

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having discussed the social and inner conflicts in Toni Morrison's Sula, I would like to give the conclusion from what I have analyzed in Chapter Two. Sula and Nel come from different family backgrounds. In Sula's family, they are very liberal. I also find that they are not well civilized. In contrast with Nel, she comes from a very well behaved family. The two female major characters here are having a close friendship. Sula likes to have a friendship with Nel because she is able to control Nel. In other words, Sula likes to show her authority. Besides, Sula does not get enough attention from her family since she was a child and it makes Sula become independent and dares to express more her thinking and ideas. Nel's admiring Sula makes Nel enjoy being Sula's friend.

I can see Sula's dominant role since she was a child, in her family or in her society. She does not want to be ruled by anyone or any norm. She escapes to college and submerges herself in city life.

Nel is submissive in her family and society. Nel just knows to obey what her mother's says and advices without telling her mother whether she likes it or not. And in the society, Nel just follows the norms and rules because her mother teaches and tells her so. She chooses to remain in the place of her birth, to marry, and to raise a family.

It helps Nel's mother and the family to keep the family's pride and not to be separated from the society. That is the reason why Nel feels unhappy; she is locked by the rules.

From the explanation in the paragraphs above, I find Sula experiences more social conflicts than Nel because Sula dares to challenge the family and social environment. The social conflicts are experience by Sula and her society; between Sula and Nel; between Sula and Eva, her own grandmother; also between Sula and Ajax, the man who loves her seriously. The social conflicts above, which are mostly experienced by Sula, are not well resolved because of Sula's death. Sula dies, without anybody comes to her funeral ceremony, except Nel. I think if Sula would respect the social norms a little bit, the resolution of the conflicts will not be that tragic.

I also notice that Nel faces a lot of inner conflicts. It happens because she generally does not dare to challenge the family and social environment. Nel comes from a well mannered family and locked by the norms; she is also having a friendship with Sula, who comes from a not well civilized family. I conclude that their different family backgrounds are one of the sources of their conflicts. When

Nel meets Sula for the first time, Nel seems to have found a new picture of herself in Sula. Yet, Nel's mother forbids Nel to have a friendship with Sula. This conflict is solved with Nel keeping in Sula by her side. Sula's having an affair with her husband makes a dilemma for her. But the inner conflicts resolved by Nel end-up her friendship with Sula and she is divorced from Jude, her husband. I like Nel's way of solving the problems. In my point of view, Nel's decision to solve the problems without any violence and harassment is much honorable.

Nel cannot take her own decision before. After she experiences the conflicts above, I can see that the conflicts have shaped Nel. She becomes tougher, dares to have her own decisions and voices it. She also thinks more maturely than she used to be. Nel blames Sula for nothing even she is disappointed with what Sula has done to her.

I notice Toni Morrison, who is a feminist writer, dares to explore the feminism and racist issues of black society at that time. Through the two female major characters in this novel, Morrison wants to show the readers that there are two kinds of people with different characteristics in facing the life. First example is Sula. I categorize her to be a pessimistic person. She lives in a broken family. Her father leaves her mother a few years after she had born. Therefore, she thinks that every man will do the same as her father does to her mother. It shapes her not to depend on man, and change her principles not to be bound in a settle relationship with any man. It is the reason why she behaves radically in this story. In contrast with Nel, she is optimistic in facing her future life. She does not know how her

future life will be, but her dream to have a happy family was not changing at all. She has a faith that she will have a wonderful life after. Her dream becomes real by marrying Jude, yet she has to accept a bitter reality because of Jude's betrayal. Even though she faces such reality, she keeps her positive thinking that she will have a better life afterward.

Black cultures that are common to happen at the time are unbeneficial for women. The men are not responsible to their family. They will go home only if they have a need; such as having sexual intercourse with their wives. After their need is fulfilled by their wives, they just leave their wives at home.

<<http://www.talkaboutculture.group.com/group/alt.culture.african.american.issues/messages/17416.html>>

Through the main character, Sula, Morrison shows how to face with racist situations; some people has to plead to whites simply to get by, as Helene does on a train heading through the South. And she also wants the readers to be inspired and motivated to find jobs against whites' population; value their independence. Besides, I believe that Toni Morrison wants to encourage the readers, especially the women, surviving to get their freedom. It is good for a woman to have her own will or ambition, but it has to deal with the norms too.

For me, this story gives me a new point a view about independence, freedom, and the struggle of life more. I take this as a mirror to make a correction of my attitudes and behavior to my daily life.