

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

The writer of the thesis will analyze the injustice treatment of whites to blacks and the influence of Southern Heritage to that injustice treatment in William Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust*.

III.1 The injustice treatment of whites to blacks, especially to Lucas Beauchamp in William Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust*

III.1.1 Plot

In *Intruder in the Dust*, William Faulkner's protagonist, Lucas Beauchamp, is a black man who lives in a white Southern Society. Lucas also lives under the white's superiority. The black society is small compared to the white society, so it makes the black powerless to change the situation. The white people do not care that there is not enough evidence to accuse Lucas Beauchamp as a murderer. A little clue is sufficient for the white to drag and brand Lucas Beauchamp guilty of the crime.

The white crowd can not tolerate that a black man kills a white man. On the contrary if the murderer is a white man, they will not be as angry as that. They will try to consider why the

murder takes place.

"Lynch him.....Lynch that nigger."

(Faulkner, 1948 : 28)

Being accused of murdering a white man by the crowd, Lucas Beauchamp is in very difficult position. The crowd, the police, the jailer, even the lawyer, all believe that the crime has been committed by Lucas Beauchamp. Full of contempt and hatred, they one by one start to abuse Lucas Beauchamp.

The white crowd think that a black man has killed a white man. Therefore, they plan to burn Lucas without giving a trial right after they have buried Vinson Gowrie. It seems that there is no hope for Lucas Beauchamp anymore. So, the basic reason why Lucas is directly brought to jail with no further consideration is because he is a black man.

The crowd spend their Sunday on planning to punish the murderer with death.

"No, They wan't do nothing today, They're burying Vinson this afternoon and to burn a nigger right while the funeral's going on wouldn't be respectful to Vinson."

(Faulkner, 1948 : 28)

The crowd is cruel and merciless. No one cares about Lucas nor wants to hear his explanation. Among them, they talk about what they need to prepare for Lucas' death and what they are going to do with Lucas, that is, to burn him.

"I wonder if Hampton took a shovel with him. That's all he's going to need."

"They'll lend him a shovel out there."

"Yes--if there's anything to bury. They have gasoline even in Beat Four."

(Faulkner, 1948 : 28)

Futhermore, the jailer also has the same way as the other white men concerning Lucas' case. The jailer does not like the black. He feels that as a white man, he is superior than the black, especially to Lucas Beauchamp who is accused of a murder.

"Me?" the jailer cried. "Me get in the way of them Gowries and Ingrums for seventy-five dollars a month? Just for one nigger? And if you aint a fool, you want neither."

(Faulkner, 1948 : 36)

"... I got a wife and two children; what good am I going to be to them if I get myself killed protecting a goddamn stinking nigger?"... "And how am I going to myself if I let a passel of no good sonabitches take a prisoner away from me?" ...

(Faulkner, 1948 : 37)

From the quotation above, the readers can see that even the jailer who is not a well educated man, looks down on the black.

Meanwhile, the sheriff orders to the jailer to put Lucas to the cell. Hope Hampton, the sheriff, just like the other white men, makes his own judgement and has Lucas put in the cell.

*"You put him in the cell, did you?" his uncle said.
Hampton's orders," the jailer said over his shoulder.
(Faulkner, 1948 : 39)*

It seems all the white people, although they do not have the right to judge Lucas have tried to get a chance to abuse Lucas. The jailer is likewise. His duty is only to send the accused to jail. But he, as the other white men, cries out that Lucas has to be punished. He does not want to know whether Lucas is the murderer of the white man or not. He abuses Lucas by taking all the blankets from the bed.

"I dont know what the next white man that figgers he can rest good until he kills somebody is going to think about it. I taken all the blankets off the cot though."

(Faulkner, 1948 : 39)

Meanwhile, Lawyer Gavin Stevens, Chick Mallison's uncle, who is considered as a highly educated man, also differentiates the white from the black. In Lucas' case, Lawyer Gavin Steven does not believe Lucas' confession because Lucas is black. This is what he thinks

He's just a nigger after all for all his high nose and his stiff neck and his gold watch-chain and refusing to mean mister to anybody even when he says it. Only a nigger could kill a man, let alone shoot him in the back, and then sleep like a baby as soon as he found something flat enough to lie down on.

(Faulkner, 1948 : 40)

He has prejudice on the black that the black can commit a cold blooded murder because they have less conscience than the white.

The above quotation reflects lawyer Gavin Steven dislike to the black, in this case to Lucas Beauchamp. He does not want to help Lucas Beauchamp to solve the problem

"I see," Lucas said. "Then you can take my case."

"Take your case? Defend you before the judge?"

"I'm gonter pay you," Lucas said. "You dont need to worry."

"I don't defend murderers who shoot people in the back," his uncle said.

(Faulkner, 1948 : 41)

The lawyer does not want to take Lucas' case but he seems to have judged Lucas will be hanged later on

*"Oh," his uncle said. "It's the District Attorney that'll hang you or send you to Parchman--not me."
(Faulkner, 1948 : 40)*

Moreover, the lawyer, as the educated man, has also condemned Lucas Beauchamp as a murderer without paying attention to Lucas explanation.

*"Nemmine expecting," Lucas said. "I wants...."
"You went to the store," his uncle said, "only you happened to find Vinson Gowrie first and followed him into the woods and told him his partner was robbing him ... maybe he even knocked you down and walked on and you shot him in the back..."
(Faulkner, 1948 : 43)*

III.1.2. Character

-Lucas Beauchamp

Lucas Beauchamp, a black man, is a descendant of Carothers McCaslin, the founder of the plantation.

...how the man was son of one of old Carothers McCaslin's, Edmonds' great grandfather's, slaves who

had been not just old Carothers' slave but his son too..

(Faulkner, 1948 : 7)

Lucas is about under fifty or fourty. He has arrogant personality. It can be seen when Chick saw Lucas Beauchamp for the first time.

...He looked up at the face which was just watching him without pity commiseration or anything else, not even surprise; just watching him ...a face which in his estimation might have been under fifty or even forty except for the hat and the eyes.....

(Faulkner, 1948 : 7)

Lucas Beauchamp is a kind black man. It can be proved when Chick, a white boy, falls into a creek, he helps him out of the creek.

"Get the pole out of his way so he can get out" ... up the bank until he saw two feets in gum boots which were neither Edmonds' boy nor Aleck Sander's and then the legs, the overalls rising out of them and he climbed on and stood up and saw a Negro man with an axe on his soulder, in a heavy sheep-lined coat and a broad pale felt hat such as his grandfather had used to wear..

(Faulkner, 1948 : 7)

Also from the quotation above, we know that Lucas is a farmer. We can see from the gum boots, an axe on his shoulder and

a sheep-lined coat that he wears.

Lucas Beauchamp treats the other person as if they were the same race. It proves when Lucas treats Chick after falling into the creek. Lucas brings him to his cabin and order him to eat some food.

...Edmonds' boy and Aleck Sander had already eaten, and sat down and ate in his turn of what obviously was to be Lucas' dinner --collard greens, a slice of sidemeat fried in flour, big flat pale heavy half-cooked biscuits, a glass of buttermilk ...

(Faulkner, 1948 : 11)

Lucas Beauchamp refuses to be a black. He regards that all person is the same . He refuses money of Chick for his hospitality. Lucas thinks that Chick pays him only because he is a black man.

"Pick up his money" ..."Give it to him"

(Faulkner, 1948 : 13)

As a black man, Lucas is treated unjusticely. He is accused of murdering a white man, Vinson Gowrie, only because he is a black.

...Lucas had killed Vinson Gowrie out at Fraser's

store. ...Fraser's store was in Beat Four and if Yoknapatapha County was the wrong place for a nigger to shoot a white man in the back ...

(Faulkner, 1948 : 20)

Lucas Beauchamp is not easily affected. He tries to get some help to prove that he is not guilty. He asks Lawyer Gavin Steven to help him, but the lawyer doesn't want to help him because he is a black man.

"I don't defend murderers who shoot people in the back, his uncle said.

(Faulkner, 1948 : 41)

he's just a nigger after all for all his high nose and his stiff neck and his gold watch-chain and refusing to mean mister to anybody even when he says it. Only a nigger could kill a man, let alone shoot him in the back, and then sleep like a baby as soon as he found something flat enough to lie down on.

(Faulkner, 1948 : 40)

-Chick Mallison.

Chick is Southern white boy, brought up in a society in which the servility of the black is not merely a pattern of racial relationship but a doctrine. It can be seen when Chick gives money to pay Lucas for his hospitality. For Chick, it had become tradition that the white pays the black for their

kindness.,

"What's that for?" the man said, not even moving, not even tilting his face downward to look at what was on his palm....and watched his palm turn over not flinging the coins but spurring them....."

(Faulkner, 1948 : 13)

As Southern white boy , his character is naturally shaped by a sense of continuity with the past and a strong feeling of belonging to his community. He is nourished on stories of his ancestors' lives, their action, attitudes, and beliefs . He is made aware of the family's role in the history and life of the community. For him, the community becomes an extension of his own family. As a Southern man , he is torn between the impulses of his heart and his allegiance to the racial code. But , finally he realizes that the tradition is unjustifiable.

III.1.3. Setting

The story takes place in the Yoknapatawpha County . Yoknapatawpha County covers an area of 2,400 square acres and contains 6,298 whites and 9,312 blacks. Of these 15,000 inhabitants, Faulkner identifies by name about six hundred. Approximately half of the identified inhabitants are white residents of Jefferson and the surrounding plantations; about a

hundred are blacks; and the rest are country people. Yoknapatawpha County was the wrong place for a nigger to shoot a white man . The Beat Four was the last place even in Yoknapatawpha County a nigger with any judgment - or any other stranger of any color- would have chosen to shoot anybody .

In the first chapter , the story is started when Lucas brings to the jail by the sheriff on Sunday morning.

It was just noon that Sunday morning when the sheriff reached the jail with Lucas Beauchamp ...

(Faulkner, 1948 : 5)

Then, the story comes back to the four years ago in early winter when Chick was twelve years old. Chick and Aleck Sander go rabbit hunting in Carother McCaslin's plantation.

It was in the early winter four years ago; he had been only twelve ...

(Faulkner, 1948 : 5)

In the McCaslin's plantation , Chick falls into ice creek. Then he is helped by Lucas, a black man. Lucas bring him to his house.

"Get the pole out of his way so he can get out"--just

a voice...climbed on and stood up and saw a Negro..."
"Come on to my house."

(Faulkner, 1948 : 7)

In the Lucas' house, Chick was serviced very well. In this case, Chick feels he has ashamed his race because he, a white boy, is humiliated by a black man. Chick offers money to pay Lucas' kindness, but Lucas refuses it.

"pick up his money:" and he heard and saw Edmonds' boy reach and scurry ...

(Faulkner, 1948 : 13)

The smell, the situation and the condition of Lucas' house are very known the place where the blacks live.

a hall dim even almost dark after the bright outdoor and already he could smell that smell which he had accepted without question all his life as being the smell always of the places where people with any trace of Negro blood live...

(Faulkner, 1948 : 9)

The story is continued in the Beat Four on Sunday about half past eleven when the crowd have prepare something to lynch Lucas. They wont do nothing. They only want to see Lucas lynced.

"No, They want do nothing today. They're burying Vinson this afternoon and to burn a nigger right while the funeral's going on wouldn't be respectful to Vinson."

(Faulkner, 1948 : 28)

In the jail , Lucas is treated unkindness by the jailer, even by lawyer, Chick's uncle. The jailer looks down to Lucas and the lawyer doesn't want to hear Lucas' explanation. They don't want to help the black. In this case, Lucas is very despaire. It can be seen from his word.

"Nemmine expecting," Lucas said

(Faulkner, 1948 : 43)

From the setting above we know that Yoknapawpha County is the place where the whites are very dominant. while the blacks have no power. From the setting we also know that the white have plantation. It means that the white is the owner, while the black is the employee. From the social status the whites are the master, while the blacks are the employee.

III.2. The influence of Southern heritage to the injustice treatment of the white

When hunting rabbits on the Edmonds plantation, Chick falls into a creek. The old black man, Lucas Beauchamp, a descendant of Lucius Quintus Carothers McCaslin, the founder of the plantation, witnesses Chick's dunking and brings the boy to his cabin. Something in the old black's attitude toward him reminds Chick of his own grandfather. Lucas treats the white boy as if they were of the same race, separated only by many years. In the absence of Edmonds, who invited Chick to hunt on the plantation, Lucas assumes the role of protector and host. Sitting before the fire in the cabin, Chick suffers a moral and psychological crisis. As a boy of good breeding, he respects and obeys his elders; as a shivering wet hunter, he responds to the brusque, kind hospitality of Lucas; as a hungry twelve-year-old, he submits when Lucas orders him to eat. Chick responds to Lucas as he would to his own grandfather, but the code decrees that the black must be servile to the white. Chick forces himself to establish the proper relationship between White and black by proffering money to pay Lucas for his hospitality. Lucas refuses to be Negro. He stares coldly at the boy. Chick throws the money on the floor. Immediately, he is ashamed and angry--ashamed

because by offering money, he violated the dictate of his heart, and angry because as a white boy he was humiliated by a black man. Lucas orders Chick's black hunting companion to pick up the coins and return them to Chick.

... "Pick up his money"... "Give it to him," the voice then into it. "Now go on and shoot your rabbit," the voice said. "And stay out of that creek".

