

A Critical Study of Women Oppression on Alice Walker's Major Novels

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Abstract: Women have always been a part of literature throughout the ages. Unfortunately, they have often depicted as a weaker, inferior, could not survive on their own, and could not do their work by themselves. According to man, women are beautiful and obedient, could not think on their own. As per Alice Walker's fiction, numerous ladies are on the whole insensible of affection, never having been permitted to share their sentiments. Moreover they do not know to celebrate the value of self which has been violated. The black women are suppressed in many aspects; women of the black community are misrepresented even in their community. Black women who were oppressed and dominated socially, physically and sexually, try to get freedom from the dominance. Most of the black women are treated as slaves they want to redefine their womanhood. The principal parts of the black women bestowed as slaves they need to emancipate their adulthood. This paper is an attempt at subjugation and concealment of black women, suppression, enslavement, gender discrimination, and how they differentiate themselves. It explores the study of black women subjugation, sex-separation self-realisation, awakening, and self-emancipation. Alice Walker, an Afro American writer, encounter for the black women freedom. She urges black women to recognise their connectedness to women who historically have built bridges for them with their indomitable and independent spirit. The main argument of this paper is to overcome the sufferings of black women.

Keywords: Emancipation, Awakening, Self-realization, Oppression, Gender discrimination.

INTRODUCTION

Feminism is a theory about women equality which says that women should have an equal share in society, political, economic and in the property. Woman's rights advanced the battle for the privileges of ladies which began in the late eighteenth century. It put forth the concept of; women should have equal rights as men do. Feminist asserts that all women have irrespectively oppressed for their individual experience of race, gender, religion, caste, and sexual penchant. It argues that the essential humanness and self-hood of women are not objects but persons. Feminism also states that the rights of a woman to know herself not as a shadow of man but as an autonomous and authentic individual. Feminism includes various movements like the Civil Rights Movement, social, political, artistic, and sexual equality. It acts as a shield for the legal, political, gender equality for women and prevents women from the patriarchy. The brave voice and free picture of the dark ladies get smothered in a culture that relied upon her chivalry for its survival. Formation of the fiction of convention involves control, and that power has dependably been in the hands of men for the most part white yet some dark. Ladies are excluded, ladies intrinsically mediocre in addition to the assignment by men of the ability to characterise custom. Women have considered an image of brutality, and they have regarded as the property of joy for men. They even depicted as weaker sex and inferior; passive object who could not think on their own and they always depend on men for their needs. According to the assumption of men; women could not survive by themselves. They always said to be weaker sex or second sex because of the social force. They have represented falsely. Feminism has charged that male patriarchy cannot have held responsibility for

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oppression. Feminism movement has concentrated on supporting gender discrimination and how tradition, social status has affected them regarding gender discrimination. During the 1960s the concept of feminism in literature was hampered the female writer's initiation and delineation given with the help of female characters. The female writers try to sort out the condition, faced by women in society, through their fictitious woman characters in their novel.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF WALKER'S NOVELS

Alice Walker's books uncovered understanding into the different way by which African women are mishandled and denounced by the custom and religion for the most part in a male-focused and post-commonplace society. Her novels depict African women struggling against an oppressive society, an issue which Walker often addressed publicly in her lifetime. She expressed concern for such items like women's education, women's legal right in marriage. She is a contemporary writer who captures the very ideals that spring from the hearts and soul of today's African women. She admired Hurston's sense of black people as complete, complex, undiminished beings, her pride in black people, and the way she followed her road. She distributed her first short story accumulation *In Love and Trouble: Stories of Black Women* (1973) which got the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Award from the American Institute of Arts and Letters. It was a volume which, according to Barbara Smith, the famous Black feminist critic writing in *Ms Magazine* in February 1974 'sets out consciously to explore with honest the textures and terrors of black women's lives'. She proceeds to state that she trusts the most exceedingly awful consequences of prejudice in this nation have been to subvert the essential human connections among dark men, ladies and youngsters and to obliterate their minds. It is on this level of relational experience that Walker prevails with regards to lighting up dark ladies lives. Her stories depict a series of black women primarily involved in destructive and distressful relationships with men. They are at the mercy not only of the men in their lives, but also their passions, the forces of nature, or social expectations of whom and what they should be.

However, a few women dare to define and subsequently act on their convictions rather than capitulate to the intimidation of those in power.

