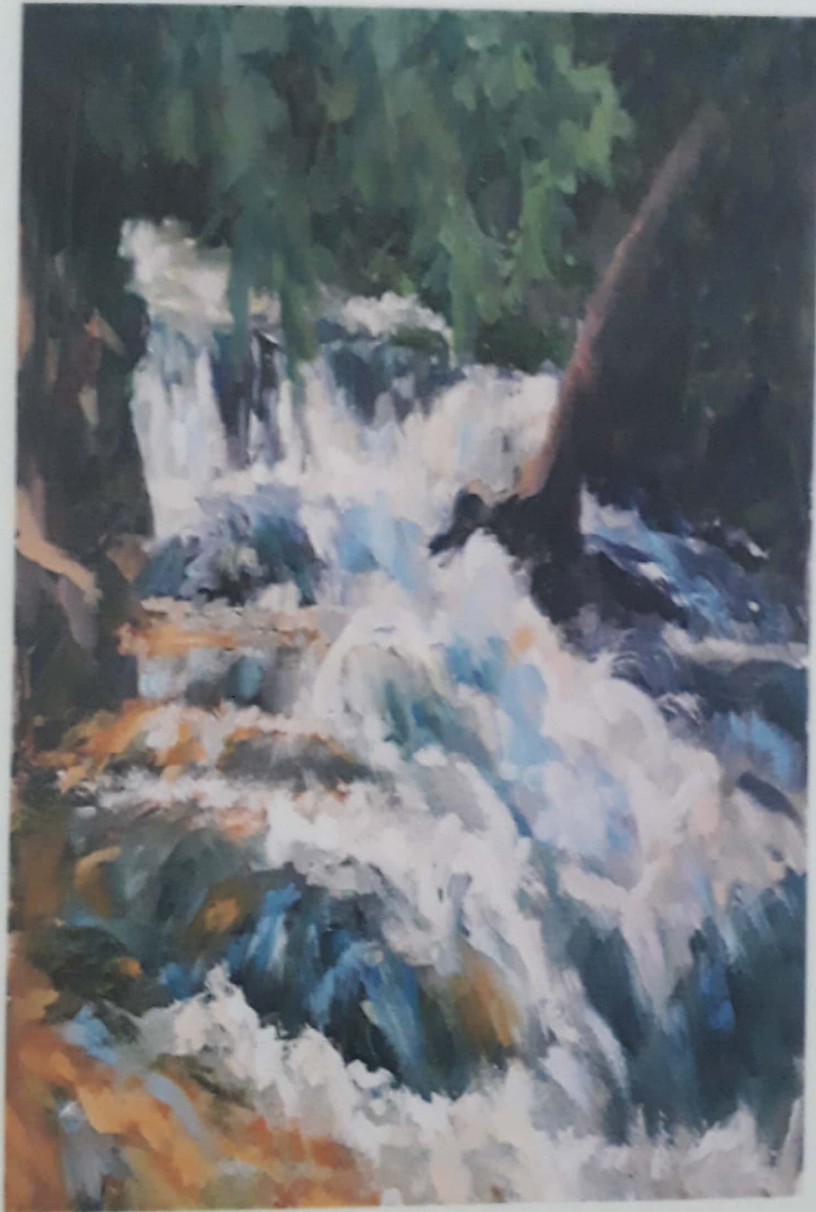


# ECHOING CASCADES

GOMEZ SOPHIA  
U. ANAMICA



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

Title of the Book	:	<b>Echoing Cascades</b>
Editors	:	Gomez Sophia U. Anamica
First impression	:	February 2018
Pages	:	184
Price	:	700
ISBN	:	978-93-86712-18-9
Printed at	:	Laser Point, Madurai-625 003.

