

## THE BLACK IMAGE IN FAULKNER'S FICTION

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Of Faulkner's twenty novels, eighteen deal with the negro; and in his best works, the negro is either the protagonist or a persona of consequence. However, Faulkner's main concern is by no means racial problem. Using the negro as an artistic medium, he tries to show his attitude toward the Southerner or the modern man. He argues that God has blessed mankind with a second chance and asked them to build a new paradise on earth in America, but they fail Him again with slavery.

Since Faulkner means to portray the human heart in conflict with itself, his attitudes toward, and ways of dealing with, the negroes cannot help being inconsistent. He blames and praises the negroes at the same time. He dislikes discrimination and yet abhors miscegenation. Thus, the negro in his fiction bears a complex, contradictory, and twisted image.

Though Faulkner has created some tough and noble super negro characters, those who concern and trouble him most are the lonely and pitiable mulattoes through whom Faulkner very skillfully expresses his ambivalent feeling about his black folks.