

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

A. The Structural-Semiotics Analysis

In this subchapter the writer only focuses her analysis on the main character together with some influential characters, the setting that appeared in the novel and the plot. This is a way to classify the important elements found in the novel so that later, it will be a useful help for the writer in discussing the problem about '*Milkman's struggle in obtaining his self and his freedom*'.

In discussing each element of fiction above, the writer uses the relation and opposition system to draw some important meaning from the text.

A.1. Character Analysis

In this section, the writer focuses her analysis only on *Song of Solomon's* protagonist, Milkman, and some other important characters. However the writer limits her discussion on the important characters whose contribution to the major character's characteristic is apparently seen in both before and after his journey. To come to a better understanding on the characters, the writer divides the discussion into some smaller parts.



A.1.1. Milkman

Milkman is a dynamic character since his mental quality undergoes a development from an indulgent boy into a mature man who obtains his self-identity and awareness. Milkman is mainly described as a young Afro-American that undergoes an identity crisis that leads him to an acute pessimism.

Like all people, Milkman had to pass through a series of life stages. Each of which was marked by some crisis that had to be solved in order to gain a healthy development. Unfortunately to pass through the crisis, Milkman had to challenge some turmoil and barriers. He had to face the crisis alone since his family failed to function as what a normal family was supposed to. His parents failed to provide a sufficient emotional needs, guidance, love, affection, understanding, and lesson on norms, that were necessary for a personality development, for their children. Nevertheless although Milkman underwent some conflicts with his parents, Milkman still respected his parent's values and beliefs that they tried to cultivate in his mind. His major aim in his life was to obtain his "self" and to free himself from a pile of problems and the uncertainty that were lingering his life.

Milkman was a special character. Milkman was the youngest child of the most prosperous family in a Black neighborhood in Michigan. His father, Macon Dead, was the most affluent property owner and land developer in Michigan. His "lemony skin" mother, Ruth, was the only daughter of the most famous doctor in the city. Then Milkman himself was the only Negro baby who was allowed to be born inside No Mercy

hospital's ward a day after Mr. Smith's suicidal leap from the top of the hospital.

Milkman was raised in the middle of a newly rich and a socially outstanding Afro-American family. Compared to most of the Afro-Americans, money was not a problem for Milkman's parents. However Milkman's childhood was not as happy and exciting as the other children's were. There was almost no beautiful memory about his childhood in Milkman's mind. In his childhood, Milkman had already realized that his "twenty room house" was too dreary, quiet, and suffocative to live in, as if there was no human being living there. Everyday he saw the same scene because everyday his sisters and his mother spent their afternoons before a table that was heaped with scraps of red velvet materials, making some bright, lifeless roses that later were sold to the factories. They were so stunned with their jobs so that Milkman thought that they looked more like three big baby-dolls than three living human beings. No one in that big house liked to spend the time playing and laughing with Milkman. Thus, Milkman wanted to find other friends from outside his house but his parents, especially his father, disallowed him playing with them. The quietness that suffused every corner of Milkman's house could only be broken by the murrur of Milkman's mother's evening guests and his father's yells. His father almost never spoke in a gentle and loving voice. Therefore Milkman felt so lonely, bored, and frightened so that he was longing for flying—to free and to run away from these discomforts. Whenever he had a time, he slipped to the rooms upstairs and sat on a windowsill watching on birds. Milkman regretted on the fact that only birds

and airplanes were able to fly. This lack grieved him much so that it was visible in his eyes and made him appear dull. "Well, he's deep one anyway. Look at his eyes." (10)

From the beginning Milkman was a person who was hungry for love and affection from his family. However, he did not find any of them in his house among his family members. Macon Dead was not a right and wise person to talk about love with because he did not care with other people—even it was his own son. The only thing that he cared was his own business, his money, and his social status. Meanwhile his mother was not only busy with her rose petal making but also with her past memories. Then, his two sisters were like dolls that did not have a wish and strength to move and to give opinion. They were too still, quiet and lifeless in doing their usual labor work. Therefore, Milkman was blind about love. He did not know what was love since he never felt it. Then because Milkman did not understand anything about love, he became ignorant to other people's feelings.

Besides ignorance, Milkman was also an irresponsible person, especially after his father told him about a nasty story that dealt with his mother's past. It was proved mainly by his act of abandoning Hagar and Sweet. After fourteen years practicing the incest relationship with Hagar, Milkman thought that he could end it up by sending her a sum of money in a thank you note. And later, Milkman also abandoned Sweet, the one who had taught him about the 'give and take' love and about the responsibility that man had to take. When he was busy to be happy in the lake, he misheard Sweet question: "And who'd he leave behind?" (328)

Since Milkman was such an ignorant person, he was used to looking at everything trivially. Pilate who knew this had told Ruth and Hagar that Milkman would not give a pile of swan shift for either of them (138). Then because of never being listened by his father and because of frequently hearing lies, hatred and ambiguous stories from his parents and from the Michigan people around him, Milkman became a poor listener and a skeptic. Therefore, he hardly ever tried to listen to the truth and to feel its presence. Circe scolded Milkman on this: "You don't listen to people. Your ear is on your head, but it's not connected to your brain. If you think I stay here because I love her (Mrs. Butler), then you have about as much sense as a fart! (249)

Moreover, Milkman used his father's bad attitudes as his reason to be selfish and to be spoiled. Milkman wanted other people thinking of him but he himself never cared about and loved them, especially his mother, the one who brought him into the world and who had been willing to sacrifice her life several times to save his life even since he had not been born yet. Magdalene called Lena realized this and sentenced that Milkman was such a selfish and stupid person.

"You are to blame. You are a sad, pitiful, stupid, selfish, hateful man." (216)

Growing without love, affection, guidance, and especially lesson on how to behave nobly from his parents, Milkman became a disconcerted person. As a human being, it is natural that Milkman tried to find who he really was and what kind of life he would have in the future. However, since Milkman's father taught him a wrong lesson that was materialism

and, on the other hand, Milkman's mother never told and taught him what was good or bad in this world, and what man had to do in his life, Milkman became bewildered in facing his life. In other words, he did not know what to do in his life and the worst of all was that he was a stupid person who refused to think further and easily to give up. Fortunately although he had ever given up once, Milkman still had willingness in trying to set his own life. However, in every step or action that Milkman did, his father's discouragement seemed always blocked it out.

Moreover under his father's domination, strong critics, and the domestic quarrel, Milkman grew to be a coward, dependent person. Therefore in spite of facing the problem and trying to solve it, Milkman preferred running away from it. To get rid all the puzzling problems and the uncovered mysteries, Milkman both chose alcohol and women and always needed another person to solve his problems, and in this case Milkman usually went to Guitar. Milkman himself almost did nothing for easing his problems. Thus, Milkman never did something important and beneficial in his life except that he smashed his father into the generator.

Gradually his fear of and eagerness for death returned. Above all he wanted to escape what he knew, escape the implications of what he had been told. ... He himself did nothing. (120)

Because of his dependence, cowardly, skeptical, and anxiety, Milkman became a sluggish and pessimistic person. Milkman was so pessimistic and he was about to give up his life. Guitar had warned him on this: "Well, if a man don't have a chance, then he has to take a chance!" (183) However Milkman did not want to listen to any warns.

Then he let his life went lifelessly. Milkman envied his father's success in business. But he could not be like him. In consequence, Milkman blamed his deformity for his disclose relation with his father and with the society, and for his misfortune. Accordingly Milkman saw the gold as a way to free from his father and his native town and to raise his own honor. Suddenly, in the midst of his telling, Milkman wanted the gold. (236)

Although there were some disagreements between Milkman and Macon Dead, since biologically Milkman was his son, Milkman shared the same characteristic as Macon Dead such as his love of luxurious things. Sometimes Milkman liked to boast of his family wealth to other people because he was proud of his father's success and the richness of his family. Moreover, actually, Milkman respected on his father's capitalist belief that he even tried to conform to him once. He did try, as his father's employee, to do the work in the way Macon wanted him to do it.

A.1.2. Macon Dead

Macon Dead was Milkman's father. He was the only son of a prosperous peach farmer in Danville, Macon Dead Senior alias Jake Solomon, and the son-in-law of the most well known doctor in Michigan, Dr. Foster. Moreover he himself was an affluence property-owner and land developer in Michigan. He was such an entrepreneur who always sought for some possible profit from buying, selling and renting some dismal houses for the poor urban Negroes.

Although Pilate stated that Macon Dead used to be a nice person when he was young, Macon Dead's character remained flat since his

belief, before and after he was in Michigan and he gained an upper class Negro status, remained the same. Macon Dead's belief before he was in Michigan could be seen clearly when Macon was sixteen years old in Danville. During his sixteen years old, there was an accident that caused a white man's death in Hunter Cave. At the night of their fled from the attic of Butler's house where Circe had hidden them, Macon and his sister, Pilate, were staying overnight in Hunter Cave. Suddenly there was a white man who was going to catch them for a slave. Macon tried to save himself and his sister so that accidentally he hit the white man's head with a stone that made him fell to the ground. After seeing the white man was lying still on the ground in front of Hunter Cave, Macon Dead had an argument with Pilate, who was still twelve years old. Macon insisted to own the white man's gold although Pilate tried to prevent him from doing it. Macon said that the gold could keep them alive and returned all things that were stolen by the Butlers from them. However Pilate kept insisting on her opinion so that Macon left him alone.

"This ain't money; it's gold. It'll keep us for life, Pilate. We can get us another farm. We can—" "Leave it, Macon! Leave it! ... (171)

Macon was proud of his old man. When he was twelve, he loved to walk and to work beside him because in his eyes, his father was such a great and strong man. However, he could not enjoy his togetherness with his father too long since the local Whites, that were the Butlers, killed his father cruelly in front of his children, when he tried to maintain his land. Afterward the Butlers deprived his father's fertile peach farm. Therefore, from that moment, Macon Dead hated the White people very much so that

he wanted to take revenge to them. The way Macon showed his revenge was by trying to emulate the greatest of his father. To do so, he strove to acquire as many lands and houses as possible.

Macon Dead's commitment made him greedy and ambitious. Then his attitude and behavior was like a capitalist which belief he taught to Milkman: "Own things. And let the things you own own other things. Then you'll own yourself and other people too." (55). In accordance with Macon Dead's ambition to have as many lands as possible, Macon kept his eyes on reaching an outstanding social status. Then, the difficult time that Macon spent to gain his honor and wealth had turned him to be a very possessive person. For him Milkman was only for himself. However Macon never saw him as a son who had human feelings. He saw him merely as an asset to prolong the Dead's family honor and the Dead's family business, instead. Therefore beside Macon tried hard to alienate Milkman from the other family members, he also did not let his son make a socialization with people outside the Dead family, especially Pilate. Even Macon Dead did not let Milkman to set his own life.

Macon Dead became more cynical the older he grew. He treated everybody badly including his wife and his children. Once he was a good husband but because he was intractable to the relation between his wife and his father in law, he hated his wife and treated her and his children badly. All Macon's children were the victim of Macon's selfishness and ambition. And an example of this was that because Macon liked to show-up his success, Macon used them as a device to display his prosperity and good luck. It happened when Lena and Corinthians, who were Milkman's sisters, were still in young ages.

First he displayed us, then he splayed us. All our lives were like that: he would parade us like virgins through Babylon, then humiliate us like whores in Babylon.” (216)

When both Lena and Corinthians grew to be two adult girls, Macon locked them in the house and never let them socialize with other people outside. Moreover, Macon never allowed his children or even anybody to express their opinion because Macon was such a stubborn and domineering person. Therefore, Macon had created a conducive atmosphere that made his children always submissive to him.

Instead of functioning as a wise father and creating a good ritual and habits in his family, to gain a general recognition on his ‘upper class’ status, Macon did another ridiculous thing besides what he had done to his children. It was Macon’s Sundays ride ritual.

