

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

From the description in the preceding chapters, it can be drawn that Douglass' self-consciousness arises through his findings about the core of the existence of American slavery. Basically, slavery exists because of the need of cheap labor, but as the artificial justification, the American Whites use religious reason. Those are what Frederick Douglass judges as the corrupt and hypocritical Christianity of the land. Douglass invents the concept through "The Columbian Orator," the book he gets hold of.

Of how he can invent such concept, it is possible because at that time Douglass has been able to read. Reading makes him aware of the reality, the moral truth of slavery. However, slavery is a vivid mistake, a harassment to human rights. People are born equal, whose rights can not be taken away. Therefore, everybody deserves freedom, although it takes struggle. That is why most of the slaveholders prevent their slaves from developing their intellectual quality in any form, in order to keep their acceptance living in slavery.

For Douglass, the achievement of literacy, the establishments of his self-existence are correlated closely with freedom. Having been able to

read and write, Douglass is conscious of the opportunity, even for the Blacks, to be free. Yet, before, he needs a search to cast his cowardice and humility aside, to establish his dignity. As it has been described before that the slaveholders' various treatments have plunged down the slaves' state of mental into the lowest depths of dissipation, so that all the slaves will feel that they are powerless to getting out of insufficiency and sufferings living in slavery. The slaveholders create in such a way that the slaves will feel doubts and dreads to get out of it and that they will choose to still be a slave as their best destiny. Douglass takes a long journey to throw those feelings away, to gain his self-respect before he can implicitly declare it through his resistance to Mr. Edward Covey. The major point is the moment, when Douglass persists, that someday, he will be free. So, in *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Douglass' episode begins with his struggle to learn to read and write; after that he undergoes the long-crushed adventure to fight for his self-existence; and the last one, is his fight to collect money to make his hope, liberty, to a realization.

However, his fight does not end as he succeeds to escape and gain his liberty. He continues his conviction, freedom for all, through his career as an abolitionist. Starting from his first performance in front of

public at Nantucket, August 11th, 1841, until his death in 1895, he delivers his hope: the deliverance of all his brothers, the Blacks.

BIBLIOGRAPHY