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Book Review on Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*

Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* is an American coming-of-age story. The story revolves around an African American young man who journeys north, facing trials and tribulations during the Harlem Renaissance to fit into the society of the 1940s. The book provides a vivid picture of pre-civil rights era life for African Americans as they had to deal with adversities and preconceptions that society overlooked, while they happened to Blacks in reality. The author is blunt in portraying a reflective and honest assessment of the unsettling life experiences. The theme of blindness is preconceived in society because innocent mistakes, disillusion, and invisibility provide a literal perspective to the character. The story's prologue of a dismissive society indoctrinates brotherhood, and the figurative reality of the protagonist's position in society illuminates a tale of nightmarish experiences.

The struggle to eliminate the subjection of a society's dismissive culture is a crucial step to self-discovery. In societies where the influence of institutions is elusive as the people, it is difficult to appreciate the quality of determination that drives a person. Ellison grabs the readers' attention through a thorough portrayal of social dissonance as the protagonist is forced to accept guilt to preserve dreams (134). The writer tries to establish what is important from this harsh assessment and the threatening idea of socially accepted norms. This ideological construct has assumed different colors, shades, and meanings through history that the struggles of African Americans are indoctrinated in what society thinks (Hardin 97). The tone in *Invisible Man* details

the incestuous intelligence of people in a society enshrined in struggles. Therefore, the writer tries to recognize a language that can be spoken to address the consciousness of diverging societies.

The naivety of childhood flashes as the writer remarks about the humiliating life that Black students experience while trying to figure out a future because there are limited opportunities. The protagonist develops into a prominent figure that can stand out among peers because of forced doctrines about fellow African brothers. Ellison explores the narrator's boxing experiences as a reflective period that ushers him into growth and amusement because lessons could be achieved during adversities (22). The writer allows the audience to see the story's relevance by serving reminders about today's struggles that shape people in society and the belief to overcome held by African Americans. In this case, young Black Americans are segregated and conceived to be lesser because of the surreal, frightening experiences of shared humanity (Bradley par. 4). The struggle to fit in through brotherhoods is not a personal choice because the writer portrays it as a spectacle for the white society to engage in divisive politics. Hence, the story explores the exploitation of brotherhood forged through indoctrination to benefit others.

In conclusion, Ellison's *Invisible Man* accomplishes the tales about the entrapments the Black Americans face in society while facing social isolation. The protagonist ends up in a place that reinforces invisibility because getting trapped underground is paradoxically an indication of non-existence. The author provides a compelling story of parallel racial struggles between periods that encompassed similar traits toward a specific group of people. Therefore, the story told by Ellison illuminates the things that continue to exist in a society that should be trapped underground.

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