These rides on Sunday afternoons become rituals and much too important for Macon to enjoy. For him it was a way to satisfy himself that he was indeed a successful man. (30)

It was undeniable that Macon was a success and a rich person. It was also his right to show all his success since a part of it was the result of his hardwork. However it made Macon loved his luxurious belongings and money more than he loved his family. Besides, he became a stingy person.

He never let rain fall on his car if he could help it and he walked to Sonny’s shop—taking the car only on these occasions. (30)

Macon was also more out of ambitious than bothering about love. He was ruthless and hard-hearted with bad debtor tenants who most of them were

from the lower rank of society. And just like Milkman, Macon was not merely a poor listener but the poorest one. He fixed on his social status and respectability. So he never wanted to hear anything which was deal with poverty. Guitar's mother was one of his victims. Because Mrs. Bains could not afford to pay the rent debt, Macon mercilessly kicked her and her small children out of their small rent house to the road.

Macon was an untrustworthy person. His words usually came from his wrong belief or an over cynicism, which derived from some incomplete information and from immature personality so that they were always inconsistent. That was why Milkman disbelieved him. From this fact, it was concluded that Macon was not a good head of family or not a good father for his family.

A.1.3. Pilate

Like Macon, Pilate's characteristic also tended to be fiat. She was always wise, caring, loving, and forgiving. Pilate was the only sister that Macon Dead had and she was the only daughter of Jake Solomon, a successful peach farmer in Montour County, Danville. Just like Macon, she had a strong influence on Milkman's character too.

Physically Pilate was described as a beautiful Afro-American lady. She was tall and angular with short hair, smooth black skin, large brown eyes, and smooth stomach. She was clean but unkempt. Macon said that she looked like an African girl (30). Pilate was born without a navel in few minutes after her mother expired in childbirth. Thus unlike Macon, she was brought up without mother who could give her a maternal love. Moreover, Pilate's name was the worst name in Bible "Christ killing

Pilate." But she took on Christ-like attributes and within the suggested meaning of the flying motif, she might be viewed as a pilot. Therefore, she was the real guidance for Milkman in revealing the truth.

Although Pilate was born without navel and both her given and family name was 'bad', she never felt that these deformities disgraced her. Therefore, she never set aside from the society. Hence it was true that her deformities isolated her from the people around her since they ensued both fear and respect from them. Nevertheless, these deformities and her unlucky fate brought her close to the conventional way of life and those traditional African people's life. Her deformities also freed her to define the values according to which she would live, to design a life of her own, and to interpret the life on her own terms and unequivocally the particular legacy of her people. In short, they designated her as a mythical outsider.

Hence, Pilate was such a resourceful and independent woman. By her humble way of life, Pilate scorned the civilized creature comforts. And by her way of life too, Pilate did not hunger for family dynasty, other people's respectability or regard, authority, or wealth. She had her own self-acceptance and self-content. One of the evidences that Pilate was such a self-acceptance person was that she kept her name folded in a brass box hanging in her ear. For her, although her name was 'cursed' among the other names, she considered that it was sacred and important. Besides, it was the only inheritance that her father gave to her. And similarly to Macon, she was also proud of her father and memorialized him.

Pilate was a considerable, wise, and care person. She concerned on Blacks young generation and women's fate. She loved the Young since she cared about them and considered in their future. She always hoped that the next generation of Afro-Americans could create and would have got a better future than she had had got. Therefore she loved Milkman as if he was her own son. She even loved him more than she loved her daughter and her granddaughter. Macon could see it but he did not know her reason.

Macon Dead remembered when his son was born, how she seemed to be more interested in this first nephew of hers than she was in her own daughter, and even that daughter's daughter. (19)

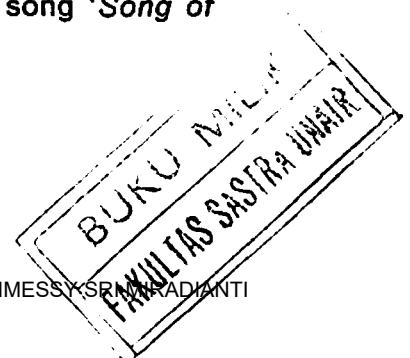
Besides loving Milkman, Pilate loved everybody, including Guitar and Macon, the one who had treated her unfairly and called her 'snake'. She had an inner calm that made Milkman felt an overwhelming safe and secure as well as love when he closed to her.

Pilate was a large hearted woman and a woman who respected other people's privacy. She never laid a guilt-trip on Milkman. She never told him about her role in his birth. She never insinuated any debt that Milkman owned her. And even she never meddled in Milkman's incest with her grand daughter. Then because Pilate was such a very large hearted woman, she could easily forgive and forget anybody's mistake. She even forgave Milkman's mistake that made her granddaughter, Hagar, died in broken-hearted. It was all due to her belief that everyone had to responsible to what he had done and if they did wrong, they had to carry their own mistake because man could not justify or put justice on

another man's fault. Therefore, in accordance to this belief, Pilate emerged as the focus of moral concern and as a guardian for those persons who were not as strong as she was. She valued a lot on human's life. Therefore she carried with her the white man's bones which their owner had been killed by Macon. Pilate had carried unwittingly, however, the clue to her inheritance, because, actually, that bones which she was putting in a big green sack were her father's. In her life, Pilate had a simple love on humans: "I wish I'd a knowed more people. I would of loved 'em all. If I'd a knowed more, I would a loved more." (240)

Pilate could be seen as a conjurer and a soothsayer because her father could only meet and speak to her. She always listened to whatever he said and did everything he asked her to do. Pilate was a truth giver and a bear witness. Unequal to Macon, who often covered the truth, Pilate never lied to anybody. She told Milkman anything she knew about all the happenings in the past because she hoped that by giving him the truth, Milkman could take a lesson from it and, then, could change his attitude and could save himself.

Pilate loved singing and love talking with anybody. She was always warm and welcome to anybody. All her good quality appeared in the form of her beautiful voice and all her grief or mood expressed in her Blues music songs. Because Pilate liked singing, she never felt lonely and desperate in her life though most of people stayed away from her in fear. Singing could relieve her gloom immediately (148). All Pilate's family member loved singing. From her, Milkman learnt the folk song 'Song of Solomon', the key of the mystery of his family's lineage.



A.1.4. Guitar

Guitar's character is a rounded character. He was both Milkman's best friend and his guardian angel during Milkman's boyhood. He was seven years older than Milkman was. Once Guitar was a tough boy who was always ready to give any explanations and advises that Milkman needed. However his good character changed into an acute vandal racist after he joined with the vandal racial gang in Michigan, Seven Days.

Guitar's life was a rough and hard one. He came from a poor low rank of society. Since he was a child, Guitar had experienced and tasted the severe of life and the bitterness of poverty. One day because Guitar's mother did not have a sum of money to pay the rent of their small, stuffy room in one of Macon Dead's ghettos which they called "house", Guitar and his family were kicked out from their "house" by Milkman's father without mercy.

Besides the poverty and eviction that was done by a member of his own people, Macon Dead, Guitar saved another important miserable memory about his childhood. It was about his father, the one that he loved and respected. Then, this memory shaped his sadistic and skeptic characteristic. When Guitar was a child, his father was got killed in a work accident. Instead of giving an appropriate funeral, Guitar's father's White employer spent a small amount of his money to buy a too small confined coffin for Guitar's father so that it did not fit to his body. Then recklessly, they cut Guitar's father's body into two parts so that his left eye faced to his right eye. Guitar's pride was humiliated and torn by this inhuman practice. He was very angry at what those Whites had done to his father's

body but he could do nothing. Nevertheless, on the other hand, his mother was very pleased with the small number divinity that the White employer and his wife gave to her. Guitar hated her mother more since she spent all that money for sweets for her children. Then Guitar's sister and brother ate them greedily in their father's funeral. It was such an ironic situation for Guitar. It hurt Guitar's feelings badly. Therefore Guitar hated sweet because it always reminded him to this memory and it never tasted sweet but it always tasted bitter for him.

Guitar was a speaker of a vindictive racist group, the Seven Days which inhabited the Blood Bank region. Seven Days was a group of Negroes that dedicated to a random retribution for each unprosecuted Negroes killing. It meant that this group would avenge every Negro's life that was killed by the Whites. In Seven Days, Guitar found a perfect place for expelling his hatred and vengeance toward the White people.

Then from Milkman's acquaintance with Guitar and his peers, Milkman came to get acquaintance with the injustice racial prejudice that the Whites throw continuously on Blacks in every mass media. Then he slowly understood with the Black man's hatred. Personally Milkman did not like the White's bad treatment and their prejudice but he disagreed with what the Seven Days had done so far. However, as most of young people, Milkman also desperately tried to conform to Guitar's and Seven Days value. First, Milkman tried to understand Guitar's argument and thought on the uncovered series of the White people killings. But slowly Milkman seemed to face a moral question which finally ended in a disagreement on Guitar's belief on life, love, and death. In Guitar's belief, his life was chosen to be lonely and loveless. For him there was no life

and love in this world except the life that approached the people who were ready to die for Negroes and to give their love for Negroes. Death did not scary Guitar since in his opinion, someone could get the peace in his death after he chose which group he would die for, White man's group or Black man's group.

"What good is a man's life if he can't even choose what to die for?"

"Loving Negroes." "It is about love. What else but love? Can't I love what I criticize?" (222-223)

So far it was concluded that Guitar had a misguided love. He was like a coin that love and hate were as its sides. His hatred would make him capable, eventually, of killing his closest friend, Milkman.

A.2. Setting Analysis

Setting is a very important element in *Song of Solomon* since it helps much in giving a clearer description on the major character's mood, his situation, and his state of mind. Besides, It also determines the characters' characteristics. Then, through the movements and variation of setting, Milkman's development process in obtaining his self-identity and his freedom is revealed.

As being said by Wellek and Warren in their *Theory of Literature*, setting is environment (Wellek and Warren: 221). Therefore in this setting analysis, the writer will depict the natural settings, the artificial settings, and the social settings which occur in the novel since they influence and describe major character's view on his life and his self. Then, due to the

fact that there are three important general places in *Song of Solomon*—one in the North and two in the South, the writer will divide this analysis into three parts so that making this analysis more structured. Those places are:

A.2.1. Michigan

There are two prominent major settings in *Song of Solomon*. The first major setting, which appears in the first part of *Song of Solomon*, and the second major setting, which appears in the second part of *Song of Solomon*. The first one focuses primarily on the major character's hometown—Michigan—in which the major character spends more or less thirty years of his life. Then, the second one focuses primarily on two small places that are Danville and Shalimar.

Michigan in 1931 was an urban city where the home industries became the appealing “honey” for the Negro labors. Because of the rapid industrialization growth after the U.S. Civil War, many rural Blacks were fleeing from South to North in order to get a better living and a better work. Consequently, these Negro peoples floated many big cities and Michigan was one of them. Because of their low status and their unskilled jobs, they earned low wages. Then due to it, they even could not afford to rent a tiny little room. Consequently, they had to inhabit the ghettos in the rural slum of the city.

This Black people's urbanization bothered the White inhabitants. Due to a long time of slavery, they did not like to live along with those Blacks since they thought that the Blacks' status was lower than theirs

was. So they made segregation, which apparently appeared in the form of ghettos. Besides the ghettos, those Whites also practiced other forms of racial prejudices on the Blacks. One of which was that they disallowed the Black people to use the Whites' welfare institutions, such as hospital, school, church, and so on.

Thirty years is not a short time in one's life. In contrary it is too much to lay the basic of an individual's self-concept. Accordingly, there were many things that Milkman had already experienced and had seen which could have shaped and influenced his self-identity, such as his family, his friends, his social class, Michigan people, the belief and values that Michigan society upheld, and so on. Therefore, to see how those aspects influence Milkman's character, the writer will classify the discussion into settings that represent those aspects:

A.2.1.1. The Deads' House

As being suggested by its name, *Dead*, it was assumed that the atmosphere mingling around this house was dead, still, lifeless, quiet, and decayed. Moreover, in this big house, there lived the Dead family. Macon Dead's family was a patrimonial family. It suits Frazier's third type of Negro families in America in which there is a man functioned as the head of the family. Thus, Macon was the head of the family. Meanwhile, the female members' role in this family was similar to the role of the female members in the slave-holding class. The way of life of this family looked like that of the White middle class family. Therefore, it influenced Macon's behavior and attitude. He tended to be domineering and bossy, and he

also ran after the self-respect. Moreover, he always looked down at the unmixed Black people. As a mixed Black, Macon did not like his status to be equaled with the unmixed Blacks' status. He felt that his status was higher than theirs was. The wealth inheritance from Ruth's father and Corinthian's college diploma suited the criteria of the third type of Frazier's Negro families too.

The Deads family's house represented a newly rich Negro's house. It was big and large. However it was too quiet and suffocate for every person who inhabited it. The quietness that suffused the house could only be broken by the murmur of Ruth's afternoon guests and by the appearance of Milkman's father. But it was neither laughter nor song that came along with Macon Dead's appearance. It was the domestic violence that broke the silence.

...the house was more prison than palace...The quiet that suffused the doctor's house then, broken only by the murmur of the women eating sunshine cake, was only that: quiet. It was not peaceful for it was preceded by and would soon be terminated by the presence of Macon Dead. (10)

Therefore, in this house, the inhabitants were awkward with fear of Macon Dead. The glance of this superior person that was full of hatred and of suspicion filled every corner of the house and haunted every person's heart and mind. The women in this house always bent their heads down doing their collar-job before a table which was heaped with lots of velvet red material for some artificial rose petals. These rose petals were as lifeless as the makers were.

The Dead's family house was described as a house that situated up the road liked a scene on the back of a postcard. Inside that house, there were Ruth's narrow unyielding back, Macon Dead's daughters who were all boiled dry from years of yearning, and the only son of Macon Dead to whom Macon could speak only if his words held some commands or criticism. There was no fleeting sweet music at all. Then, because there was no sweet music mingling around the Dead's house, there was no intimate relationship and no social interaction among the Dead's family members too. The relationship, which appeared between Macon Dead and the rest of his family members, was like the relationship between a king and his servants. So, the interaction among them was mostly developed through the quarrels and the commands.

Thus, from the description above, despite the fact that Ruth and Macon had not divorced yet, the Dead family might be classified as a disorganized family. Although Ruth and Macon still lived under the same roof, their marriage had ruined for years. Macon Dead hated his wife very much although Ruth still loved him faithfully. Thus, due to the loss of love between a husband and his wife, there was no love, no happiness, and no strong bondage existed among the members of Dead's family. There was also no guidance, no peaceful shelter, and also no advises given to the children. The only apparent thing in Macon Dead's house was the emptiness of capitalism and materialism beliefs that Macon upheld in running his family and business.

In the Dead's family, there was a tradition of Sundays driving in which the whole members of the Dead's family sat inside a Packard which rolled slowly down Not Doctor Street. This tradition showed an ironic

ridiculous sight because Macon Dead wanted to show up his success and his wealth through the car and this riding tradition. Nevertheless, on other hand, this family tradition ridiculously showed up a bunch of 'Dead' peoples who were sitting like statues inside the silent and the slowly moving car. People even called the car as 'the hearse' since it really resembled a hearse, which other than Magdalene's roving eyes there was no sign of a movement that indicated a life inside this car. Therefore, this tradition displayed not only the silence relationship among the members of the 'Deads' family but also their alienation from the other Blacks outside.

There was also an important thing left at the nearly end of part one of the novel. It was a description of a maple tree that had been stuck into the ground in the center of the Dead's garden by Milkman's sister, Magdalene alias Lena, since Milkman was five years old.

"It lived. It's that maple. So I wasn't mad about it anymore—the pee, I mean—because the tree was growing. But it's dying now, Macon." (214)

This maple tree was clearly a representation of Milkman, his origin, and the condition of his self. Milkman was like this maple tree which descended from a man's 'pee', and now it began to grow up. However, this tree was going to die before its time. It was dying just like Milkman's self, which was because of his ignorance, selfishness, uncertainty, and other bad character that were caused by not being guided by his parents, he was going to decay.

A.2.1.2. Honore

It was a name of a bourgeois residential area near Michigan beach. Most White people resided at one side of this area. But opposite it, there was nothing but an empty land. This land was a looking glass window of Macon Dead's ambition together with his capitalist belief. Moreover, this setting represented Macon Dead's characteristic that tended to act like a White people and paid more respect on their way of life.

Beside owning many poor ghettos for poor Blacks, Macon Dead built some beach houses for his wealthy Blacks friends so that they could have a nice summer place for vacation just like the White people had done. Macon Dead had one house too in this area. In this place, they often made some parties just like the White people did. Milkman sometimes went to and spent some nights in Honore to enjoy the parties and to have some fun. Therefore from this description, it was clear that the parties and the way of life that resembled the White people's way of life, described Macon Dead's materialism influence on Milkman's and the way of life that Milkman underwent during his life in Michigan—a fake luxurious worldly life.

A.2.1.3. Pilate's House

Pilate family befits Frazier's first type of Negro families since it was based upon the affection tie and the common interest that existed between the offspring and the mother. The head of the family in this family type is a woman or a mother. In Pilate's family, Pilate attended the head of the family. Moreover, this family pattern also matched with her

way of life that represented the purest and traditional form of society that was commonly found in the South. Furthermore, there was no man in her household. Pilate had rejected Reba's father's married proposal, Reba could never get along with a certain man, and Milkman deserted Hagar. Since lack of men, this kind of family pattern had to suffer from many difficulties in adjusting to the rigorous competitive life in Michigan.

Pilate house was located in the suburb at the dead end of Darling Street. It was a very small and modest house with only two rooms. Its basement looked rising from rather than settling into the ground. In this part of town, the street that led to Pilate house had not been facilitated with a street light. Only the moon guided the pedestrians in finding their way home. When the night fell, there was no electricity that might light this house since Pilate would not pay for the service. Then for its change, Pilate used few candles and kerosene lamps. There was no gas either in that house. Consequently, the inhabitants warmed themselves and cooked their meal with wood or coal. To get clean water, they pumped it from a well into a dry sink through a pipeline. Thus, they lived in their traditional way of life as though the outside rapid progress was merely a word. In doing their daily activities, this family relied on the cooperation unity among its family members.

In running their life, Pilate and her family run a small winemaking business. They sold their homemade wine in the black market. The money that they got from the wine selling did not go to the bank but it was evaporated like seawater in the ocean because they spent it for some junk jewelry for Hagar, for Reba's gifts to her unfaithful lovers, and for many other needs. Moreover, Pilate, her daughter and her granddaughter

ate whatever they had a taste for, just like children. No meal was ever planned or balanced or served. Nor was there any gathering at a dining table. They ate what they had or what would come across or what they had a craving for. But usually they ate their peaches and drank their wine.

In this poor happy family, there was an everyday tenderness, warmth, and an everyday music song lingering this modest house. It was a kind of music that made a person who listened to it remembered about the past happy memory. And almost every night, Pilate, Reba, and Hagar were singing some melody that was leaded by Pilate. Pilate sang a phrase that the other two were taking up and building on. Pilate sang beautifully with all her emotion and her passion. Since Pilate's emotion and passion were so great, they looked as if they would leave her feature and entered her voice. Then due to its loudness and greatness, the sound of their verbal music could be heard until the street.

In the presence of Pilate or in the appearance of her house or of anything that showed warmth and love, there was a smell of ginger spreading the character. It meant that the character was in warm and conscious situation. For example, this smell of ginger also occurred at Susan Byrd's house.

The description of Pilate's house and its sight above showed Pilate's characteristic that mostly were modest and humble. Although her house was not big and was not equipped with a modern thing, still, it was a really nice home that offered peacefulness, warmth, and life for its inhabitants. Furthermore Pilate's house and also her significant way of life represented a form of the traditional African society in the past. The society that refused the new technology that often offered people to

replace the mutual cooperation that had already existed in a family by the machines. Pilate's refusal of the technology showed that she had a firm idea on maintaining family's closeness and intimacy, which could bring satisfaction and happiness for every 'self'.

A.2.1.4. Not Doctor Street

Not Doctor Street was a name of the street where Macon Dead's big house was located. Actually the real name of this street in the town map was the Main Avenue, but the surrounding Black community refused to recognize what the 'White' government had stated. They preferred to name it as Not Doctor Street to Main Avenue. The story behind the naming process of this street was quite funny. However it was brought forward so effectively to describe the intrigue between the government and the minor Black society, especially when it was completed with some mentioned years. The intriguing description created the mood of fight, arguments, prejudice, alienation, and fallacy.

The naming story of this street had a direct connection to Milkman's grandfather, Dr. Foster. Dr. Foster was Milkman's mother's father. He was an only and, of course, a well-known colored doctor in the city. He moved to Michigan in 1896. In that year there was no colored people lived on the Main Avenue. Dr. Foster became the first and the only colored person who had a house on the Main Avenue. Then due to those facts, Dr. Foster's name was so honored in the Black people's ears. The Black people saw him as a real doctor although in his life Dr. Foster never got his medical acknowledgement from the Whites medical society. They

named, even, the street on where he lived, after his profession, Doctor Street. However the 'White' government refused it. They kept on their argument that the street's name was Main Avenue and was not Doctor Street. Then after a long debate, finally the Black people agreed to change the name of the street from Doctor Street, but not back into Main Avenue, but into Not Doctor Street. Then, after they changed the name of the street into 'Not Doctor Street', the truth was revealed, that was, actually, Ruth's father had never been a real doctor.

A.2.1.5. Blood Bank

Blood Bank was located in the Southern part of Michigan. It belonged to a rough part of the city. It was called Blood Bank since almost everyday there was at least a dead body found in this section. (Blood Bank because blood flowed so freely there) (32). Therefore, it represented the characteristics of some of the slum Black people that mostly were harsh and brutal.

Macon Dead's ghettos were located in this rough part of the city. It was inhabited by many poor urban families, which suffered from various social problems that extended from the family disorganization, from the criminality up to from the racial prejudice. The atmosphere that was mingling around these ghettos was bad, rough, and unhealthy. Beside the ghettos, Blood Bank was also famous for its dangerous and brutal racial group, Seven Days in which Guitar was its spokesman. Seven Days' actions, as Milkman said, represented Guitar's intolerant, manipulative,

suspicious and short-tempered characteristics as well as the nature of his hatred.

A.2.1.6. No Mercy Hospital

This hospital was located in the South end of Not Doctor Street. The story behind this hospital's name was just like the street's name story. The real name of this hospital was 'Mercy Hospital'. However, since it was the only hospital that was built in the middle of a Black neighborhood, on the other hand, it did not allow any colored people to be treated inside it or, even, to stand on its steps, the people changed its name into 'No Mercy Hospital'. Therefore it was an efficient and witty device to present the strong discrimination attitude that had been practiced by the medical society and most White community. Moreover, the White doctors themselves did not function, as they should do. For example they did not inform the Black people in the city that the lake where they were used to swimming was spoiled and polluted. Consequently there were many Blacks who swam in it suffered from an ear infection. This fact was a convincing proof that showed the White government's ignorance on the Black's health welfare.

This hospital became one of the most important settings since on top of this hospital the main central focus of the story, that was 'flight', and the clue of Milkman's ancestor mystery, that was Song of Solomon were presented for the first time. Moreover, the major character was also born inside the hospital's ward and not on its steps.

On Wednesday, on top of No Mercy hospital, there was a man wearing blue wings. He was ready to fly from the place he stood to the other side of Michigan Lake. He was Mr. Smith. He was both an insurance agent and a member of the 'Seven Days' who because of his involvement in Seven Days, he had done much to insure an end of other people's life. He had planned this illogical flight before because he believed that he was able to fly. Flying was his old obsession. Moreover, by doing this, he hoped everybody would remember him. While he was preparing himself for his flight, the crowd had already gathered around 'No Mercy' hospital waiting for his leap. The movements of the crowd had a ritual quality. It looked like a ritual dance of death that accompanied a sacrifice in his blue wings on top of 'No Mercy' hospital. The color of the wings was contrasted with the chase of the rose petals which scattered on white snow. Before and up to the moment of Mr. Smith's fall, from the thickness of the crowd, a woman wrapped in an old quilt, whom later was recognized as Pilate, sang "O Sugarman done fly / O Sugarman done gone / Sugarman gone home ..." (6). Then, among the crowd, there appeared Lena, Corinthian, and Ruth, who was in her ninth month pregnancy. Ruth, who was there by accident, could not stand imagining what Mr. Smith was going to do. She became very nervous so that she was going to deliver her baby's birth. Because of the great pain, the basket of artificial rose petals that she carried fell down on the white snow. This scattered red rose petals might be interpreted as blood but it must not Mr. Smith's blood since there was no blood coming out of his dead body, he just looked like a big doll falling from the top of the hospital. So, it had to be birth blood since the next day, Ruth's baby was

born. It was described figuratively dead, cut off from knowledge of his past, which he would not learn until he grew to be an adult. Therefore the crowd, in this scene, acted as the witnesses to both the man's suicide and the baby's birth.

The suicidal flight, the baby's birth, and Pilate's Blues song described the closeness relation among 'death', 'birth', and the agony which appeared along with the death's and the birth's appearance. The relation of 'death', 'birth', and the Blues represented the idea of the novel. It suggested that every Black baby was born to die. It meant that there would be no future and no chance for the newly born Blacks to change the bad condition, which had made every Black looked figuratively dead like dolls, with a new promising condition where a stable and firm Black society could be developed. It was because they always sentenced for almost every violence, racial hatred, and other crimes that occurred in the society. Accordingly, Pilate said that birth was the most unnatural thing and death was the most natural thing in this world.

A.2.2. The South

In the second part of the novel, the story continues to move towards much more imaginary places, Danville and Shalimar. They are both more imaginary since they foregrounds Milkman's journey in his effort to find his 'fake dream of freedom', that is the 'unreal' gold, from his native Michigan to the world of his kinsman in Danville, Pennsylvania and in Shalimar. Moreover, the movement from the real to the imaginary

places can also be seen as a journey back to the early history of slavery in America.

The South was popular for its plantation, its rural and traditional way of life together with its strong racial problem. However this new environment was an effective remedy for Milkman who was mentally 'dying' because of his scattered lonely life in Michigan.

A.2.2.1. Danville

Milkman's first journey was straight to Danville, Pennsylvania. It was 240 miles northeast of Pittsburgh and was not accessible by any public transportation other than few of the uncomfortable Greyhound busses. It was a green, small, and cool mountainous country with a small number of inhabitants who were still touched by the modernity. Milkman still could find a Coca-Cola can and few of 'not-too-bad' cars for the sake of his spoil.

During his trip to Danville, Milkman tried to enjoy the scenery that was running pass trough his bus window but he got bored with the monotonous scenery of the nature. He saw some signs with the names of towns on them in the streets but he was unwilling to think further on what the importance of the meanings that laid behind those signs for him was.

In Danville, Milkman entered a smaller society of his distant relatives who were quite friendly. Then, because there was a small number of people, Milkman could intensely mingle with them. Milkman even met some of his father's and his aunt's old friends there, such as Rev. Cooper. They welcomed him warmly and enthusiastically. Rev.

Cooper with other elderly men of Danville circled around Milkman as though he was a long-lost kinsman who returned to his tribe. Danville people, especially the old aged people, had their warm and spontaneous hospitality that was similar to the one that Pilate had showed to him when he went to her house for the first time. Although they had never met Pilate and Macon for years, they still did not forget about and still concerned about them and their family story. However, because of his long-time ignorance of the other people's role and feelings, at the beginning. Milkman responded to their curiosities just merely with his inept attempts at reciprocating. But when Milkman heard the story about his grandfather's fame together with his famous fertile peach farm, which was called Lincoln Heaven, Milkman started to pay attention to them. But when he saw the springing envy in every Danville's old men's eye, while they were telling him about the farm and his grandfather. Milkman began to understand the background of his father's greediness on the land and his father's reason in pushing him to takeover his business. Milkman concluded that his father's attitude rooted in his dream to maintain the nobleness of his grandfather. Thus, Milkman learnt a contrary facts that his family name, that was Dead's family, was regarded in here.

Beside Danville, its people, and Lincoln Heaven, there were two other important settings. They were the Butlers' house and Hunter Cave. The Butlers' House was like a witch's house. Once, it had been a very beautiful 'palace like' house when a greedy merciless White family, that was the Butlers family which had killed Milkman's grandfather and deprived his Lincoln Heaven, still inhabited it. However, when Milkman visited this house, it had turned into a decayed house which was mostly

covered up by thick leaves and giant roots of the surrounding huge trees. There was also none of the Butlers left since the last Butler committed suicide because she could not stand with the running out of her family's money. From then on, it was inhabited by an almost two hundred years old lady who looked like a living dead body, and her wild Weimaraner dogs. This 'witch like' lady was called Circe. She and the Butlers' house symbolized the evil that lived in the heart of the cruel Butlers. Circe would let their hearts decayed as she let their house decayed, smelled stinky with her dog's dumps, and being ruined by the Weimaraner.

The second important place was the Hunter's Cave. It was a place where Macon pretended to kill an old White man who had a bundle of gold and who wanted to catch Macon and little Pilate for sale. It was located on the hill. To reach it, someone had to pass through a shallow creek, which was filled with lots of sharps slippery stones, and then through a small thick forest, which the trees' branches could torn someone's clothes and even could scar his skin. Macon Dead thought that Pilate must have buried the White man's gold inside this cave. Accordingly, Milkman went there to search the gold he had been dreaming about. On his way to the Hunter's Cave, the forest and the creek tortured him. They also made his feet sore and wounded, his gold watch gone, his clothes torn out. However he found nothing inside the cave except the bat's dirt. On that account, this Hunter's Cave represented Milkman's materialistic greediness and fake dream. Then the creek and the small forest were Milkman's traits that remained Milkman to leave his wealth behind and to be a humble person with a clear mind.

A.2.2.2. Shalimar

In this village Milkman saw a community that was different from his consumptive, indifferent, and suspicious community in Michigan. In Shalimar village, Milkman met a pure, isolated, traditional African community that looked contented with what they had got. Then since it was too remote from the influence of modernity that began to flourish throughout the country, a sign of progresses was almost inconspicuous in this village.

Woman is the best device to describe the society's difference between Michigan and Shalimar. In Michigan, women on the street never missed their purse, which they slung over their shoulders or pressed under their arm or dangled from their clenched fingers while in Shalimar, women carried nothing. They showed a vivid contrast between two communities. The first one was built based on the consumptive materialism while the second one was built based on prudence, camaraderie, and togetherness.

Women's hands were empty. No pocketbook, no change purse, no wallet, no keys, no small paper bag, no comb, no handkerchief. They carried nothing. (259)

Most of Shalimar inhabitants were farmers. Both men and women in Shalimar were hard working, self reliant, and productive people. Both of them worked hand in hand restlessly in their fields. They lived frugally and contentedly with what they had got from their fields, just like Pilate's way of life. Accordingly they must also be religious and faithful to God. Moreover they were pleasant, tolerant, considerate, respectful, and peaceful people. Therefore Milkman could feel the strong bound of

kinship, if he was among them. Thus in the midst of this loving and caring humble community, Milkman began to learn and to experience the real mutual cooperation and the real 'take and give' love that he never found before in Michigan.

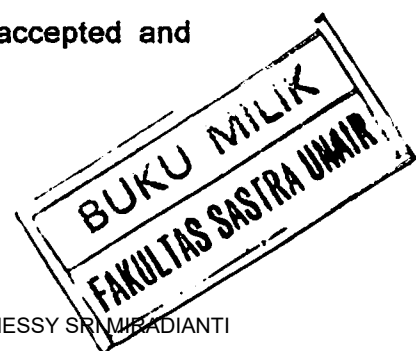
Besides the hospitality and the frugality of its people, there was another specific characteristic that differentiated this small remote village from the other common villages. It was because the whole places were named after a flying African man, Solomon or Shalimar, who had ever lived in this village during the slavery era. Everybody in the village believed in the legend of the flying Africans. They also believed that Solomon was one of them so that his life story was commemorated in a children folksong "Song of Solomon".

While Milkman was in Shalimar, he encountered two big traits. They were the Shalimar forest, which represented the natural force, and the Shalimar young people, which represented the people's force. Both of them were like an entrance gate that Milkman had to pass by before he was allowed to enter and to mingle with the humble Shalimar community. These traits functioned as a cleaner that purified Milkman's mind from the influence of the capitalism, the consumptive materialism, and the racial hatred that had been cultivated so firmly in Milkman's mind since he was a child in Michigan by both his father and Michigan society.

Besides those two traits above, there were two other significant places. They were Solomon's Leap and Ryna Gulch. Solomon's Leap was the name of the peak of a hill in Shalimar where Solomon was believed that he had leaped from it and flew back to Africa. Meanwhile Ryna Gulch was the name of a valley that usually would produce a sound like a

woman's cry if there was a strong wind passed it by. Solomon's Leap and Ryna's Gulch were a perfect combination in revealing the sorrow behind the slavery system. They were witty symbols that showed the husbands' desertion, the family scatter, and the pain of the deserted women, which were caused by the slavery.

According to the story, which contented in the traditional children folksong's lyrics, Solomon was Milkman's great-grandfather and Ryna was his beloved wife. Solomon was a slave who was collected from a flying African tribe in Africa. He was a marvelous manly man whose strength and peculiarity were physically shown in the number of his children. He had twenty-one sons who one of them was Jake, who was later known as Milkman's grandfather. One day Solomon could not stand longer with the white employers' bad treatment to the slaves, he went up a hill and leaped from it leaving his wife with his twenty sons behind. When he leaped, he brought his youngest son who was still a newly born baby. However while Solomon was flying in the air with his baby son in his leap, the baby fell down to the ground. Fortunately the baby was safe. It was due to he did not directly fall into the ground but the thick branches of the forest trees prevented it. At the same time there was a kind Indian woman called Heddy saw Solomon with the baby and also the accident. She saved the baby and tried to return it to his mother. However because of a deep grief, the baby's mother had lost her mind. Thus she decided to keep the baby. Then when the baby had grown up to be a man, he loved Heddy's daughter, Singing Byrd. Since their love was unaccepted and prohibited, he eloped with his lover.



Near the end of the novel, Milkman and Pilate climbed up this Solomon's Leap to bury Jake's remains and Pilate's brass box in which her name was folded. The brass box symbolized a firm place to save the cultural heritage and Solomon's Leap symbolized their native land that was Africa. At the end of the novel Pilate was shot by Guitar and Milkman preferred leaping to dying in shot. However, they went to the same place that was the peaceful place where their ancestor existed.

A.3. Plot Analysis

Plot in *Song of Solomon* is arranged in flashback since there are interruptions of the time flow to describe happenings, which has occurred years before the events now being narrated. Therefore the focus of story in *Song of Solomon* often shifts. This shifting occurs because characters or even the narrator refers to the past occurrences. This shifting is also the author's technique in introducing a story within story. Thus, by using this plot writing technique, the author successfully presents a complex, round, firm and integrated story.

