken arm and got to flyin' fast enough to shame the devil (391)."

Irony rushes into the conversation when at the end of the tale, Jefferson said the last word he said before he got down to Alabama. In such mixed feelings, between anger and anguish of being dropped to the earth, he said something mocking and funny ,

“When they gimme the parachute ole Saint Peter ask me if I wanted to say a few words before I went. I felt so bad. I couldn’t hardly look at hiim, specially with all them white angels standin’ around. Then somebody laughed and made me mad. So I tole him,”Well, you done took my wings. And you puttin’ me out. You got charge of things so’s I can’t do nothin’ about it. But you got to admit this: While I was up here I was the flynest sonofabitch what ever hit heaven!(392)”

Todd’s response is an anger. He denies the possibility of truth in the story and considers it as only another shape of pessimism of the Black who lost his possessions. He orders the old man to tell his tale to the White man so he will know how bad is the response and humiliation when they heard about that kind of attitude.

He feels humiliated because the tale above belittle all efforts he has done in his entire life. The tale is also assuming that all the Black will end up in the same situation no matter how hard they try and abuse word is a common and usual way out of it. Todd tries to deny it and say that hope belongs to everyone including him. Todd is still hoping to be an eagle not only a buzzard feeding on a dead horse anymore although he had made the same mistake just like what Jefferson did in heaven. It makes him realize that although the great achievement will raise his dignity but reckless act will cause accidents that broke the dignity into pieces. When all the dignity had broken into pieces, all abuse words will mean nothing.

The ultimate anguish sourced from the ultimate humiliation and harshness are probably the precise description of the last section of this short story. Todd receives a sequence of humiliation and harshness begins with the time he was seized with force into straitjacket because he is considered as a crazy guy. The humiliation then changed into harshness when Dabney Graves kicked Todd's chest. And of all that abuse and humiliation reach the peak when Todd is got rid from the field by Dabney Graves in badly injured situation.

The blast and hysterical laughter is the only way that Todd could do. He can do nothing nor thinking of anything when the anguish covered his heart. He feels solated from the world sorrounds him because he thinks that he is the only who face the world alone and solving his life by himself. His dignity that he built for years with all the efforts he had done, had torn apart. He suddenly fall into emptiness beyond everything that might disturb him.

When he is awake from his emptiness and anguish, the helps and attention from the old Jefferson and his boy, Teddy is the first thing he recognized and bring him back to the real world. At last he regains his personal stability . He is ready to face other humiliation and harshness because he had been facing the ultimate forms of them. There is still a light of hope in heart to be a better and meaningful person just like what he had dreamed before. He believes that his dignity should not depends upon something outside him but depends on himself just like a black buzzard which turn into a golden eagle and dare to fly to the sun:

“He saw the white men walking ahead as Jefferson and the boy carried him along in silence. Then they were pausing and he felt a

hand wipping his face; then he was moving again. And it was as though he had been lifted out of his isolation, back into the world of man. A new current of communication flowed between the man and boy and himself. They moved him gently. Far away he heard a mockingbird liquidly calling. He raised his eyes, seeing a buzzard poised unmoving in space. For a moment the whole afternoon seemed suspended and he waited for the horror to seize him. Then like a song within his head he heard the boy's soft humming and saw the dark bird glide into the sun and glow like a bird of flaming gold (398)."

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION