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MODULE CODE: ENG2603

**COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL AFRICAN
LITERATURE**

ASSIGNMENT: 01

**ESSAY: THE SLAVE DEALER BY THOMAS
PRINGLE**

UNIQUE NUMBER: 881709

THE SLAVE DEALER BY THOMAS

PRINGLE

As everyone knows that taking someone else's life is never easy and that life after that will never be the same. Some people change to monsters and some have endless nightmares. As for the speaker in this poem, he is finding it hard to live his normal life ✓ after taking the life of an innocent native African woman, gruesomely.

The speaker in the poem must be a sailor who travels aimlessly in the oceans or maybe he travels to faraway places by sea as shown in opening line of the poem, "From ocean's wave a wanderer came." This man went back home to his mother because ✓ he is finding it hard to live his life after murdering a poor innocent person. why?

He had changed, facially, ← in a way his own mother could not even recognise him, because he was now so miserable and his bad deeds and emotions were eating him up slowly. "There was hot fever in his blood," (stanza 2 line 1) can be a figurative statement showing that the man might have been a hot-headed person or an unforgiving man, or maybe he was literally sick because of where he came from or his bad deeds haunting him. "And dark thoughts in his brain," (stanza 2 line 2) ✓ shows how cruel and evil he was or the thoughts of the bad things that he did.

His mother tried so hard to help her son by trying in vain to him see the good in him and that he is not a bad person and he can repent himself for the bad things he had done, but unfortunately his cruel deeds and emotions are eating him up that his mood was always fierce and fearful shown by the alliteration in stanza 2 line 5. He was held host ✓ age by the consequences of his actions which filled him with remorse and pain in his heart (stanza 2 line 4 to 6)

His mother tried to pray with him so that he can heal and find peace within and what he had done as shown in stanza 3, but every time he knelt to pray, the visions of what he did would haunt him and taunt him. This stopped him from praying because he had lost his hope and everything always ✓ came back

to him. All his good thoughts were scared away by the taunting visions of his deeds.

“There’s blood upon my hands!” he said, “Which water cannot wash,” (stanza 4 line 1 and 2) he finally told his mother why he was being haunted. He had murdered a person and it was not from a war but from a vicious beating he gave to an innocent person. It was a violent beating which left agonising deep wounds on the victim’s body and he says “As I whirled it o’er and o’er my head,” (stanza 4 line 5) he tells how hard he had stroke the victim’s body.

“With every stroke I left a gash, while Negro blood sprang high,” (stanza 5 lines 1 and 2) here he describes to his mother how he had left deep wounds on the victim’s body and the victim’s blood sprang everywhere, so high because of the force he used. Also his victim was a native African as shown on stanza line 2 shown by the word “Negro.” “And now all ocean’s cannot wash my soul from murder’s dye,” (stanza 5 lines 3 and 4) Here he explains how this sin will never be cleansed, even with all the water in the ocean which he had crossed could not wash the blood on his hands.

Even his mother’s prayers, he feels, are rejected by the most high, and cannot help him heal as his victim’s death-cry is imprinted in his mind. “That woman’s wild death-cry,” (stanza 5 line 6) tells us that the victim was actually a woman.

(Stanza 6 lines 1 to 3) “Her cry is ever in my ear, and it will not let me pray; Her look I see, Her voice I hear, As in death she lay.” He speaks of his frightful moments when he cannot get the victim’s loud grim cries out of his mind and her haunting look as she was dying.

He cannot pray because her cries are pinned in his mind. “With me thou must appear on God’s great Judgement-day!” were her last words (stanza 6 lines 5 and 6) He’s haunted by the victim’s last words when she reminds him that he will see her again when he is standing before God and when he is judged by God on judgement day. He will be reminded of his sins even after he himself perishes.

“Now, Christ from frenzy keep my son!” (Stanza 7 line 1) His poor mother cries miserably, because her son did this willingly in a violent mental excitement without thinking of the consequences of his actions. “Such murder foul thou ne’er hast done, some fiend thy soul belied!” (Stanza 7 lines 3 and 4) She cries and wonders how the son, she had given birth to, would

ever kill in such a wicked way, and that this is something he not have done even if he was ordered to do so by anyone. Her son was possessed by an evil spirit which he cannot even explain to her and himself too. He cannot even escape from it even if he runs away.

“Nay, mother! The Avenging one was witness when she died!” (Stanza 7 lines 5 and 6) He tells his mother how the Almighty has already begun to punish him while he is still alive. He is already in hell whilst he is still on earth and there is nothing neither he nor his mother can do about it. He is stuck in his own hell here on earth until the day he dies.

“The writhing wretch with furious heels I crushed no mortal nigh,” (stanza 8 lines 1 and 2) He continues tell his dear mother how the poor and unfortunate woman he had beaten was twisting and bending her body out of her normal shape due to the hard force he used to beat her and he stopped just when she was about to died. But unfortunately, she died in that same hour in which he had attacked her and his sin was immediately written in the book of judgement, and he is since been suffering and punished for it by the most high. This is shown in stanza 8 lines 3 and 4.

“And now with God I have to deal, And dare not meet His eye!” (Stanza 8 lines 5 and 6) He tells his mother that he will be punished until he dies and even after his death.

He tells his mother how ashamed he is and cannot even pray about it as he is too ashamed and afraid to talk to God about this sin he had committed. Even on judgement day, he will not be able to look God in the eye and he has to live with the consequences of his actions.

In the end, he does not come to terms with his plight in order to reconcile and redeem his newly formed identity because he will suffer to the end as he is so much haunted by the consequences of his bad deeds.

His plight, he has started in his living days and he feels and definitely knows that he will continue with it even after his miserable, wretched and disgusting life.

(1 286 Words)

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A good and satisfactory discussion, However please formulate clear and meaningful paragraphs.
NYONI K

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DECLARATION REGARDING PLAGIARISM

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Signature

[Handwritten Signature]

Date:

19 March 2017