Moreover, considering the structure of the story, there is important evidence that should be noticed. The beginning and the end of *Song of Solomon* present an almost similar occurrence, that is someone leaping from a certain place. However, the leap that occurs at the opening of *Song of Solomon*, is a suicidal leap because it is committed by a desperate, confused insurance agent, Mr. Smith. Besides as an insurance agent, Mr. Smith is also a member of a racial group, Seven Days. Mr. Smith leaps from the top of No Mercy Hospital to another side of a lake's

bank. On the other hand, the end of the novel is closed by Milkman's leap from Solomon's Leap. However, this second leap is an expression of reliance, relief, and freedom. Therefore, these leaps strengthen the idea of flight—or a sense of freedom—in the novel.

The focus of the writer's discussion in the plot analysis is not about the structure of the novel, but more on the conflicts that appear in *Song of Solomon*. The writer intends to focus her analysis on the conflicts since they are apparent in revealing the fact that Milkman runs into some psychological, sociological and cultural problem in order to obtain his self-identity and his freedom. Thus, this troubles will lead him into his decision—which represents the climax of *Song of Solomon*—that is to set on a journey for the 'fake' gold hunting.

Furthermore, in discussing the conflicts, the writer only analyzes the conflicts that are undergone by Milkman. These conflicts are very important since they help much in understanding the development of Milkman's self and his socialization process.

A.3.1. Milkman's Inner Conflicts

The inner conflict appeared soon after Milkman began to realize that the members of Dead's family ignored his existence. At that time, Milkman was four years old. Consequently, Milkman felt of being rejected by them. Moreover, Milkman also felt that his life was imprisoned in a big but a too quiet boring Dead's house that stiffened him. It was not only quiet, lifeless and boring house, but it was also terrifying and a dreary one for him. Sounds that were able to break up this quietness of the

house, was the boring courtesy murmur of his mother's friends while they were eating some sunshine cakes every afternoon and his father's shouts to all members of his family.

The quiet that suffused the doctor's house then, broken only by the murmur of the women eating sunshine cake, was only that: quiet. It was not peaceful, for it was preceded by and would soon be terminated by the presence of Macon Dead (10).

Milkman wanted to free himself from his parents' quarrel and his father's domination that he saw everyday. He was also longing to free himself from the awkward gesture and the anxious, frightened faces of his mother and of his sisters, because all of those things created the loneliness and quietness in his life. Therefore, the young Milkman, who supposedly got abundant of love, affection, and education on how to behave and norms, had to suffer from the unexpected condition in his family. The tension and loneliness raised the feeling of confusion, agony, regret on his fate, and the feeling of being rejected so that Milkman dreamed to fly. However, Milkman knew that only birds and airplanes could fly so that he envied them. This lack of wings had made him unhappy and grief because he thought that those wings were the only things that could free him from his house and all things inside it and he did not have them. It meant that he would never be able to escape. Thus it made him lost all interest in his self.

Mr. Smith's blue silk wings must have left their mark, because when the little boy discovered, at four, the same

thing Mr. Smith had learned earlier—that only birds and airplanes could fly—he lost all interest in himself. (9)

If he did manage to slip by his sisters and avoid their casual malice, he knelt in his room at the window sill and wondered again and again why he had to stay level on the ground. (10)

Milkman's feeling of being rejected and imprisoned evolved into the feeling of being 'different from' or being alienated from other people. As Milkman grew older, he began to think that his whole life was different from the normal people's life. However, he hated this peculiarity. First, it was caused by his weird and silly family name, *Dead*, and second, by his 'contains of humiliation sense' nick name, *Milkman*. Milkman hated both his names not only for its sounds but also for its meanings. Therefore he wondered why and how those names ought to be his. Then later, Milkman knew from his father's lamented story that his family name was derived from a reckless mistake that was made by a drunkard Yankee. This fact made Milkman got angry and hated the Whites.

He had always hated that name, all of it, and until he and Guitar became friends, he had hated his nickname too. (38)

One day when Milkman was twenty-two years old, he hit his father. He did it unintentionally after he saw his father beating his helpless, submissive mother several times. Then on that day, when his father was going to smash his wife's jaw, Milkman could not stand it. After he hit his father, in his heart, Milkman admitted that it was done not because he loved his mother, in contrary, he just did it instinctively as if to defeat his father's cruelty and mastery. Then although Milkman threatened his father not to touch his mother again, deep in his heart, there was a mixed and

contradiction feeling of relief, pain, shame and afraid. This feelings appeared because he both loved and feared his old man altogether.

There was the pain and shame of seeing his father crumple before any man—even himself. Sorrow in discovering that the pyramid was not a five-thousand year wonder of civilized world, ... He also felt glee. A snorting, horse galloping glee as old as desire. He had won something and lost something in the same instant. Infinite possibilities and enormous responsibilities stretched out before him, but he was not prepared to take advantage of the former, or accept the burden of the later. (68)

After a moment of silence, shock, and collision, Milkman realized that his action was his alone. Nobody appreciated what Milkman had done neither his mother nor his sisters. Even his father did not appreciate it either. His action was in vain because it either could not change anything or solve the existing problems between his parents or could prove that he loved his mother. Then, Milkman felt desperate and unwanted. He thought that he was the most stupid and reckless person in the world. These mix feelings made him drive away from his family.

Under the influence of the unpleasant feelings above, Macon urged Milkman to listen to a shameful story about his mother. He told him that his mother had slept with his grandfather's dead body. Although Macon Dead pretended that it was not his effort to make an excuse for hitting Ruth, these one-day-happenings had made Milkman's brain stiffened and made his throat choked so that he could not think, breath, and even feel anymore. Moreover Macon also told Milkman that his action ought to have

made him felt big but Macon added that he was not big enough unless he became a whole man who had to deal with the whole truth (70). Under this circumstance, Milkman was trapped in confusion. He never felt like this before when a stranger told about his story to him. It might be because the stranger's story had nothing to do with him. However his father's story was different since Milkman felt that he involved in it. Therefore, Milkman wondered what was true and what part of that truth which had something to do with him. He also kept questioning why his father revealed that story because it ought to be his alone. Milkman suspected that his father nasty story must be for reasoning his bad treatment to his wife.

Milkman went out of his house for a clear fresh air. Along his way, he kept thinking of his father's story and his action. Suddenly, Milkman gained his slight remembrance that his mother had nursed him until he was able to wear his own pants (four years old). This remembrance had made him anxious, upset, empty, regret. He turned to hate his life and neglected his own life. Then he also hated and suspected her mother. That was why Milkman often used his family name as a talisman against death.

Relating to his misnaming name, Milkman actually had already striven to reveal the whole truth about his family (family name, his name, his father's treatment) because through it, he could define his own identity. He needed justification for those weird names.

"Yeah I'll ask Pilate. Pilate knows. It is in that dumb-ass box hanging from her ear. Her own names and everybody else's.

Bet mine's there too. I'm gonna ask her what my names is.

(89)

Then the second, the problem of misnaming was margined by another problem that he had to proceed, that was his physical deformity. Milkman felt that his uneven legs were also another bad luck and barrier for him to live like other normal people. Although this deformity did not influence him so much, it had reduced his self-esteem to socialize with other people.

... Closer, in fact, to him than to his own father. Milkman feared his father, respected him, but knew, because of the leg, that he could never emulate him. So he differed from him as much as he dared. (63)

Milkman was longing for being loved and cared by his family and by the society. However, no one seemed ready to fulfil his need except Guitar, his pal, and Pilate, his aunt. Moreover, Milkman had to face the reality of past story about his birth that he was actually unwanted by his father. His father tried to kill him even before he was born. In contrast to the feeling of being unwanted, Milkman felt that other people such as his parents, sisters, his lover (Hagar) and peers burdened him with many problems. He perceived that he was their dump basket in which they rested their problems on him. It annoyed him much. However, he did not know how to solve their problem or to give what they wanted because he himself could not solve his problem and could not get what he wished. It was due to his lack of awareness, understanding and loving for other people and also his father's strong domination that surrounded him. Then under this feeling, Milkman thought that he had better to die rather than to try to stay alive in this 'life' game.

“...My family’s driving me crazy. Daddy wants me to be like him and hate my mother. My mother wants me to think like her and hate my father. Corinthians won’t speak to me; Lena wants me out. And Hagar wants me chained to her bed or dead. Everybody wants something from me, you know what I mean? Something they think they can’t get anywhere else. Something they think I got. I don’t know what it is—I meant what it is they really want?” (222)

Gradually his fear of and eagerness for death returned. Above all he wanted to escape what he knew,... (120)

As many young adults, Milkman underwent an identity crisis. That was the longing to search his freedom, freedom to express and being his own self apart from other people’s influence. Milkman suffered from monotony and lifeless life. He hated his life under the influence of his father because it made him like his father. However, other than the scattered worldly life that he had undergone in Michigan, he himself did not know what kind of life that he wanted.

His life was pointless, aimless, and it was true that he didn’t concern himself an awful lot about other people. (107)

“...everything worse than before, or maybe it’s the same as before. I don’t know. I just know that I want my life, my own life. I don’t want to be my old man’s office boy no more.” (221-223)

A.3.2. Milkman against the Society

Milkman's conflict against the society is due to many kinds of reasons. The society here is represented by his father, Macon Dead, his best friend, Guitar, and some Shalimar people. Actually Milkman's life is trapped in the midst of his disorganized family, racism peers and alienation. Therefore, in order to discuss each subjects objectively, the writer divide her analysis into three parts:

A.3.2.1. Milkman against his Family

Milkman was trapped between his parents' beliefs and the family disorganization. In this circumstance, Milkman had to stand alone receiving both of his father's and his mother's obsession on him. Milkman did not have any defendant from the other members of his family, that were his sisters, since they were not able to give any possible ways out for him. Moreover the conflicts that arose in the Dead's family were mostly derived from the misinterpretation which was originated from the lack of understanding and of love among the member of Dead's family.

Milkman's conflict with his mother, Ruth, originated from her husband's abandonment. It began long before God admitted Milkman's soul growing as a fetus inside Ruth's womb. At the night of Dr. Foster' death, Macon saw his wife sitting near his father-in-law's corpse and kissing his fingers. Then, under strong prejudice, Macon suspected that his wife had done a nasty thing because he knew that all this time, his wife loved, trusted, and respected his father much than him. Therefore he refused her. He even denied that his daughters were his. Consequently,

from the beginning of his appearance, Milkman was perceived merely as an object that was used to help Ruth in succeeding her obsession to gain her husband's love back and to ease her loneliness.

Her son had never been a person to her, a separate real person. He had always been a passion ... the son she bore was first off a wished-for bond between herself and Macon.

(131)

Later after the baby's arrival did not change the bad relationship with her husband, Ruth used it (Milkman) to fulfill her sexual passion by breast feeding it until he was four years old. It was how Macon Dead Jr. got his nickname, Milkman. Then, although Milkman could not close the break between herself and Macon, he was her single triumph.

When the baby was born, ... she regarded him as a beautiful toy, a respite, a distraction, a physical pleasure as she nursed him. (132)

As Milkman grew older, Ruth wanted to own him only for herself. Ruth used him as her weapon to confront her husband and by telling that Macon was lying when he told about the shameful happening with her father in bed, she wanted him to hate his father. Moreover, Ruth wanted Milkman to follow her belief that high education could raise somebody's status. Ruth herself had as little respect for her husband's work as Macon had for college graduates. That was why Ruth preferred Milkman to be a doctor like his grandfather so that he could easily get a good and respectable social position.

In other side, for his father, Milkman was merely a mistake and shame. Macon Dead was driven, under Pilate's spell bound that she had

given to Ruth, to Ruth's bed for four days. That was why he hated the unborn baby. He tried to kill him several times. But he did not manage it. Then Macon Dead tried to eliminate Milkman's name by turning his son as if he was an object to fulfill his self-destructive materialistic impulse.

When Milkman changed into a grown up, Macon tried to own him only for himself. He had tried it by cultivating the materialism belief to his only son. Once when Milkman was still a young child who was curious about many things, Macon advised him not to ask the reason behind all his commands because the most important thing for him to know was just learning to own things.

“the most important thing you'll ever need to know: Own things. And let the things you own own other things. Then you'll own yourselves and other people too.” (55)

Macon never let Milkman to continue his study to a higher education. To Macon Dead, college was time spent in idleness, far away from the business of life particularly since Milkman's presence was a real help to him in his office. Macon had taught Milkman about 'the business of life' since he was twelve years old. Therefore, Macon used Milkman as an object or a thing that he could use to make his works much easier or even Macon used Milkman to get something bigger, for example when he set Milkman to steal Pilate's heavy green sack which he thought that it was full of gold.

Macon Dead restricted all family members to make a close relation with other people. He disallowed Milkman to get in touch with people especially with Pilate. Here Macon tried to create respect and discipline in a wrong way since in doing so, Macon sacrificed Milkman's freedom and

time to make socialization with other people. Furthermore, Macon never gave Milkman a chance to live on his own feet. Macon always controlled Milkman's life and mind. He never let Milkman to think and establish his opinion or dream. Macon also discouraged every action that Milkman did because he always pretended that he knew every best thing he needed.

Macon never treated his son well. He hardly ever spoke in a nice way as father and son usually talked. Words that came out of his mouth when he spoke to him were usually spicy critics, anger, or lies. Nevertheless, he could not give a satisfying reason to his son when his son demanded an explanation on the nature of his contradictory decision. This lack made Milkman disappointed of his father. And later it grew into a much more distance feeling, disbelieve, and disrespect toward Macon.

A.3.2.2. Milkman against Guitar and his Seven Days

Although Milkman was Guitar's best friend and on the other hand Guitar referred him as "my man", Milkman had a different characteristic and view from Guitar. Guitar was the spokesman of Seven Days and he was the meanest man in it.

Milkman did not like Guitar's opinion related to his theory to balance the number of killing. Milkman disagreed with Guitar's random killing action. Milkman thought that it was unfair to kill the Whites who did not do something wrong only for taking a revenge for every unprosecuted Negro killing. Moreover relating to the way Guitar killed his victims, Milkman argued that those victims did not deserve to be treated inhumanly. Milkman also disagreed with Guitar's definition of love.

According to Guitar, love would appear when one could determine whose group he would die for. For him if he was a Negro, he must choose to fight or even to sacrifice his life for Negroes and not like Milkman who preferred living like the Whites, which was full of worldly and glamorous things and forgot the Negro's fate. Therefore, Guitar's definition of love was based on his personal deep hatred and envy.

"...And black women, they want your whole self. Love, they call it, and understanding. 'Why don't you understand me?' What they mean is, Don't love anything on earth except me. They say, 'Be responsible,' but what they mean is, Don't go anywhere where I ain't...They want your full attention. ...What good is a man's life if he can't even choose what to die for?

"...Loving Negroes. Now you say—"

"It is about love. What else but love? Can't I love what I criticize?" (222-223)

Besides disagreeing on Guitar's belief, Milkman also disagreed with the way Guitar judged people who he disliked in the term of his personal hatred and sense of revenge toward the Whites. What Guitar did to Pilate was one of the facts of his dislike. Although Guitar knew that Pilate was such a generous and kind lady who always acted wisely and fairly to everyone, regardless the skin color they had, he would refuse to admit it. It was due to his belief that there was no kindness and love for Negroes in this world. Thus, Milkman opposition with Guitar was clearly seen from their comment that both of them feared of one another.

"I'm scared for you man"

"That's funny. I'm scared for you too." (161)

At the end of the story Guitar disbelieved Milkman and ran after him. After years of being brothers and being a guide for Milkman, he wanted to kill him because he considered that Milkman had betrayed him by hiding the gold and because Milkman knew much about him and the Seven Days. Guitar needed that gold very much because he had to buy some TNT that he would like to use for exploding some White people's vital buildings. He had already tries to kill him twice. First, when Milkman was lying under the gum tree in the midst of the dark night in Shalimar's wood. Then second, during Jake's bones burial on the top of Solomon's Leap. So, after Guitar shot Pilate, he tried to kill Milkman too. He did not give any chances for Milkman. But Milkman preferred leaping from Solomon's Leap to death in shot.

A.3.2.3. Milkman against Shalimar People

Milkman's conflict with Shalimar people was only a temporary one. It was due to years of being ignored or being deserted without any guidance or lessons on norms and manners by both Milkman's family and the Michigan society. Consequently, Milkman became lack of knowledge and comprehension toward other people's custom, especially, in this case, the Shalimar people's custom. Thence, Milkman deserved to receive little resistance from a small part of Shalimar people since it was a part of his rites of passage towards awareness.

Because Milkman had not given up in searching for the gold yet, he immediately headed from Danville to Shalimar. At the beginning, Milkman

did not know where exactly Shalimar was. He just guessed where it was from his recollection of Pilate's story. On the way to Shalimar, his old car's engine stopped and it refused to get started again. It was stopping right in front of a general store in a small village, which was Shalimar, by chance. Therefore, Milkman left his car outside and he went into the store that was called Solomon's General Store. Since the car stopped suddenly in front of the store, the people in the store had already kept watching him. Then, when Milkman went into and asked for water, they had already notified his boast. After he drank his soda, Milkman had insulted some of young people's dignity unintentionally. First, Milkman gave an impolite comment on the Shalimar's women that the Shalimar people regarded as immodest and improper.

"Nice around here. Peaceful. Pretty women, too." (265)

Second, by his casual dismissal, Milkman improperly referred to the people in the store as "them" instead of 'us'. At that time he neither asked their names nor gave them his, but he only asked for information and help.

"You think maybe one of them could help with the car?" he asked Mr. Solomon. "Maybe get another belt somewhere?" (265)

Third, Milkman boasted in front of them, who were only farmers, that he afforded to buy another car easily.

"If they can't find one. Let me know right away. I may have to buy another car to get back home." (266)

Of course, those young people felt irritated. However, Milkman did not realize that he had just done something wrong to them. Milkman's

indifference manner showed that Milkman had no feelings, his eyes and ear were not largely opened to learn understanding other people and their different norms. Then, his fault and his boast fell into some physical traits. Some young men attacked him. Fortunately Milkman was not killed in that fight. Two women had saved his life by sending the young men apart from him. However he was still boasting so that some Shalimar elder people challenged him to go night hunting with them. They did it in order to check Milkman's guts and ability. And because of his high pride, Milkman accepted their challenge although deep in his heart, he was very nervous because he never touched a gun and went hunting.

That night hunting was the most difficult trial for Milkman because the Shalimar elder people left him alone in a dark and dense forest without any light on his hand. At the beginning he was not left. Calvin was with him. But since Milkman was not accustomed to the dark, was frightened and exhausted, and could not catch up on Calvin's fast pace, unintentionally Calvin left him in the forest which was full of wild animal and scary sound. However, from this hard experience, Milkman learnt about human limited strength and capacity that he could not count on in term of money. Then, he began to believe in God and His authority. Besides, Milkman confessed to God that he had made a mistake for all this time. Along with it, his awareness began to the emergence and Milkman became attentive to the subtle communication between man and animal. He rendered that animal's sound was not only a language, but also music. Therefore, this hard physical trial led him proceed closer to awareness and to self.

A.3.3. Milkman against Nature

The first prominent conflict between the nature and Milkman occurred in Danville, when he went to Hunter Cave to find the gold. The second conflict between Milkman and nature took place in the middle of Shalimar's wood.

After successfully leaving Circe's house alive, Milkman spent the remaining time, before he was fetched, going to Hunter Cave. Gold, which he deemed as being buried in the Hunter Cave, was his primary purpose heading to Danville. Because of his eagerness and greediness, Milkman did not think further. He just went directly towards the cave which direction had been pointed by the witch-like lady, Circe.

To reach the Hunter Cave, Milkman spent more time than he had predicted since the route to the Hunter Cave was not as easy and simple as Milkman had provisioned. He had to cross a shallow creek where there were lots of sharp stones in it and he had to pass a small, thick wood with its thick branches before he reached the hill where the cave was located. During his trek to the cave, the trees' branches torn his expensive suit, the stones in the creek sore his feet, the river water soaked his fine shoes, and his expensive gold watch was lost. Then, when he reached the cave, he found that the cave was empty. Nevertheless, tirelessly, he still hoped to find the gold. He crawled on his stomach inside the cave and molded with bats dirt. He even dug on some area in the cave for a while until the bats drove him away.

Shalimar' wood was also a natural enemy for Milkman. It was a dark and dense wood. The paths in this wood were not only full of big

roots but also slippery and sloping down. The moonlight could not go through the thickness of the leaves and the branches. This wood was also full of wild harmful animal. The sound that was produced by the wind that ran into the Ryna's Gulch was very thrilling. However, above all, actually the scariest thing that he found in this wood was when Milkman met Guitar but he did not see his face. Guitar just tried to kill him from his back by using a wire. He strangled him with that wire. Therefore, in short, in Shalimar's wood, Milkman's boast had to give up to the human natural limitation and nature.

B. The Influence of Michigan Society on Milkman's Conception of His Life.

Milkman's family and peers present Michigan society in this discussion. From Milkman's family, there are Milkman's father, Macon Dead, and his aunt, Pilate. Meanwhile Milkman's best friend, Guitar, represents peers.

Just like most Afro-American families in North America, Milkman's family was also uprooted from the culture that Afro-American families hold in South. Milkman's family was an example of the following generation of the Afro-American families that migrated from South to North after the Civil War in 1861. They migrated from South to North to get a better and well-paid job. However, this migration and its reason caused a bad effect to the Afro-American family. It scattered many of these migrated Afro-

American family members so that these Afro-American families which bound had already been weakened or even ruined by the slavery system, became disorganized because the children were abandoned by their fathers and left alone by their mothers. In short, there was no one cared about the Afro-American children and their future because their parents let them grew without love, affection, and guidance. So no one taught them the Afro-American culture that was useful to make them proud of themselves, the norms and custom that were useful to make them behave mannerly and to live in a good habit.

In his four years old, Milkman realized that his life was dull, monotonous, dreary, and lonely. It was true that he lived in the biggest house in an outstanding neighborhood in Michigan. It could not be denied that he was the only son of a prosperous Black property owner as well as the grandson of the late famous Black doctor but he never felt a piece of happiness and love because he felt an unbearable loneliness. To develop a healthy self, children must get love, care, and affection from their family, especially from their parents. Unfortunately Milkman did not get all of them. Milkman found no one realized how badly he needed it. His parents and his sisters missed Milkman's cry to be loved because they were busy with their own business. Ruth and his sisters were busy with their rose petals making and Macon Dead was busy with loans, bills, rents, bank people and his property. Therefore Milkman felt trapped in a huge emptiness. Then because he could not escape from it and because he did not know how to overcome it, Milkman turned to be such a lifeless boy that was not interested in his life.



Most boys need their fathers to guide them. However Milkman's father was such a mean, narrow minded, stern and greedy person who built his respect through both his verbal abuse, such as strong critics and command, and physical abuse toward the whole members of his family, especially to his wife. No one dared against his sentence. No one dared to criticize or to remind him. He never loved anyone or anything except himself, his social status, and money. Accordingly, Macon Dead never truthfully loved his son and he even had hated him since he had not been born. Besides, Macon hated his wife. Macon considered him not more than as a thing that he must possess for raising his manly proud and for continuing his business. In doing so, he tried as hard as possible to separate Milkman from her mother so that Milkman could not feel Ruth's love. In short, although Macon Dead succeeded in his business, he was not a right and wise person to guide Milkman in finding his self.

Milkman's parents' marriage and relationship did not run well. Although it had been so lovely, it had turned into a nightmare because Macon became more ambitious on his work than on love. Thus his abandoned young wife, Ruth, could not stand with the alienation of her husband's conjugation. She tried to ease it by breast feeding her baby, Milkman, until he was too old to drink from her breast—four years old.

At his four years old, Milkman was still an obedient and naive child. Twice a day his mother called him into his grandfather's secret room, which was called *the study*, for milking. Then if it was not because of Freddie the Janitor who found them in that room by surprise, Ruth would not stop this breast-feeding practice. It was how Milkman became more popular called Milkman to Macon Dead Jr. or Junior. This incident

saddened Ruth because beside she was ashamed, she also regretted that she would lost her game that had made her life a iittle bearable. Therefore, she drove away from her son and relied herself on her past memories by regularly visiting her father's tomb. That was why Milkman never felt Ruth's motherhood love that he dreamt and needed.

Macon Dead was over possessive to Milkman. Macon disallowed Milkman to build a too close relation with Ruth and anybody outside his family, especially persons he did not like. This act was one of Macon's efforts to alienate his son from his surrounding society. But as hard as Macon had tried, in reality, he would not be able to stop Milkman from mingling with other people outside his family because along with the time changing, Milkman had to grow up.

Considering Milkman's age, that had already reached twelve years old, finally Macon reluctantly sent Milkman to school. This school had made Milkman desperate since his father wanted him looked different from any other students. He urged Milkman to wear a nice suit to school while all other students wore their ordinary clothes. Thus, instead of being respected by his school friends, Milkman became a center of their mocking. Therefore, in this school, Milkman had no friend and he was still as lonely as usual. But at least Milkman could feel a little relief because only when he was at school, he could have a chance to feel a moment of freedom from his family and his house.

Afterward, in the middle of his loneliness at his school, Milkman met an older naughty poor Black boy called Guitar. Since no one would like to make friend with him, his acquaintance with Guitar had made Milkman's life lighter than before. In his innocence, Milkman saw Guitar

as an enjoyable friend on whom he could depend on. Guiar always let him saw and experienced something new. Together with Guitar Milkman became a naughty boy who liked to run away from school. Then one day, because of their curiosity, Milkman and Guitar dropped by on Pilate's house. Since Milkman was still a pure, innocent and uncultured boy whose father never taught him how to behave, he addressed Pilate awkwardly with a simple informal greeting of Hi. Pilate was angry to it. She told him that he was the dumbest and the most impolite Negro she had ever known. Although Pilate made him shame of himself, it was the first time in his life Milkman felt happy and cared. In front of this beautiful, strong and confident woman, he felt as if he was a grown up and regarded. Pilate treated him equally like the other bigger children such as Guitar and Hagar. It made him proud of himself so that he had self-confidence in entering their interesting conversation. It was for the first time, there was somebody who told him a story. A kind of story that children liked and curious. A story that made him puzzled as well as interested. That was a story about his grand father and his father. This first impression on Pilate had always in his mind since he was so impressed by her wise and warm treatment. Milkman knew that after seeing the brass-box that was dangling from Pilate's ear, no one on earth could separate him from her, not even his father.

It seemed that everything new and interesting set from Pilate 'wine' house. In his twelve years old, Milkman found his first 'green' love with Pilate's grand-daughter, Hagar, who was as old as Guitar, that was about seventeen years old. This love feeling had marked Milkman's puberty. Unfortunately his father discovered his secret of going to the wine house.

It was all ruin his fun of secrecy and defiance. His father disallowed him to go and to get acquaintance with her. However, after knowing how it was like to have a grown up conversation, Milkman demanded his father to give him some satisfying explanation on this disallowance because in his opinion, Pilate was a nice harmless person. Nevertheless, Macon could not give him a reason since there was no appropriate explanation to describe his over suspicion and annoyance on his sister. Instead satisfying his son's curiosity, Macon told him about his proud of being working together in his father's side. Macon also told his son what was good for him for his future and taught about the materialism. He said that he must own things and then used them for owning other thing and even the self. Therefore, Milkman left his father with the unsatisfied feeling.

In his twelve years old, Macon introduced Milkman what he called the business life. Milkman had to work in his father's office as an office boy. His job was to collect the money from the renter at the Southside ghettos. Doing his job did not annoy him although the renter liked to tease him. It was because it gave him a chance and time to visit and to mingle with Guitar's surrounding society. Once again Guitar introduced him with another life in the other side of Michigan, that was the harsh and brutal life of street gangster in Blood Bank region. One day when Guitar brought Milkman to Feather's pool hall (one of the biggest racial group place), its captain, Feather, did not allow Milkman to enter his region with a reason that he was the son of Macon Dead. From it Milkman knew for the first time that his father's name was hated or sometimes was respected by his renter and the community in the Southside region. Although it was not his fault to be his son, this fact started to mingle around his mind. Finally they

left the Feather's pool hall and Guitar asked him to meet some men in the Southside barbershop. From this barbershop where Black men usually gathered to listen to new information on a new Negro killing from the radio and discussed about it, Milkman became aware of Black hatred toward the White people and also aware of the White racial prejudice. This news had made him thinking that Black man's life and also his life was treated in awful, injustice and unequal condition. In this barbershop too, Milkman met someone whose name was Railroad Tommy. He warned them on many disadvantages of being colored person. The things that he mentioned quite discouraged Milkman as member of Black community to define his future because it seemed that Railroad Tommy wanted to assert that Black had no future.

By the time he was fourteen, Milkman grew to be an adolescent Black who began to idolize a great person. Milkman idolized his father since Milkman thought that Macon Dead was the richest and the most successful Black businessman. Then, due to it, Milkman wanted to precede his father or at least to be an equal person as his father. As his father's employee, Milkman did try to do the work the way Macon wanted it done. However, he pessimistically looked at his self. He blamed on his legs' deformity. He thought that only because of his uneven legs, he could not be equal and could not have a nice relationship with his father.

In his seventeen years old, Milkman underwent his first sexual experience with Hagar. This first experience was really nice and new to him. He went openly with Hagar. Pilate and Reba could not stop them since they knew that Hagar was a spoil frail girl who could no live without her family, her lover and the society that were willing to give her lots of

love and care. So, although they knew that it was against the rule, they did not do anything. They preferred giving her too much understanding and freedom for Hagar to seeing her desperate.

Milkman's relationship with Guitar became more intimate since it had run for nine years. Milkman had already been in his early twenties. However, something different and strange had driven them to the wrong direction. From his relationship with Guitar, Milkman got acquaintance with cigarettes, alcohol, sex, and bars. His life also grew more awfully. In his twenty-one years old, Milkman started to know other girls and had sex with some of them. Milkman also started to drink alcohol. Meanwhile Guitar was getting interested more on politics that Milkman did not understand and did not want to get involved in. The only things that he knew were that he started to get bored with Hagar, because he knew that he was the most adored dude in his town, to get bored with his parents' barrenness and to get bored with their unsolved problem that burdened his mind. So, after four years staying with Hagar, on a Christmas day, Milkman gave her a sum of money and a 'thank-you' card with his signature in it, telling that he broke up their relationship. Milkman was such an irresponsible person since he meanly wrote such torturing words to a girl that loved him very much. It was due to the fact that he was not ready to marry her. Besides, Milkman had changed to be a person who had gone wrong.

When Milkman was twenty-two and since he had been sleeping for six years, some of them with the same woman, he had begun to see his mother as a frail helpless woman. However, Corinthians knew that by using her mother's helplessness, Ruth was able to bring her husband to

his limited point that made Macon raged. One day, Milkman was listening to her mother who was talking honestly about her silliness in a Catholic wedding party. Milkman's sisters were interested in following their mother's story while Milkman was only half-noticing. Suddenly Macon Dead got angry because he felt humiliated in having such silly wife who was proud of her silly fault. Then, Macon started hitting his mother's jaw. Without knowing where the power came from, all of sudden, Milkman yanked him by the back of his coat collar and knocked him into the radiator. Milkman also warned him not to hit his mother again or he would kill him. Actually, it was a part of his youth spirit that drew Milkman to such an aggressive action. Because he saw poor and insulting behavior of his father, Milkman took that action. Therefore, he could not rest his heart after he saw his father crawling and bleeding, he felt guilty for it. But he also felt satisfied. On the other hand, Macon had come to believe that after years of creating respect and fear wherever he put his foot down and after years of being the tallest man in every gathering, he was impregnable. Hence, his sisters and Ruth seemed to displease and to disagree with what he had done.

Feeling uneasy and worry to lose his only son, Macon Dead ran after him to his son's bedroom to explain why he treated his mother badly. Actually Milkman did not want to go deeper into his parents' problem, because he himself had his own problem on searching of his self. However, like or not, Milkman had to hear his father. His father told him a surprising disgusting story about his mother. This story made Milkman felt uneasy. He could not decide whether his father told him the truth or not. In his confusion, there was a slight of remembrance on his childhood. He

vaguely saw himself in his mother's lap, and he was too big enough to drink milk from a glass, but he was drinking the tasteless boring milk that was coming out of her breast. Then, he also heard someone laughing at them and calling his name, Milkman. This remembrance added his first confusion so that he hated his father for telling him this disturbing story and hated his mother for doing that embarrassing thing. After this happening, Milkman turned to be an ignorant, poor listener, and selfish person. He almost alienated himself from society. He preferred to spend his time in parties or at bars with women and alcohol.

Milkman thought that his whole family was the only bunch of crazies in Michigan but later he knew that his best friend was going to lose his mind too. Once Guitar was a person who was always ready to help and whose clarity never failed him. Guitar always gave wise advises which Milkman always followed. However, after Guitar was getting interested in politics and joined the Seven Days, Milkman often fell into some intricate debate with him. Guitar warned Milkman to stay away from his business because Guitar knew that they were different persons who could not always think the same way about things. But Milkman refused it because he hoped that he could change Guitar. Milkman would like Guitar to change his life with the worldly life that he offered. He disagreed to what Guitar had done, that was killing the Whites randomly and inhumanly. Milkman also disagreed to the Life that Guitar had chosen. It was a lonely life who devoted only for loving Negroes and for killing. However, Guitar was right partly that although his life was going to the wrong direction, at least he still had an aim in his life. Not like Milkman's life that was pointless and aimless.

In his life Milkman always questioned about his self, his name, and his future. Desperately Milkman saw his life meaningless. Milkman felt like a garbage pail for the actions and hatred of other people. He himself did nothing since he was a coward. He had never acted independently except when he hit his father. Then, he became a person who did not care whether he wanted to live or to die. Therefore he let Hagar ran after him every month to kill him. But despite the fact that Hagar almost succeeded to kill him, he knew for sure that she did not have a heart to kill him.

When he was thirty-one years old, Milkman desperately wanted to free himself from his father, his whole family, and the Michigan society. Everything Milkman did at home was met with quiet understanding from his mother and his sisters or indifference and criticism from his father. Moreover, Milkman wanted to escape from all flapping nightmares which drawn him into a black hole. Thus if he could not end it in death, he would like to stand up on his own feet for setting his own life. However because Milkman had always been under Macon Dead's control for these thirty years, Milkman could not imagine or design other kind of life for his future except the life that he had undergone.

C. The Motif of Milkman's Journey

When Milkman's tension was going high and finally it reached its peak, he could not decline his desire to find his self anymore although his father tried to block out his intention through various kind of persuasions. Milkman told Macon that he had to find out who he was so that he would

be able to define his future. To gain it, accordingly, he had to stay away from his family, especially his father, which was burdened by many problems, and the Michigan people. But Milkman did not know how he could run away from his home since he had not been ready materially and mentally to set up his life yet. Then, suddenly there was a gold story from his father's version and it became an immediate idea and the only choice that Milkman had to gain his freedom. Milkman thought that by owning the gold he could easily step outside his house without owing to anybody and without worrying anybody.

The gold story was revealed after Milkman told Macon by accident about the heavy green bundle hanging from the ceiling in Pilate's house. Milkman's greedy father suspected that this bundle filled with the White man's gold that he had been searching. Then, Macon urged Milkman to steal it from Pilate. At first, Milkman refused his father's crazy idea because he thought that it was unfair for Pilate who was his only sister. However, Macon Dead kept persuading Milkman by telling the story about the nature of the gold. Macon Dead lied about Pilate. He even sentenced her as a 'snake'. Nevertheless Milkman was a grown up now so that more or less he had already tried to use his brain. Thus, he was not the one who directly grasped anybody's story as a real truth, especially if the one who told the story was his father. Macon Dead's bad call for Pilate, for example, was of course not true. That was why Milkman laughed at him.

The reasons behind why Milkman changed his mind from refusing to steal Pilate's bundle were his desire to set his own life and the gold itself. From this gold, Milkman saw a possibility that his dream to build his own life could come into a reality. Fortunately Milkman was dreaming

about life that was not too different from the life that he had undergone now. Moreover he also wanted to be like his father, the one who had crew and gave command.

Because Milkman was a coward, he told his best friend about this story. Unexpectedly Guitar directly agreed to Milkman's idea. Usually he refused Milkman's offer which had to do with Macon Dead's business. Beyond Milkman's knowledge, actually behind his acceptance, from the gold, Guitar had a plan to buy some TNT for a terrible and inhumanly action—that was to blow down a White people's church. Milkman felt suspicious that there was something fierce had been growing up in his best friend's heart. He tried to guess what it was but he failed. Milkman never found Guitar's hidden reason.

After being planned and set up neatly, Guitar and Milkman unsuccessfully took Pilate's bundle home. This robbery turned into a humiliation because when they carried it on the street, the White policemen caught them. Moreover when they opened the bundle, there was no gold in it but human bones and rocks. Both Guitar and Milkman knew that the White policemen were always suspicious on Blacks so that it made them easily put the Blacks in jail for many kinds of crimes which they might not do. Milkman's father who tried to offer some amount of money to the police officer was failed to release them. Then, fortunately, Pilate who had already knew from the beginning that they stole her bundle released them successfully. She released them through her convincing acting in which she moaned and told that it was her husband's remains that she kept in her house because she had no money for his burial. Milkman felt that his pride as a Black man was very humiliated by

Pilate's act. Guitar, even, felt more humiliated than Milkman. Guitar who had already disliked Pilate because she was always right became to hate her. Besides feeling humiliated, Milkman felt shame of his stupidity of not believing himself that the poor Pilate actually had and kept nothing worth in her house. So, instead of pleading his guilt, Milkman set himself heading to Danville where his father told him that the gold might be still hidden there.

D. The Influence of Danville and Shalimar Society on Milkman's Life

Before he came to a small town called Danville, Milkman felt awkward. It was because Milkman had never been out or too far from his hometown, family, and friend for thirty-one years. However, Milkman kept on his decision that he wanted to look for this gold alone. Fortunately, people in Danville were such welcomed ones. They were kind, openhearted, and helpful. Their spontaneity and hospitality made Milkman felt released and calm. Milkman had felt a similar kind of hospitality that the Danville people gave when he visited Pilate's house for the first time and every time after it. Moreover, Milkman was surprised when Rev. Cooper said that he knew his family. Hearing this from a stranger had made Milkman for the first time in his life proud of his family name because for all this time, he had been worry if his father's name would scare the one who heard it. However, Milkman found another fact in Danville that one had to be proud of his name because by name, we could be known.

Milkman met many people in Danville. Most of them were old people who knew his father and Pilate. They loved talking with Milkman and listening to his story about Macon and Pilate after they left Danville. Milkman bragged his family in front of these peoples. He said that Macon Dead was a successful businessman and an affluent property owner in Michigan right now. They were amused and happy when they heard that news. They also told him about how great his grandfather was. They envied of his strength and his fertile land and they were sorry for his life. They also said that they concerned about Jake's children's safety.

Listening to this kinship story, Milkman began to understand his father's nature of reason for owning many properties. Moreover from the story of his great-grandfather, Milkman became more interested in searching the gold, that was the thing that he believed would effectively release him from his father's phanion and would help him to set his own life that he committed it should be more than his father's. Thus, socializing with the Danville kind people in a cool small fresh place like Danville, Milkman began to open up his eyes and to listen to their stories. Actually it was the same story which his father and Pilate also used to tell him, but he never listened to it. But now there was an intimate feeling in his heart aroused along with the story of his grand-parents and their family. He felt the real presence of the story.

In Danville, Milkman met Circe in the Butlers' house and he went to Hunter's Cave. Both of those places served as Milkman's traits in his rites of passage. Circe was a witch like lady who always came to his nightmare when he was a child. At the beginning, Milkman was afraid of her since

she was a nearly two hundred years old woman whose appearance was so pale and frightening and who was living in a haunted house with the wild hound-like dogs. She was the witness of the time that had gone by. She was the witness of the dreary time when her masters, the Butlers, killed Milkman's grandfather, when the greedy Butlers took over his land, and when Macon and Pilate had no place to hide after his father dead. She was also the one who knew that the remains in Pilate's green bundle was not the White man's bones but it was her own father's. She knew it because soon after Pilate and Macon ran away from the attic of the Butler's house, the Butlers found Milkman's grandfather's body floating in the river and then they took it and dumped it in the Hunter cave. She was also the one who knew who Pilate was from the moment she was born because she was her mother's midwife, until the moment she pierced the brash-box with Pilate's folded name in it which she made. She was also the one who informed that Milkman's grandfather's name was Jake. She was grateful to Milkman who could behave himself by pretending not the whole of Circe's place did not stink and who would like to see her and tell her everything about Macon and Pilate. But above all information that Milkman got from her, Circe taught Milkman a lesson on how to get the happy life. From this lesson Milkman got that one must work hard to gain happiness and to life, but of course it must be done in a right and fair way. If money is the only aim, one can do anything to have it but money is nothing since it can run out as fast as the eyes blink.

After Milkman left Circe's house, he went to Hunter Cave. It was not an easy job to reach it since Milkman had to pass through many barriers and trial that was in the form of physical trait. This trial functioned

as a cleaner of the influence of the way of life that Milkman underwent during he was in Michigan. Then, when he reached the cave, he found nothing except the bat's dirt.

Danville was the first gate that Milkman had to pass through before he arrived at Shalimar village. In Danville, Milkman still met many people who were helpful, kind and respect him and he also could enjoy a bit of modernity. In contrary, the condition in Shalimar was more remote and humble whose people was alien to Milkman. In Shalimar Milkman went into a smaller society in which there was almost no progress. In this village, the people did not need money or saved their money in banks. Money for them was a mere device for buying something they needed, but it was not for owning one's freedom or even one's self.

In Shalimar Milkman had to undergo other trials, which was directly connected to people and also nature. So, after Milkman physically changed in Danville and after his eyes and ears were opened, in Shalimar Milkman's heart had to be opened for a self-contemplation. Contemplation must be done in a quiet place so that one could think clearly without someone who knew him bothered him. Therefore Shalimar was the best place for Milkman to contemplate.

The trials that Milkman met were two, first when Milkman got into a fight with Shalimar young men, and the second when the Shalimar elder men left Milkman alone in the middle of wild and frightening Shalimar wood. These trials served as a guide for Milkman to find the self and the awareness, which finally were useful to solve all his problems and to reveal the mystery of Milkman's family.

E. The Achievement of Milkman's Self-Identity and Freedom

Song of Solomon was a traditional Negro folk song that was sung in Blues and most of its lyrics told about agonies. Blues music clearly linked to the element of African tradition that combined the story telling with singing. Therefore, the dominant compelling image in *Song of Solomon* was that of the men who "fly away, and leave their women to sing the blues". This image was real because in the history of Black people, husbands, wives, children and their relatives were scattered during slavery and migration era. Thus, it made children lost their parents' name and tradition. They were uprooted from their culture and grew up alone without guidance. Consequently, Black people way of life tends to be decayed since if young generation is not preserved, Black cultural heritage will lose forever.

The children's dance that followed the Song of Solomon looked like a kind of "ring-around-the-rosy" when Milkman first entered Shalimar. It was an obvious example of how the community, represented by its children, worked as a transmitter of a legend. The children formed a circle and there was a boy in the middle whose arms outstretched and then turned around like an airplane, while the other sang some meaningless rhyme:

Jay the only son of Solomon

Come boobla yalla, come booba tambe

Whirl about and touch the sun

Come bcoba yalle, come booba tambee ... (264)

The shouting of nonsense words, the twirling, and the last line of "Twenty-one children the last one Jay!" certainly echoed the theme of flying and its

connection with death. And there was a direct connection between song and dance, which was reminiscent of Mr. Smith's attempt to fly from the top of No Mercy hospital, as well as a foreshadow of Milkman's from the top of Solomon's Leap.

The children's dance of the Song of Solomon was a key to Milkman's discovery of his link with Jay or Jake, his grandfather, the son of Solomon, whose flight back to Africa was commemorated in the song. Milkman was able to puzzle this children's game out only because he had found his awareness during the hunt in Shalimar wood and after he found a real love with Sweet (a beautiful Shalimar girl who taught Milkman the purest and the 'take-and-give' love that Milkman had never felt before).

Milkman noticed that everybody and everything in Shalimar was named Solomon, even the children sang "Solomon don't leave me" (302) instead of "Sugarman" that he used to hear when Pilate sang it. The name of this small town, Shalimar, which Shalimar people pronounced Shalleemone, sounded like Solomon. Then, after Milkman heard the next lyric that was "Jay the only son of Solomon" (302), suddenly Milkman began to wonder if Jay in the song referred to his grandfather's name, Jake, the one who he was looking for. He suspected that Jay was the same person as Jake who lived in Shalimar as did his wife, Sing. Then, the next lines of the song that was "Black Lady fell down on the ground/Threw her body all around/Solomon 'n' Reiner Belali Shalut" (302) made Milkman thinking about Solomon Leap and Ryna's Gulch where there was an echo that the folks said that it was Ryna's cry. Because of his curiosity, Milkman wrote down this children song and tried to memorize it. And when he heard they sang "Heddy took him to a red

man's house", Milkman almost shouted because he knew that Heddy was Susan Byrd's grandmother on his father's side and therefore Sing's mother too and "the red house" must be a reference to the Byrds as Indians. So, Milkman had four people that he could recognize in the song. They were Solomon, Jake, Ryna and Heddy. All of which seemed to put Jake and Sing together in Shalimar just as Circe said to him. Then after getting some new information about Heddy and her children from Susan Byrd, an Indian woman who knew much about Shalimar and who was also Milkman's relative, Milkman concluded that Jake's father was Solomon who flew away to Africa leaving all people behind, including his wife, Ryna. Therefore after hearing that his great-grandfather could fly, Milkman was very happy and he was proud of himself because he was a descendant of a great man. This fact grew his self-confidence and his self-respect. And he was no longer a coward person but a brave one who was ready to approach the future.

After knowing the truth Milkman returned home. During his journey home, Milkman noticed the signs on the roads and the names written on it. If before he revealed the truth, Milkman did not pay any attention to those signs then after his journey into his self, he noticed it and wondered that it might content somebody else's history. Therefore, Milkman understood that one's name was really important because it was the thing that you could hold on in the life.

At the end, Milkman gained his awareness and self. Therefore he returned in an empty hand but with a full wise heart. His self had made him confidence so that he was brave enough to accept who he was and was ready to set a totally different but better life from what he had dreamt

so long. He was ready to gain the future that was full of peace and happiness. Although his awareness did not change the condition of his father, Milkman now could see all people and his whole family in a more tolerate way. He paid respect on them. Milkman also felt guilty and sorry for Hagar. There was nothing that Milkman could not do to bring her alive again. However, he took the responsibility of what he had done to her by his keeping of Hagar's hair.

Finally, Milkman took Pilate to Shalimar to bury Jake's remain. Pilate was no longer angry with Milkman. She felt as relief and calm as Milkman did since Milkman helped her in finding her people and in explaining what his father actually wanted to say to her every time his ghost visited her. Because Milkman felt so relief, he was not afraid of anything, even of the death. Thus, when Guitar pointed his gun to him, he preferred leaping to dying in the hand of an uncivilized person.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION