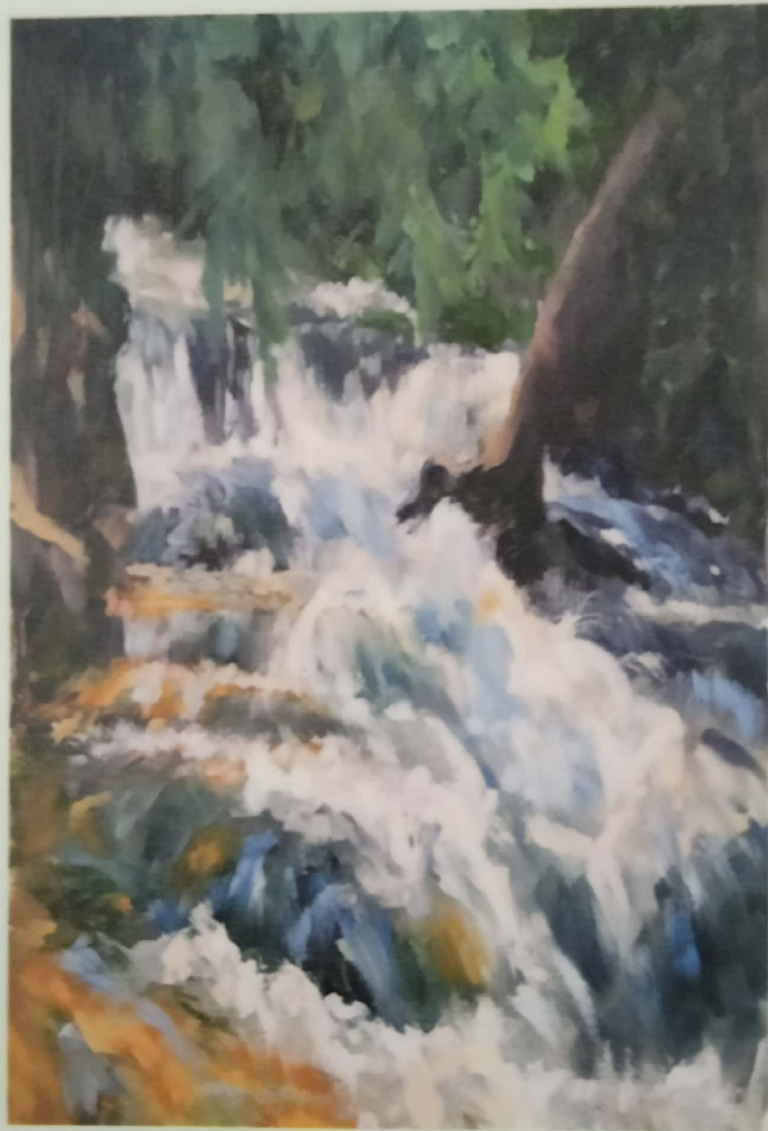


ECHOING CASCADES

GOMEZ SOPHIA
U. ANAMICA



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
Jayaraj Annapackiam College for Women
(Autonomous)
Periyakulam, Tamilnadu, India

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SANGUINITY AND FORTITUDE IN THE POEMS OF LANGSTON HUGES: AN OVERVIEW

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*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence
of things not seen.*

Hebrews 11.1

Sanguinity and Fortitude are the temper of 'the devout', amidst trials and tribulations. Moses marshalled the people from Egypt and traversed the red sea with Fortitude, courage in adversity, without the gizmos of navigation. Abraham and Sarah were able to bear 'the fruit of the womb' as 'reward' for their Sanguinity, extremely optimistic in an apparently bad situation of their life. A herdsman Joseph, transcended to the level of a ruler trounced the negligence of brotherhood with sanguinity and bore imprisonment with Fortitude.

