

ABSTRACT

Frederick Douglass is born a slave in February 1818. His mother is a black woman and his father is suspiciously his own master, a white man. Having separated from his mother since childhood, Douglass undergoes his destiny as a slave and is sold repeatedly to several masters.

One of Douglass' masters is Mr. Hugh Auld. When he lives with him, Douglass learns alphabet from Mrs. Hugh Auld. This lesson does not last long because of Mr. Auld's order. Yet, Douglass started to become literate. With his own effort, he secretly learns to read.

Being able to read, he finds the core of slavery through "The Columbian Orator", the book he reads. He starts to be aware of his rights as a human. He believes that Black and White deserve to stand equally. Inspired by the two Irishmen whom he meets on the wharf of Mr. Waters, Douglass resolves to run away someday. Meanwhile, he learns how to write.

Since then Douglass begins to demand his freedom, although to achieve such goal, he has to take a long crusade. His journey starts from his determination learning to read and write, his struggle to establish his dignity, and then his efforts to gain his goal, freedom.

After having undergone a long tiring adventure, Frederick Douglass finally succeeds to escape to New York. There he declares his liberty, joins the anti-slavery society, attends its several meetings, until at last, he himself starts to speak to audience. Douglass then becomes a public figure, the representative of his tribe to speak for freedom.

ABSTRAK

Frederick Douglass dilahirkan sebagai seorang budak pada bulan Februari 1818. Ibunya adalah seorang wanita berkulit hitam dan ayahnya kemungkinan adalah tuannya sendiri, seorang pria berkulit putih. Terpisah dari ibunya sendiri sejak kecil, Douglass menjalani nasibnya sebagai seorang budak dan dijual berkali-kali pada beberapa orang pemilik budak.

Salah seorang diantaranya adalah Tuan Hugh Auld. Ketika tinggal bersama dia, Douglass mempelajari alfabet dari Nyonya Hugh Auld. Pelajaran tersebut tidak berlangsung lama atas perintah Tuan Auld. Meskipun begitu, Douglass mulai mengenal huruf. Dengan usahanya sendiri, dia belajar membaca secara sembunyi-sembunyi.

Setelah mampu membaca, dia sadar akan hakekat perbudakan melalui "The Columbian Orator", buku yang dia baca. Dia mulai sadar akan hak-haknya sebagai manusia. Dia yakin bahwa kaum kulit hitam dan kulit putih layak untuk berdiri sejajar. Diilhami oleh dua orang berkebangsaan Irlandia yang dia temui di tambatan perahu milik tuan Waters, Douglass bertekad untuk melarikan diri suatu saat nanti. Sementara itu, dia belajar menulis.

Sejak saat itu Douglass mulai menuntut kemerdekaannya, meskipun untuk mencapai hal tersebut, dia harus menempuh perjuangan yang panjang. Perjalanannya dimulai dari keinginannya untuk dapat membaca dan menulis, perjuangannya untuk menegakkan harga dirinya, lalu usaha-usahanya untuk meraih cita-citanya, kemerdekaan.

Setelah melalui petualangan yang panjang dan melelahkan, Frederick Douglass akhirnya berhasil melarikan diri ke New York. Di sana dia menyatakan kemerdekaannya, bergabung dengan masyarakat anti perbudakan, menghadiri beberapa pertemuan tentang anti perbudakan, hingga akhirnya, dia sendiri mulai berbicara di depan publik. Douglass kemudian menjadi seorang tokoh, wakil dari kaumnya berjuang demi kemerdekaan.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION