

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

John Grimes is the central character in this novel. John is a young African-American. His families are black immigrants who move from the southern part of America to the northern part of America. John's family comes to the North with a big hope that they will get a better life there. John's family cannot reach their hope; on the contrary, they live in poverty.

At school, John is known as an intelligent student. His teachers, who are white, respect and support him for his excellence in study. But John does not get the same acceptance in his family and the church society as in his school. John always thinks that his family does not love him, especially his step-father, Gabriel Grimes. John does not understand his father's coldness which is actually caused by Gabriel being his step-father: John does not know Gabriel is his step-father. Gabriel always humiliates John. The way Gabriel treats John makes John have problems with his self-image. All the people always expect John to be a better person, although John already behaves well. They also expect that one day John will be a preacher like Gabriel. As John hates Gabriel, he refuses to follow Gabriel to be a preacher. The pressure of expecting John to be like Gabriel makes John always stand against Gabriel. His hatred of his father makes John harden his

his heart against the Lord.

John's problem with his sexual identity is the other reason that he distances himself from God. John has a tendency to be a homosexual. He was attracted to his Sunday school teacher, who is a male, Elisha. John always admires Elisha's body during Sunday School. John's tendency to love men makes him feel dirty. He feels it is sin.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

James Arthur Baldwin was born in Harlem, New York City, on August 2, 1924. He lived with his mother, Emma Berdis Joynes, who married David Baldwin, who was James Baldwin's step-father. His step-father was a preacher. The relationship between James Baldwin and his step-father was not good. In Harlem, they lived in poverty. When Baldwin was 14 years old, he became a preacher for three years at the small Pentecostal church in Harlem.

He was an African-American novelist, writer, playwright, poet, essayist, and civil rights activist. He was known as an African-American writer of the twentieth century. Some of Baldwin's works describe some important issues in the mid-twentieth century, such as racism, social status, and political inequality. His works also explore questions of identity and psychological pressures that point to the black people and the homosexual.

Go Tell It on The Mountain was Baldwin's first novel. The novel was published in 1953. This novel was known as James Baldwin's autobiographical novel, as it represents Baldwin's young life and experience. John Grimes, the

protagonist of the novel, faces the harsh treatment of his step-father. This kind of treatment also happened to James Baldwin when he lived with his stepfather.

Giovani's Room is his second novel, published in 1956. His essay, The Fire Next Time, was published in 1963. Going to Meet The Man is one of his stories which was published in the United Kingdom by Michael Joseph. Baldwin's last work is a novel published in 1987 entitled Harlem Quartet. Baldwin died in December 1987 in his home, in St. Paul de Vence, France.

Source : http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Baldwin_%28writer%29.