An important story *Everyday Use* illustrates many of Walker's themes and concerns. It defines her concept of "heritage" as a special part of black culture, in particular, the art of quilting. In 1983, Alice Walker wrote a series of essays with a wealth of self-revelation entitled "In Search of Our Mother's Gardens: Womanist Prose". It was inspired by Walker's mother as well as by Walker's reclaiming Zora Neale Hurston, both of whom were significant influences on her. The book is a memoir of Walker's experience and observations of African American Women's Culture and continues her exploration of the hidden truths defining female wholeness. It is a fundamental work in that it characterises walker's focal idea of Womanism, the possibility that ladies must concede to one another and to making their personality. It pays tribute to the indomitable spirit of black women of their creativity. Her images of her mother tending flowers in the sharecropper's shacks she was forced to live in and make art out of that endeavour, becomes symbolic of the black woman's search for empowerment and control of her destiny.

Africa is a developing country which always encounters women in their respective culture, religion and traditional norms still prevail. The society has fulfilled without a male-dominated society. However, modernisation exists which brings social and thematic changes that boost women's choice. At the same time, women expect equal rights, equal opportunities and to help them to reach their goal. African women have many thematic similarities such as oppression, suppression, cultural alienation, rebellion, female exploitation solidarity, sexual bargaining, and the changing dynamics of sexual relationships. African women are growing aware of their power to determine political, economic, and social outcomes. The *Third Life of Grange Copeland* is her first novel; she achieved the highest reputation through this novel as a writer who adds a loud, unique, genuine, traditional and cultural relevant feminist voice to modern and contemporary African American literature. Walker puts hands together for creating a feminist activist who can speak, act independently, sense of perception, personal identity, boldly isolated and to overcome all the struggles from a male-dominated society. As Irene d'Almeida, social critic, and activist observe, these women 'are willing to make the choice that will make their lives more wholesome, no matter what the consequences might be'. Alice Walker adds beauty, depth, and spirit to the sufferings of African literature.

The history of feminism flourish based on women should have equal rights, and opportunities like men do. Black feminism is a concept which states oppression that is racial discrimination, gender identity and gender equality. Black feminism becomes popular during the period of the 1960s. It is a combination which indicates sexism, class oppression, gender identity, and racial discrimination. The legal scholar

Kimberle Crenshaw coined the term 'Black Feminism'. It became popular in the response of various movements like the civil rights movement, the black arts movement and the feminist movement. The feminist movement was introduced due to slavery among black women; it was developed by the black feminist activists, writers, and socialist. Feminist movement became a social theory for women's self-awakening and self-emancipation, which always focus on awareness of women in society. Feminist writers and activists raised their hands to support women's rights, freedom, and independence. June Jordan, a feminist depicted black feminism as "I am a feminist and what that means to me is much the same as the meaning of the fact that I am black: it means that I must undertake to love myself and to respect myself as though my very life depends upon self-love and self-respect". Women's liberation required another word that would catch its multifaceted nature and completion. Recalcitrance Walker's claims to the contrary, she suggested in her definitions of womanism that the womanist or black women are stronger and superior to the white women. Black women faced the same struggles as white women; however, they had to confront issues of diversity on top of the inequality. Black women refined awareness from their consciousness concerning women's social-sexual existence. Black women suffered the greatest indignities of slavery; often forced to work in the fields of enslaved males, they were also vulnerable to sexual violation and forced reproduction, and frequently had their children sold away from them. The flight of enslaved women continued to receive scant attention, and she remained an all but invisible figure.

Toni Morrison, a prolific writer, describes in her quotes, "I merged those two words black and feminist because I was surrounded by black women who were very tough and who always assumed they had to work and rear children and manage homes". She shared her own experience and talked about the condition of women who have been suppressed regarding oppression. Generally, people have always treated blacks as a slave, and they were dominated by both white people of her same community. And also they were viewed the white people that they have all rights on them. The famous black feminist Andre Lorde justifies that, "I am a black feminist, I mean I recognise that my power, as well as my primary oppressions, comes as a result of my blackness as well as my woman and therefore my struggles on both of these fronts are inseparable". The black women were always considered to be a depressed human because the white communities suppressed in different perspective like racial discrimination in the public places like formal school, workplace etc., the first feminist analysis about the condition of Afro-American women, *A voice from the south* by a black woman of the south written by Anna Julia Cooper. The analysis of a book is fully about the sufferings and positions of women in black society. African American women are mostly attached to the term 'women'. The term first appeared in the essay of Alice Walker, *In search of mother garden*. Generally, women and motherhood are always used mostly by Afro American women. Mariama Ba states in her novel *So long a letter*, "A black African, she should have been able to fit without difficulty into a black African society, Senegal and the Ivory Coast both having experienced the same colonial power. But Africa is diverse, divided. The same country can change its character and outlook several times over, from north to south or from east to west."

Oppression is based on racism, classism and sexism of African American women. It was described as a theory, which was developed by the black social activist Claudia Jones. Christian Marie Sierra, professor of political science, blames for women's inequality. She claims, 'class, race and gender inequalities permeate institutions of 'higher learning'. The power of academia rests upon the control or monitoring of ideas and its hierarchical, elitist structure which promote rich over poor and working-class whites over people of colour and men over women'. Tashi, the young African woman who appears briefly in *The Color Purple* as Celie's daughter-in-law and Adam's wife, gets a novel of her own in *Possessing the Secret of Joy*. Her story traces individual and cultural motivations for female 'circumcision' in Africa and systematically charts the harmful effects of that practice upon women, children, and ultimately society as a whole. Told through the multiple voices of Tashi and members of her family, as well as those of the anthropologist Pierre and the psychotherapists Jung and Raye, the story begins with Tashi's African childhood and ends with her death. She is executed at the hands of the post-colonial government in her country of birth, for murdering M'Lissa, the woman who circumcised her and her sister Dura, who bled to death after the operation. Walker states that this novel is not a sequel to either *The Color Purple* or *The Temple of My Familiar* in the strict sense; she has used poetic license to deviate from the earlier novels in order to tell Tashi's story as she saw fit, selecting only what she needed to write about 'female genital mutilation' as Walker insists on calling it.

In *Meridian* and *The Third Life of Grange, Copeland* Walker explicate the trouble faced by black women it takes back the reader to the Civil Rights Movement and the active participation of the female community through the characters Meridian Hill, Margaret, Mem and Ruth. Meridian Hill, the protagonist of the play *Meridian*, who is the resemblance of Walker herself, undergoes struggle to overcome from the

patriarchy system. Her husband suppressed Margate, wife of Copeland. Mem, daughter in law of Copeland, is also crushed by his son Brownfield who has been killed. The time of Civil Rights Movement develops the story of Meridian, as a young, Meridian participated in the Civil Rights Movement and fought for black people rights against the white society. It is a study of the initiate of the racist culture and also deals with the overcome of psychological melancholy. Like Walker, Meridian comes from a low-income family undergoes turmoil, identifies herself and gets transformation to defeat the patriarchy system. The novel deals with the difference between the black male and female reactions. The novel focused one's painful past and from that finds the identity. The protagonist attains a psychological transformation which paved the way to see her character. The Civil Rights movement is the resulting dilemma for African American women. It gave way to ignore the fact of their discrimination – sexism racism and classism. As a civil right activist, Meridian faces all the odd situations. She does everything in utmost dedication and involvement through her tears roll down on her cheeks. She dedicated herself to the upliftment of black women. Here walker try to say the fact that work has to be done from the grass root level to uplift the black community and the conflicts between traditional African American values handed down through slavery and the revolutionary polemic exposed by the black power movement.

Meridian explores the sufferings of Meridian Hill from the teenage to an activist. It also deals with the struggle of oppression of the black community. The whole story dwells on Meridian and Truman Held, his former lover and husband. Unlike Mem and Margaret, Meridian is an educated woman who can liberate herself. Though Meridian been abused physically and psychologically, she could find her identity in the way of civil right movement. She gradually gained the strength of belief by overcoming sufferings. She commits her life to help blacks to achieve political and social equality. But the oppression given by Copeland and Brownfield makes Margaret and Mem destroy them. Meridian remains devoted to her activist, and late becomes a leader throughout the south continuing the work of an activist. Meridian from her early childhood attains a significant psychological and social stress to overcome from this she became an activist. She is a hint of mental advancement of Walker. As a prior stage Meridian is instructed to acknowledge the supremacist and misogynist status of the 1950s. She isn't urged to address on sexist customs or her sexual obliviousness. While reviewing the circumstance previously and amid the common right development she conveys the perusers to attention to numerous connections among bigotry and sexism and their ramifications for the individual and the entire dark network.

Truman Held husband of Meridian is in search of her at the beginning of the novel. Meridian is characterised as an obedient daughter and a devoted wife and adoring mother, but it all went wrong. As Truman watches, Meridian opposes convention and expert actually to gaze intently at her quality. What Walker dealt with the strategy of flashback in this story, the novel weaving in reverse and forward in time follows Meridian's enlivening and controls its perusers to a comprehension of her mind-boggling trustworthiness. Meridian shows early flashes of distinction and honesty at 13 years old. She refuses to be saved by a religion that makes no sense to her. When she is asked to deliver a speech celebrating the superiority of the American way of life she failed to do. At the age of 17, she was unable to follow the traditional roles she is a disobedient daughter failing to accept traditions which her mother hold scared. She is blasted into political awareness when she watches a newscast about the bombing of a nearby house used by civil rights workers. She tends to avoid and escape from the sense of traditional direction. As she is, a graduated she wants to overcome all the oppression and the suffering she receives from society.

Meridian rejects her motherhood and joins college to educate her. She volunteers to work on voter registration. Her education begins in earnest as she joins young people from diverse background. She continues her school when she is offered a scholarship to Saxon college. However, Meridian is faced with the difficult moral choice of giving up her young son. She believes her decision to be best for him. She also finds that she has failed as woman and mother. Though Saxon college is a representative of white, she relishes her opportunities for learning. During this period her sense of conflict between tradition and change intensifies she grows. She displayed her strength to fight for her rights and to end the oppression and depression given by the upper society. She can see through old forms and illogical assumptions; she becomes better able to withstand the many forces urging her to confirm the orphic charm of Truman Held mainly. Meridian finds his intelligence and refined appearance attractive; she rejects his snobbery, racism and sexism. She feels internal that she has wasted by mysterious illness. Meridian decides to devote herself to the poor people of the south. During this period she struggles with her conscience pricked by the letters for her mother and her best friend, Anne Marion. She frees herself by moving away from the clutches of her husband Truman Held and her son and mother. Her growth of an adult makes her find her identity. She discovers her character and the individual role in her life. According to Walker individuality is not only marriage and motherhood rather upcoming from the patriarchy.

Margaret is compliant and faithful since she has restricted authority over her own life. Contingent upon her better half she loses regard for herself, to escape from the standard Saturday night misuse, she chooses to do like her significant other – drinking and discovering sex, first with her kindred labourers lastly with her white manager. As a tyke, Brownfield watches a change happens in her mom and points the finger at Grange for it. After Copeland's break, the existence without him makes Margaret end her hopelessness by harming herself and her youngster. Margaret as women entirely dependent on her husband loses self-respect as well as she finished her life out of insecure. Walker here clearly describes that the oppression creates a social inequality that there cannot be fair family life. The author speculates about how the world has been different for black women, they are not broken by poverty, but they are crushed by abuse and cruelty, they are still seeking things that should most logically come first – love, fulfilment as women, and peace of mind. On the off chance that Margaret's endeavour at self-acknowledgement is oblivious, it is likewise unsuccessful, and the lady was the casualty of abuse, savagery, neediness and torment. She has not accomplished a level of autonomy from Grange that will empower her to feel she can get by without him. Brownfield who has been brought up by his father Copeland wears the mask of him to abuse his wife. He began to follow what his father did to his mother he starts to harm his wife, Mem. Walker clearly shows the life of the black women, who in search of self-realisation gets only frustration which leads to spoiling their own experience. Mem fails to overcome the oppression by his husband and been killed by his husband. As a black woman, she struggled throughout her life to keep her family together and to survive as a black community. Walker could have ended the novel with Mem's death, but the novel also develops the character of Grange's granddaughter Ruth, a forerunner of Walker women, who has a chance to overcome brutality and injustice to survive whole.

"Each man would have to free himself, he thought, and the best way he could. For the time being, he would withdraw completely them and be always prepared with his life, to defend it, to protect it, to keep it from whites inviolate" (Copeland, 155).

Unlike by her mother and grandmother Ruth interested in learning about the social and historical background of the black community. She shows interest to listen to the speech of civil right movement. She attains self-realisation by the powerful words of the activist of civil rights movement. She is going to live in the changed world Ruth counts herself among the one who is going to forgive whites.

Alice Walker as an essayist composes for the levels of change through her female characters. She writes for the dark ladies personality, by the investigation of the two books *The Third Life of Grange Copeland* and *Meridian*. Both the novel is much about social change and finding of self. It speaks to the association and economic wellbeing of the lady in the general public. Margaret and Mem neglected to be womanhood and furthermore parenthood. Anyway, *Meridian* and Ruth decline to resemble them. They have much ability to safeguard against what's to come. They live with the imperfection of absolutism as opposed to trusting that man controlled society will change.

Walker in these novels puts forth the civil rights movement. Many of the young activists of the early movement have become disillusioned and dropped out of the public arena. In the late 1950s and the early 1960s, television played an essential role in focusing young people bravely facing the antagonists have been replaced by rioters destroying the whole section of American cities. Ruth who grows by observing the civil rights movement in the television attains self-realisation with the help of her grandfather. *Meridian* who is an activist of the civil right movement paved the way to realise herself. Grange's last words to Ruth: 'he does not have a chance, but she does', have some authority in the novel. The consummation of the novel spotlights on the eventual fate of Ruth as well as an old man who has changed his very own life and demonstrated that it is feasible for individuals to change. The author gives the depth of generations through the characters. Ruth and *Meridian* is the product of the past, even though Walker decided not to specify that future. She achieves a self-realisation and a definition of self.

In *Temple of my Familiar* remember the characters in *The Color Purple*. The novel of study has a strong connecting with the authors' award-winning novel *The Color Purple*. By reading this novel, the reader can also recall their ancestors as the character in the novels do.

It tells about the remembrance or to revise their ancestors, mother, grandmother and their community women.

On remembering their past, they also remember the struggle, suffering, oppression, failure, success, empower, women enlistment of their ancestor, which made them continue in present society. Walker insists that African American women should know their past ancestor's life she also says that if the black women fail or ignores and frighten to know about their past life, they will not fight or overcome from their suppression. They may continuously be as a slave to the white-dominated society.

Walker makes her readers find their individuality by reading her novels. In the present novel she about the recollecting the past, according to her only by remembering their past Afro-American black life, they can find their identity of self from the male-dominated society. To the author, it is their (writer) foremost duty to bring the history of past in their works, so that the black people can recall or recollect the how those people fought for their rights, individual and gender discrimination. The writer can insist upon the spiritual and cultural life of the past which can reform the life of the present. By recalling the memory, the readers can visualise the many lives of most black people. Afro-American feels that their works are interdependent on the past and present; they believe their history can heal and help to recollect their individuality. Their works act as a bridge to connect the past and present life of the black community. They join the experience with the current techniques and create awareness among the new generation to achieve the wholeness. Ancestors experience gives wisdom to the present black people to establish individual spirituality and wholeness.

Walker's fiction acts a recovery of the history of African culture, spiritual life and women's position and their transformation and upliftment. She believes Temple of my Familiar brings out the memory of past and one's relationship of the history. In *When God Was a Woman*, Merlin Stone writes:

"The theory that most societies have initially been matrilineal, matriarchal and even polyandrous (one woman with several husbands) was the subject of several extensive studies in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. [...] They suggested that all societies had to pass through a matriarchal stage before becoming patriarchal and monogamous, which they appear to have regarded as a superior stage of civilisation."

Merlin reminds the reader that the study of ancient female-centred religion is not some recent invention or a crackpot radical feminist idea and it is not necessarily accurate and objective knowledge production but a cultural practice with ideological interests. Walker wants the notion of evolutionary superiority to be, and she employs the character of Miss Lisse to do so. The characters in this novel say Walker separated from their past to prevent themselves from becoming as a whole. The characters dissociation of history deny them to grow as a whole, and because of this, they forgot the entire creation of the world. In *The Temple of my Familiar* Walker tries to explore that individual should remember their past to know about their history and culture. Hence this knowledge of history may help the black women to identify themselves and pave the way to live the present life healthily. Walker asserts that an individual's personality is the elements of the collection of past. The historian Howard Zinn has described the dominant account of American history thus:

"The treatment of heroes (Columbus) and their victims (the Arawaks) – the quiet acceptance of conquest and murder in the name of progress – is only one aspect of a particular approach to history, in which the past has told from governments, conquerors, diplomats, leaders. [...] The pretence is that there really is such a thing as 'the United States', subject to occasional conflicts and quarrels, but fundamentally a community of people with common interests. [...]. My viewpoint, in telling the history of the United States, is different in that we must not accept the memory of states as our own. Nations are not communities and never have been."

Walker writes not merely a counter-history to the dominant one, but a different kind of history altogether, one that does not try to suppress or eliminate memory but actively incorporates it and infuses it with imaginations. She finds the preservation of cultural heritage in the literary works of Zora Neale Hurston. Though Hurston's work, Walker found Hurston's geniuses of linking the past and the present which influence Walker to follow in her writings. In *The Temple of my Familiar* Walker narrates the historical perspective of three couples Carlotta, a Latin American woman and Arveyda, a rock star; Fanny, a free-spirited African woman and Suwelo, American history professor; Lissie, a goddess who has lived hundreds of lives and Hal, her companion. These are the characters that touch the historical experience of the past and the present.

All the characters in this novel lost their importance of part, and later they search for that in their present life, and they try a lot to restore the happiness in the past. The experience of the progenitors in the past is the portal for the person to understand their self. In the epigraph, 'Remembrance is the key to redemption' (*Temple of my Familiar*, 334) explores that characters are bound to this quote. According to Walker, the past is more important which will make the individual live their life meaningful in the present. The novel has many stories embedded with characters. Miss. Lissie, the reincarnation in the novel explores the history of black, race and sexism. She narrated the story as her life a thousand years ago. Walker calls the novel 'romance of the last 500,000 years'. Throughout the novel, the author insists how White men are destroying nature and how they treat black people. The novel also explains the issues

of the character, who rediscovers their body and sexuality. Through the character of Zede, the author reveals the black community culture had to withstand the dominated White culture.

Arveyda, the protagonist of the novel has depicted as ancient Indian, is an example of spiritual concern. He is in search for his past, to know about that he meet his aunty, through her, he got deleterious remarks about his mother, and "each of her words against my mother struck me like a blow; as if I were still a child. However, oddly enough she raved, I felt closer and closer to my mother" (392). Carlotta, married to Arveyda, fined she has betrayed by her husband; suffers disillusionment and hates men. Like her husband, Carlotta wants to learn her past, through her husband she learns about her mother's history, her father's identity. Moreover, every other character in *The Temple of my Familiar* Carlotta additionally needs to recall her past. Walker tries to demonstrate the prominence of the bond between the relationship, interdependency and the realisation of the self. Arveyda helps Carlotta to build a bond between the mother and a daughter. Miss Lissie, tells the stories of her past, she can remember, and she brings re-memory. She can feel her manifestation in various bodies. She understands that she can review Africa's past life, she saw chimps in the wilderness as her cousins. Walker here tries to say that human beings get to connect with the animals in the past while in the present there is difference and inequality among human beings. There is a disparity in race, sex, poverty and even people were gathered and isolated in the human network. This remembrance of the past can make an individual to feel their self which can change the present society with its racial discrimination, gender inequality, sexual discrimination and patriarchy system.

CONCLUSION

This paper is a critical attempt on the feature of black feminism, and women oppression. The women characters of the author had undergone various sufferings from a patriarchal society. This paper wind up the novels of Alice Walker, explains the deprivation and false-heartedness of a woman who was dealing with the suppression and disloyalty of male. It deals with unfaithfulness for family and society. Alice Walker as an activist and writer attempts to create awareness among the organisation through her writings. Though she is an Afro American woman, she knows the sufferings of the whole black community. She tries to give the remembrance of the past so that the human population realise their mistake and create equality among them. The position of middle-class black ladies is not fair in the contemporary world. Walker writes not merely a counter-history to the dominated one, but a different kind of history altogether. She tries to say that one does not attempt to suppress or eliminate memory but actively incorporate it and infuse it with imagination. It also speaks of the association and economic wellbeing of the woman in society. Miss Lisse's memory of past lives gives advantageous if fake methods for epitomising in a solitary character century of the historical backdrop of dark womanhood. She understands she can review a couple of times when she found a sense of contentment. *The Temple of my Familiar* offers Alice Walker one more opportunity to consummate a momentary fusion of her being with the souls of others brought a magical affinity of creative intellect.

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