American Experience

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Uncle Tom’s Cabin Essay

In Uncle Tom’s Cabin there’s a big conflict with the slaves and the white people. A lot of slaves were treated unfairly but they were firm believers in God. The white women of slave owners were really firm believers in God as well, and the white men were greedy and only tried to get what they needed from other white men, they didn’t care how the slaves felt. Harriet Beecher Stowe uses God’s direct influence to guide Tom, Cassy, and Eliza through their struggles of being slaves.

Tom was a firm believer in God and when he was struggling he doubted himself. Even though he struggled God always stood by his side trying to help him. When Tom works on Legree’s plantation he seeks for Gods guidance a lot, “He saw enough abuse and misery to make him sick and weary; but he determined to toil on, with religious patience… not without hope that some way of escape might yet be opened to him.” (339). Tom would get blamed for things that he did because of the kind of cruel person that Legree would be. Tom shouldn’t be blamed for what he has done wrong Legree didn’t believe in God so it made him a cruel person because he never had a cold heart and soul. Tom looks up to God to try and help him. He prays, “O, good lord! Do look down, give me the victory, give me the victory overall.” (408) Tom wants the lord to look down on him so that he won’t suffer anymore. Tom wants Legree to appreciate what Tom has done for him, so that Legree can see that there’s good in black people. “I’ve lost everything in this world, and it’s clean gone, forever, and now I can’t lose heaven, too; no, I can’t get to be wicked besides all.”(410).Tom fears that he will lose heaven just like he has lost everything else; he won’t lose heaven because heaven’s like a place and it’s a safe place especially for Tom because he won’t get treated unfairly. Tom’s believes within God make him so that he will fear God because he means so much to him. Tom’s satisfied that God has stood by his side within the entire time of him staying at Legrees. He tells George to tell Chloe, “Ye mustn’t now, tell Chloe poor soul! How ye found me going into glory; and that I couldn’t stay for no one, and tell her the lords stood by me everywhere and made everything light and easy!” (476) Tom wants George Shelby to tell Aunt Chloe that God has always stood next to him through the good and bad times. This means something to Chloe because she’s very religious to and she wants to know that Tom died with God being there for him. God showed that he still treated black people the same that he has white people.

Cassy has been one of Legrees slaves for a really long time and really mistreated by Legree and it lead her to not believe in God but Tom helps her realize how God will always be with them, Cassy says how she’s wishes that she knew where to find God, Tom responds with, “He’s here, he’s everywhere.” (397) When Tom says those words he means that even though you visually can’t see God he’s still here, but it’s like he’s invisible. God will be here to help and guide us through the rough times. When Tom sits and reads his Bible he finds this, “Ah, was it easy here to believe and hold fast the great password if Christian faith that, “God is, and is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (398) For some people like Tom it’s easy for him to believe in God, but for Cassy it should be hard because she isn’t a firm believer in God which it takes time to learn and try to believe the material of God. Tom tries to get Cassy to believe in God. Cassy still tries to pick a fight with him by saying, “There’s no use calling on the lord, he never hears, there isn’t any God I believe or if there is he’s taken sides against us…everything is pushing us into hell why shouldn’t we go.” (409) Cassy’s still picking a fight with Tom to try and prove her point that they shouldn’t believe in God because she has always been put into a bad place. But if she would try to pray God would answer her calling and try to help her with what she struggled with. Tom tries point this out to her to get her to find something to believe so that she can survive.

Eliza always had God by her side with every step she took God was always there for her. “O George! George! You frighten me! Why, I never heard you talk so; I’m afraid you’ll do something dreadful. I don’t wonder at your feelings, at all; but oh, do be careful- do do- for my sake –for Harry’s!”(17)Eliza begs George to be careful and to help her so that Harry doesn’t get sold. Eliza feels that she’s just using Rachel until she figured out what she is going to do. “I shall do- anything I can find. I hope I can find something.” (153) Rachel helps Eliza as much as she can and Rachel doesn’t mind how long it takes her to find what she really needs. Because Rachel has God’s direct influence she doesn’t see black people differently as white people. “God gives only to the desperate, with one wild cry and flying leap, she vaulted sheer over the turbid current by the shore onto the raft of ice beyond.”(67) When Eliza crossed over the lake she felt that God only saved her because she was desperate. “I always thought that I must obey my master and mistress, or I couldn’t be a Christian.” (18) Eliza always felt that she had to be Christian because of what her slave owners believed in and she always had to please them. It isn’t a wrong thing for her to be Christian because when you’re Christian it shows that she has something to believe in and someone to look up to.

Harriet Beecher Stowe revolved her writing around the influence of God. I think that it’s good that she did that because it got people to think outside the box of the story and to see the true meaning of it. Just because of some ones racial color doesn’t mean that they should be treated differently as people because no matter what they are human beings and there are natural things that can happen to them. There may be times when people will need God in their life and it’s good to have him there every step of the way.