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Research Installment

So far in my research I have been doing a lot of browsing and thinking about further reading and inquiries. In my thought process and thinking about the democratic concept for African Americans it begs me the question of what exactly does that mean. I have my preliminary thesis and answer to that question, that the democratic concept for the Negro is the physical freedom from the oppressive hand of the white man. Many various African American writers in a number of different styles and mediums describe this concept. Through novels, political essays, and poetry the great heavyweights of the African American canon of writing speak their minds about the dream of democratic freedom from oppression.

In all of my resources that I have begun to peruse through and start to think about further reading, there is a common thread to tie them all together, and that is this notion of a free Negro, and the social and political effect of the non-free Negro. I still have a stack of books on the other side of my desk to which I haven't even begun to think about and look through for consideration. There is an endless amount of material to sift through to find the right arguments for a longer discussion about the black movement. In addition, I have numerous prose essays to sift through that I haven't even begun to consider for this installment.

So far we have spoken in class about the 'white democracy'. Meaning everything that we seemed to have covered has been from a white perspective, and it makes me chuckle because this is yet another example of the Negro perspective being placed on the back burner which has proved

consistent throughout history. I tend to focus on the work of Richard Wright because is important to me in the fact that he addresses this issue of the Negro perspective being placed on the back burner of a society that won't accept a person because of the color of ones skin. Wright tends to be down to earth to me as a reader and addresses a lot of great important issues in his writing. Albeit not through academic writing but through novels, his stories allows his readers to connect to him and his messages.

Of course, we can't forget the great influence of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. In addition the Poem by Robert Hayden (El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz) which speaks to Malcolm X. All in all, I have a lot of material to sift through and a lot more thought process to allow to happen. I have started a preliminary outline of my paper and will have a more concrete foundation as of the next research installment.

This is a topic that allows for a lot of passion and heated discussion between people. The issue of race in America is also a sensitive subject for many people in America. With Literature and Democracy having a strong hand in hand relationship, I would argue that it is almost impossible to have a piece of African American Literature without a democratic argument behind it. I would also in the same breath argue that you can't have any piece of literature without some kind of democratic argument embedded somewhere within the writers thought process. Democracy equals conflict. Conflict equals emotion. Emotion equals action. Action equals art. Art equals culture. Culture equals literature. I am looking forward to diving head first into this pool of extensive culture and literature to determine the x factor of democratic thought within African American Literature.

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