The fragrance of crushed spirits would be strong and it penetrates into the core. The works of art of Harlem Renaissance are the outcome of spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings like mental trauma, personal testimony and issues of identity. The enslaved African-Americans used pen as their mightier weapon, their terminology take direct flight through the bones of the whites. The writers of Harlem guard their tradition through individual talents. The descendants of Harlem Renaissance are reaping the harvest of forfeited souls. Sanguinity and Fortitude brings Harlem Renaissance and its subjects to the fore and relocates their dreams from Utopia to veracity. Amid the inestimable writings the predominant would be Langston Hughes, the best celebrated leader of the "New Negro Movement" who claims Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Carl Sandburg, and Walt Whitman as His primary influences, is particularly known for his insightful, colourful portrayals of black life in America. 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity' are the indomitable persona of his poems like *Let America be America*, *Democracy*, *Dreams*, *I Dream a World*, and *I, Too*. Holding fast to dreams he reconstructs the broken wings and ploughs the barren fields of life through the eyes of faith. Hughes would be one of the pioneers who sowed the seeds of liberty in the hearts of his race. In a

Echoing Cascades

Nutshell Langston Hughes inscriptions soothes the beleaguered souls with a race of Hope.

Sanguinity and fortitude in the poems of langston hughes: an overview.

Many of Langston Hughes' poems invoke the theme of the American dream. He portrays the glories of liberty and equality as out of reach for these populations, depicting individuals who are trapped under the fist of prejudice, oppression and poverty. However, Hughes does often end his poems on a somewhat hopeful note, revealing his belief that African American will one day be free to pursue their dreams.

Sanguinity and fortitude are the major concept of Hughes writings. He fights for freedom which is a strong seed should be planted in a great need. He is of the opinion that "It is Better to wear out than to rust out". Like Tennyson's Ulysses he hates being idle, he says in his poem 'Democracy' that

I tire so of hearing people say,
Let things take their course.
Tomorrow is another day
I do not need my freedom when I'm dead.
I cannot live on tomorrow's bread. (10-14)

Through his writings he rejuvenates the depressed souls, instills the posterity and ignites the spark of universal brotherhood. As far as he is concerned his dreams of freedom come true only when there is unity. He imparts the spirit of optimism to his race and organizes them together that 'the mind seeks a way to overcome' the obstacles, when 'a community of hands to help'.

He dreams a world where man never scorns another man, freed from avarice and greed which saps the soul. He wishes to adorn the paths of the earth with peace. He seems to be an adherer of Jesus' statement that "love your neighbour as thyself" through which divine harmony be established.

Any reader of Langston would wonder at his sanguinity even at the time of calamity. In one of his poems 'I, Too, he portrays the utter discrimination of whites who never allows the black to dine at the table, instead they send them to the kitchen. This poem becomes an inspiration for Martin Luther King's "I Have a dream". In 'I Too' Langston proclaims a day when he could come to the table and "besides. They'll see how beautiful I am. And be ashamed. "Like Hughes, Martin Luther King also waits for a day of equality. Unlike other revolutionists, Langston hopes for a day of tomorrow without non-violence.

The title of the paper would be justified when one reads the poem of Langston 'Let America be America Again'. Every country encounters mutiny when there is tyranny. Langston as a representative of black slavery propagates the fortitude of liberty. He hates 'false patriotic wreath, because equality is in the air we breathe'. He chides the society which fooled and pushed apart the black.

I am the farmer, bondsman to the soil.

I am the worker sold to the machine.

I am the Negro, servant to you all. (31-33)

Even under the crushed situation he concludes his poem with a note of hope that

We, the people, must redeem (82-86)

The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.

The mountains and the endless plain—

All, all the stretch of these great green states—

And make America again!

Langston Hughes poems seemed to be the personification of Kalama's quote that 'Dream, Dream, Dream. Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action'. His thoughts are common to the readers of the universe who are fighting for liberty. Langston's poems bubbles with the spirit of Harlem renaissance and he disseminates his ideas of liberty and equality with sanguinity and fortitude. Some of the

... of Hughes comes to reality now as he mentioned in one of his poems 'Freedom's Plow',

Keep your hand on the plow! Hold On!
The plow plowed a new furrow

Across the field of history.

Into that furrow the freedom seed was dropped. (173-176)

The taste of liberty was bitter for so many lives in Harlem. But they are never mindful of the mockery of the ambitious and their disdainful smile, instead they consider the boast of heraldry and the pomp of power senseless waiting for 'the inevitable hour'. Because all 'the paths of glory lead but to the grave'. (Gray, 36)

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