### **Publisher**

Department of English  
 Jayaraj Annapackiam College for Women (Autonomous)  
 Accredited With "A" Grade (3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle) by NAAC  
 DST – FIST College since 2015  
 Periyakulam-625601, Theni Dt, Tamil Nadu.  
 Web:jaceng@annejac.com  
 (Affiliated to Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal-624102,  
 Tamilnadu.)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner. Application for such permission should be addressed to the publisher.

### ***Disclaimer***

The authors are solely responsible for the contents of the papers edited in this book. The publisher or editors do not take any responsibility for the same in any manner. Errors, if any, are purely unintentional.

- 9 Black Women - Racism, Sexism and The American Dream – A Womanist Reading of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* 49

**D. Joy Sophy**

- 10 Black Feminism – A Pervasive View 59

**G.Vijayalekshmi**

- 11 Toni Morrison's Genuine Portrayal of African American Voice in *Beloved* 65

**Dr.Gomez Sophia**

- 12 Sanguinity and Fortitude in the Poems of Langston Hughes : An Overview 72

**U.Anamica**

- 13 Racial Identity in Lorraine Hansberry's 'Raisin in the Sun' 76

**A. Jaseema Banu**

- 14 Mckay's Poems: A Massive Outbreak to Harlem Renaissance 83

**J.Sharmila**

- 15 Songs of Sorrow: Afro-American Spirituals, A Glimpse 90

**Angeline Sorna**

- 16 A Depiction of the Vicious World in Toni Morrison's "*The Bluest Eye*" 96

**P.Selvarani**

## A DEPICTION OF THE VICIOUS WORLD IN TONI MORRISON'S *THE BLUEST EYE*

P.SELVARANI

Toni Morrison emerges as one of the most important African American writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. "*The Bluest Eye*" is her first novel. She won the Pulitzer Prize for the novel "*Beloved*". Morrison is the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. Morrison depicts the world from a child's point of view in "*The Bluest Eye*". It is the story of eleven year old Pecola, the heroine of Toni Morrison's first novel.

"*The Bluest Eye*" by Toni Morrison is a harsh warning about the old consciousness of black folks' attempts to emulate the slave master. It is a novel about a young black girl's growing self-hatred. Morrison has depicted the tone of good and bad consideration according to the society. "Good" means being a member of a happy, well-to-do white family, "bad," which means being black, flawed, and strapped for money. Against this laughing, playing, happy white background, Morrison contrasts the novel's black characters, and she shows how all of them have been affected in some way by the whites. For the most part, the blacks in this novel have blindly accepted white domination. Pecola's character in this novel is very much her own, unique and dead-end, but it is still relevant to centuries of cultural damage of black people in America. Morrison, who has been the victim of black dominance by white culture make us aware of the history of American blacks in this tragic novel.

All cultures teach their own standards of beauty and popularity through, movies, books, daily news, and other products. The white standard of beauty is prevalent throughout this novel, because there is no black standard of beauty. Our earth is full of beautiful places, people, and things. But it depends upon the way people look, how they treat and be treated by others. In the novel "*The Bluest Eye*" Toni Morrison depicts how life turns difficult for a young girl named Pecola. Pecola and her family were live in poverty. They are just another poor family. In their world the poor families are considered to be ugly. According to the society

the real beauty is the money, colour, status. Abruptly it shows how the ugly society is. Our society has been swathed with racism, humiliation, marginalization, persecution, sexism etc... Pecola has become the epitome of these miserable conditions. Pecola becomes the discarding ground for the black community's fears and feelings of dishonor.

As a young girl Pecola desires to have white skin, long blonde hair, blue eyes, thinking that it will enhance her beauty. It vividly reveals the search for self-identity in the society. Pecola's father Cholly, is caught by two racist whites, who forces him to perform sex on Darlene, a young girl for their viewing pleasure. Cholly is badly humiliated by them. This incident confirms that the people of the black world are mentally crushed.

The minds of people have become cruel these days and as time passes it gets worse. The characters in the novel "*The Bluest Eye*" suffer from many difficulties and struggles. In many situations people are judged only by their appearance and are treated accordingly. A little girl name Claudia is ignored by some beauty icon characters. Unlike Pecola, Claudia tries to resist them strongly. Though other people treat Pecola badly Claudia is kind enough to her. Pecola believes that having blue eyes would change the way other people see her, she even believes that she would see things differently through blue eyes that would give her a carefree life. It shows how racism affects young black girls and is one of the most controversial issues that was prevalent in America. Inequality and the way people treat others is also a kind of discrimination. It has become a global issue that kept spreading throughout the world in a different manner, to different races and countries. Pecola takes comfort from the Shirley Temple mug, where she drinks milk, just so she can look down at Shirley Temple's white face, we see a girl who is starting to obsess over Temple in a somewhat-creepy way. The milk symbolizes nurturance and by drinking the milk out of the Shirley Temple mug Pecola expresses her longing to have blue eyes.

But Claudia constantly confronts with society's views of beauty. For the society, the meaning of beauty is being white. Claudia gets for Christmas, a blue-eyed, blonde haired, pink skinned doll. Instead of playing with the doll, she destroys it. Claudia's mother immediately

responds that the doll is beautiful which makes her daughter feel ugly about herself. Clearly it shows the ugliness of their mind set. The society sows the poison in the minds of upcoming generation. The black people are destined to be slaves. Even the colour of their skin determines who they are. Pecola's mother herself ignores her, her father rapes her, her friends betray her, yet so painfully. Family, friends, neighbours, relatives altogether is named as society. It kindles a question. What is this society trying to teach to the upcoming generations? Pecola thinks that if she had blue eyes even her parents would stop fighting. This shows her innocence, her pure heart, longing for a good family, especially identity. She was just one among many children who longs for the blue eyes which would make everything beautiful around her. In God's creation everyone is beautiful, everyone is precious in His eyes. But our society is ready to live in this ugliest distorted world which was created by human beings in the name of artificial beauty.

Pecola's mother, Pauline is consumed with the pessimistic ideals of the society. So she is unable to be an optimistic role model to her daughter. Instead she implants her fears on her daughter. For instance, from the day she is born, Pecola is told that she is ugly. Pecola's mother, Pauline, is more concerned with the appearance of her new baby than with its health. Pecola studies from her mother that she is ugly, and she so learns to hate herself; because of her blackness, she is continually attacked by rejection and humiliation from others around her who value "appearance."

Often Pauline cherishes the white daughter of the family she works for and calls her own daughter a rotten piece of apple. She damages the hope, and confidence of Pecola. In the name of equality the people are still prejudiced about the idea of what is beautiful and who is worthy. Unfortunately, Pecola does not have the cleverness to realize that she is not the only little black girl who doesn't have the admired features neither do most of the blacks.

Beauty is no longer just a person's opinion, but beauty has made into, a unwritten rule, a standard made by society for society. It is said that the black females in the society have been forced to accept the blonde

hair, blue eyed image as the only standard of beauty that exists. Pecola's next independent act is to go to Soaphead Church and ask for blue eyes. Her Child's logic is, if beauty is blue eyes and God performs miracles, then she can ask to give her blue eyes. This is touching in its innocent trust of the truth.

At the end of the novel, Pecola has been a scapegoat for the entire community. Her ugliness has made them feel beautiful, her suffering has made them entertain, and her silence has given them the opportunity for speaking. She continues to live after she has become insane, Pecola's aimless wandering at the edge of the town, reminds them of the ugliness and hatred that they have tried to repress. She becomes an epitome of viciousness of the world.

### **Works cited**

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*. Vintage Publications, 1970, New York.

Dominic, K.V., *African and Afro- American Literature*, 2012, Delhi.

Singh, Vanita. *An Insight into the works of Toni Morrison*, Alfa Publications, 2014, Delhi.

*Torrential are they  
Their voices keep echoing*



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

ISBN 978-93-86712-18-9



9 789386 712189