(Faulkner, 1948 : 13)

Chick failure to uphold the racial code remains an open wound. By failing to make Lucas act as a black man, he feels he had ashamed his race.

"he could never give up now who had debased not merely his manhood but his whole race too."

(Faulkner, 1948 : 16)

For two and a half years, the boy is tormented by the experience. He tries to erase his shame by sending a gift to Lucas's wife as a substitute for the coins Lucas refused to accept. But some time later, Lucas sends Chick a jug of molasses. The jug is delivered by a white boy, and Chick is right back where he started.

"Here's something for you," she said. It was a gallon bucket of fresh homemade sorghum molasses and he knew the answer at once long before she finished speaking : "Somebody from Mr Edmonds' place send it to you"

(Faulkner, 1948 : 17)

Then, one day on the town square, Chick sees Lucas. The black passes him without any sign of recognition. Chick feels liberated until he learn that, at the time, Lucas's wife had just died. Though he does not realize it, the incident helps to loosen the shackled of the code by intensifying his response to Lucas as a human being.

"She had just died then. That was why he didn't see me. That was why he didn't have the toothpick: thinking with a kind of amazement: He was grieving. You don't have to not be a nigger in order to grieve..."

(Faulkner, 1948 : 19)

After remembering how Lucas' attitude to him and how he refuses Chick's money. Chick realizes that he has to erase his racial prejudice. He wants to establish the proper relationship with the black man.

"carrying into manhood only the fading tagend of that old once-frantic shame and anguish and need not for revenge, vengeance but simply for reequalization, reaffirmation of his masculinity and his white blood."

(Faulkner, 1948 : 19)

Chick is sixteen when Lucas is taken into custody, and he thinks of jumping on Highboy, his horse, to ride away from Jefferson and stay away until the black has been lynched. Even this impulse to flee, to disassociate himself from the traditional lynch ritual, is a betrayal of his heritage.

Accompanying his uncle to the jail, Chick, at first, takes comfort in the thought that Lucas is "just a nigger after all". Unlike his uncle, however, the boy's heart remains open and he can respond to the mute unhoping urgency of the eyes. Though the impulse to jump on his horse remains strong, he returns to the jail, ostensibly to bring Lucas tobacco, but actually to get the message of the eyes translated into words.

And an old woman and two children do save Lucas from being lynched. Mrs. Habersham and Chick have known Lucas, as have all the town people, for years. These two are certain, as everyone else should be, that he is not a murderer. And they work together to unearth the evidence to save him. When they have presented the proof of his innocence that sends the lynch mob scurrying out of town, Chick's maturation process reaches its climax.

The full impact of the horror he has averted shocks him into a violent rejection of his tradition and society. Because they cling *blindly to the vices of their ancestor*, his

fellow townsmen would have murdered an innocent man. Chick's reaction is triggered by the sight of the lynch mob dispersing. The identity of the murderer is now known. He is a white man. The lynchers have no further cause for action. The murder of white by white is not their affair. Their concern is not with justice, but with keeping the negro servile.

In his development, Chick becomes a man. He re-allies himself with his tradition and society. This is presented by tracing the steps the renegade takes back into the fold. Chick's rehabilitation becomes, in effect, a defense of the separate but equal theory. The sixteen-year-old boy's rejection of his people makes him acutely aware of the land and the tradition he is repudiating .

He had bred his bones and those of his fathers for six generations and was still shaping him into not just a man but a specific man, not with just a man's passions and aspirations and beliefs but the specific passions and hopes and convictions and ways of thinking and acting of a specific kind and even race.

Chick's intensified awareness of his allegiance to the South does not effect the feeling of horror his fellow Southerners produced in him by their near murder of an innocent man simply because his skin was dark. But he recalls something

his uncle said some years before: Time is continuum: The past determines the present and the future. *"Yesterday want be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."* What happened to the South a hundred years earlier, Chick therefore realizes, shaped the people and the attitude that nearly cost Lucas his life; the past also shaped Chick to save Lucas's life. And what Chick has done now will help to determine what happens in the South tomorrow.

Gavin helps Chick take another step toward rehabilitation by explaining why the mob hurried away without even an apology to Lucas. Gavin declares that the county will be apologizing to Lucas for years. The lynchers did not run away to avoid apologizing to the negro; they run away to express their repudiating of Gowrie, a murderer who killed his own brother. Kin murdering kin is the worst of all possible crimes.

From the picture above, we know that the racial code still influences Chick whether he will help Lucas in proving that Lucas was not guilty. But finally they decided to help Lucas and prove that Lucas does not kill the white man.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION