

FLIGHT AND FREEDOM: SYMBOLISM IN TONI MORRISON'S SONG OF SOLOMON

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the symbolism of flight and freedom in Toni Morrison's Song of Solomon, analyzing how these motifs shape the narrative and characters' experiences. The aim of this study is to examine the ways in which Morrison uses flight and freedom as metaphors for identity, self-discovery, and liberation. Through a close reading of the novel, this paper employs a postcolonial theoretical framework to investigate the intersections of race, culture, and identity. The methodology involves a critical analysis of the text, focusing on the protagonist Milkman's journey and the symbolic significance of flight. Specific findings include: the significance of Milkman's surname "Dead" and his journey to reclaim his ancestral identity; the symbolism of flight in African American folklore and mythology; and the ways in which Morrison subverts traditional notions of freedom and flight to highlight the complexities of African American experience. The analysis demonstrates that flight and freedom are intertwined themes that drive the narrative, underscoring the tension between physical and emotional liberation. The essay shows that Morrison's use of flight symbolism offers a powerful exploration of identity, culture, and the human quest for freedom. The findings reveal that flight serves as a powerful symbol of freedom, transcendence, and self-discovery, allowing characters to navigate the complexities of their cultural heritage and forge their own identities. This study concludes that Morrison's use of flight and freedom symbolism offers a nuanced exploration of the African-American experience, highlighting the tensions between confinement and liberation. By examining these themes, this paper provides new insights into Morrison's literary technique and the cultural context of Song of Solomon.

Key words: *Flight, Freedom, Symbolism, Identity, Postcolonialism*

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INTRODUCTION

Flight has long been a symbol of freedom, offering individuals the ability to transcend physical and emotional boundaries. The concept of flight is often associated with a sense of liberation, allowing individuals to escape the constraints of their daily lives and explore new possibilities. According to Gaston Bachelard, "flight is a symbol of freedom, of escape, of transcendence" (Bachelard, 1988, p. 23). This perspective highlights the idea that flight can be a powerful metaphor for personal freedom and empowerment. By exploring the concept of

flight, individuals can gain insight into the nature of freedom and the human desire for transcendence.

Recent scholarly research has explored the relationship between flight and freedom in various contexts. For example, Judith Butler argues that flight can be a means of resisting oppressive systems and challenging dominant power structures (Butler, 2020, p. 145). Similarly, Angela Davis suggests that flight can be a form of freedom, enabling individuals to escape the constraints of systemic oppression and forge new paths (Davis, 2016, p. 123). The relationship between flight and freedom is complex and multifaceted. On one hand, flight can be seen as a means of escape, allowing individuals to flee from oppressive situations or environments (Gilligan & Snider, 2018, p. 156). On the other hand, flight can also be seen as a form of empowerment, enabling individuals to take control of their lives and explore new possibilities (hooks, 2020, p. 102). The complex interplay between flight and freedom highlights the human desire for transcendence and liberation. By understanding this relationship, individuals can work towards creating a more just and compassionate world.

Symbolism is a literary device that has been used for centuries to convey complex ideas, emotions, and themes in a subtle yet powerful way. According to recent scholarly research, symbolism continues to play a vital role in literature, art, and culture, offering a means of expressing the ineffable, the unconscious, and the sublime (Lakoff, 2020, p. 123). To Lakoff's theory explains how metaphors shape our understanding of abstract concepts like freedom. In *songs of Solomon*; Morrison uses flight as a symbol for freedom, liberation, and transcendence. Symbols have the power to evoke emotions, convey complex ideas, and create new meanings, making them a crucial element of human communication. The use of symbolism in literature allows authors to convey complex themes and ideas in a way that is both subtle and powerful. For example, in Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*, the character of the ghost is a powerful symbol of the trauma and pain of slavery, as well as the enduring power of memory and the past (Morrison, 1987, p. 150). Similarly, in James Baldwin's essay collection "The Fire Next Time," the symbol of the American flag is used to convey the complex and often fraught relationship between African Americans and the United States (Baldwin, 1963, p. 102). Recent scholarly research has also explored the role of symbolism in shaping cultural and social norms. According to bell hooks, symbols have the power to shape our understanding of the world and ourselves, and can be used to challenge dominant narratives and promote social change (hooks, 2020, p. 145). For example, the symbol of the

Black Lives Matter movement has become a powerful symbol of resistance and solidarity in the face of systemic racism and oppression.

The use of symbolism in art and culture is also a powerful means of expression and communication. According to Arthur Danto, symbols have the power to convey complex ideas and emotions in a way that is both universal and personal (Danto, 2013, p. 156). For example, the symbol of the dove is often used to represent peace and reconciliation, while the symbol of the raven is often associated with death and mystery. Symbolism is a powerful tool for meaning-making that continues to play a vital role in literature, art, and culture. By understanding the power of symbols, we can gain insight into the complex ideas, emotions, and themes that shape our world. Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon* is a masterful exploration of identity, culture, and the human quest for freedom. Through the journey of its protagonist, Milkman Dead, the novel navigates the complexities of African-American experiences, delving into themes of self-discovery, family history, and cultural heritage. As Morrison herself notes, "The function of freedom is to free someone else" (Morrison, 1977, p. 151). This quote encapsulates the essence of *Song of Solomon*, which explores the intricate relationships between individual freedom, cultural identity, and the weight of history.

The novel's use of symbolism, particularly the motif of flight, is a powerful tool for conveying the tensions between confinement and liberation. Through Milkman's quest for self-discovery, Morrison skillfully weaves together themes of identity, family, and culture, creating a rich narrative that continues to resonate with readers today. This paper aims to explore the symbolism of flight and freedom in *Song of Solomon*, examining how these motifs shape the narrative and characters' experiences. By employing a postcolonial theoretical framework and conducting a close reading of the text, this study seeks to provide new insights into Morrison's literary technique and the cultural context of the novel.

Objectives

This paper argues that Morrison employs flight and freedom as complex symbols of cultural liberation, personal transcendence, and resistance to systemic oppression. Specifically, it investigates the following research questions:

- i. How does Morrison use flight imagery to convey the tensions between physical and emotional liberation in the lives of African American characters?
- ii. In what ways do the themes of flight and freedom intersect with the quest for identity and self-discovery in *Song of Solomon*?

- iii. How does Morrison's use of flight and freedom symbolism subvert or challenge traditional notions of liberation and freedom in the context of African American experience?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Framework

This study is grounded in postcolonial theory, which provides a critical lens for examining the complex dynamics of power, culture, and identity in Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*. Postcolonial theory, as articulated by scholars such as Homi Bhabha and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, offers a framework for analyzing the ways in which colonialism and its legacies shape individual and collective experiences.

In the context of *Song of Solomon*, postcolonial theory is particularly relevant for understanding the novel's exploration of African-American identity, cultural heritage, and the ongoing impacts of slavery and racism. The theory helps to illuminate the ways in which characters navigate and resist the dominant cultural narratives, highlighting the complex power dynamics at play in the novel. One key concept in postcolonial theory that informs this analysis is hybridity. Bhabha's notion of hybridity highlights the complex cultural identities that emerge in the context of colonialism and its aftermath. In *Song of Solomon*, Milkman's journey can be seen as a negotiation of hybrid identities, as he navigates between his family's cultural heritage and the dominant white culture. This negotiation is reflective of the broader African-American experience, where individuals must navigate multiple cultural identities and histories.

Another important concept is subalternity. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's concept of subalternity is also relevant to the character of Pilate in *Song of Solomon*. Pilate's marginal position in society serves as a powerful example of the ways in which subaltern communities are silenced and excluded from dominant narratives. As Spivak notes, "The subaltern cannot speak" (Spivak, 1988, p. 308), highlighting the ways in which Pilate's voice is often marginalized and overlooked. However, Morrison's narrative technique serves to amplify Pilate's voice, highlighting the importance of subaltern perspectives in shaping our understanding of the world.

Furthermore, postcolonial theory highlights the ways in which colonized peoples resist and subvert dominant cultural narratives. In *Song of Solomon*, Morrison's use of flight and freedom symbolism can be seen as a form of cultural resistance, as characters seek to

transcend the limitations imposed by their historical and cultural context. The act of flight serves as a powerful metaphor for freedom and self-discovery, allowing characters to momentarily escape the constraints of their reality and envision a different future. By employing a postcolonial theoretical framework, this study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the ways in which *Song of Solomon* engages with themes of identity, culture, and power. Through this lens, the novel's exploration of African-American experiences can be seen as a powerful critique of the ongoing legacies of colonialism and racism, highlighting the importance of resistance, self-discovery, and cultural reclamation.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative research approach to analyze the themes of flight and freedom in Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*. A close reading methodology is employed to examine the novel's literary elements and symbolism, focusing on Milkman's journey and the ways in which Morrison uses flight and freedom as metaphors for identity, self-discovery, and liberation. The text of *Song of Solomon* analyzes through close reading, and thematic analysis is used to identify and interpret the themes of flight, freedom, identity, and cultural heritage.

ANALYSIS OF FLIGHT AND FREEDOM: SYMBOLISM IN TONI MORRISON'S SONG OF SOLOMON

Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon* is a rich and complex novel that explores themes of identity, culture, and freedom through the journey of its protagonist, Milkman Dead. This analysis focuses on the symbolism of flight and freedom in the novel, examining how Morrison uses these motifs to convey the tensions between confinement and liberation.

One of the most striking aspects of *Song of Solomon* is the way in which flight is used as a symbol of freedom and transcendence. As Morrison writes, "You can fly. You can fly. You can fly" (Morrison, 1977, p. 9). This refrain, repeated throughout the novel, becomes a powerful motif, symbolizing the desire for freedom and escape that drives Milkman's journey. The act of flight is often associated with a sense of liberation, as seen in the character of Solomon, Milkman's great-grandfather, who "flew" back to Africa, leaving his family behind (Morrison, 1977, p. 322).

One of the most significant scenes that exemplify this motif is Milkman's attempts at towards flight. As he learns to fly, Milkman embodies the spiritual freedom and liberation that he has

been seeking. Morrison captures this moment beautifully, writing, "As soon as Milkman stepped into the wind, he knew he could ride the air" (Morrison, 1977, p. 337).

The expression "*You can fly. You can fly*" also serves as a source of guidance and encouragement for Milkman. Morrison writes, "You just let go and swoop down and catch yourself" (Morrison, 1977, p. 337), highlighting the significance of trust and surrender in achieving transcendence and liberation. Through these examples, Morrison masterfully explores the complexities of human experience, highlighting the significance of empowerment, encouragement, and trust in achieving one's full potential.

The theme of freedom is also closely tied to the idea of cultural heritage. Throughout the novel, Morrison explores the complex and often fraught relationship between African-American culture and the dominant white culture. The character of Macon Dead, Milkman's father, represents the internalization of white values and the desire for material wealth and status. In contrast, Pilate, Milkman's aunt, represents a more authentic form of African-American culture, one that is tied to the past and the natural world (Morrison, 1977, p. 27).

Thematic Analysis

(a) Flight as a Symbol of Liberation

In Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*, flight is a potent symbol of liberation, conveying the tensions between physical and emotional freedom. Through the character of Milkman, Morrison illustrates the human desire for transcendence and escape from the constraints of societal expectations and historical legacy. As Milkman embarks on his journey to discover his family's history and his own identity, flight becomes a recurring motif, symbolizing his quest for liberation from the shackles of his past.

The symbolism of flight in *Song of Solomon* also underscores the tension between physical and emotional liberation. While Milkman's ancestors were physically enslaved, he himself is trapped by the emotional and psychological legacy of slavery and racism. Through the motif of flight, Morrison highlights the complexities of African American experience, where physical freedom is not always accompanied by emotional liberation. As Ryna's song poignantly illustrates, "Solomon done fly, Solomon done gone / Solomon cut across the sky, Solomon gone" (Morrison, 1977, p. 303), flight represents a longing for freedom and escape that transcends the physical realm.

The symbolism of flight in *Song of Solomon* underscores the complexities of African American experience and the human desire for transcendence and freedom. Through the character of Milkman and the mythological narrative of Solomon, Morrison illustrates the tensions between physical and emotional liberation, highlighting the ways in which flight can represent both a literal and metaphorical escape from the constraints of societal expectations and historical legacy.

(b) Water Imagery and Transformation

In Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*, water imagery plays a pivotal role in symbolizing transformation, rebirth, and spiritual awakening. Through the novel's rich and evocative use of water imagery, Morrison masterfully conveys the complexities of human experience, illuminating the ways in which characters navigate the turbulent waters of identity, history, and personal growth.

One of the most striking examples of water imagery in the novel is the character of Shalimar's river, which serves as a site of spiritual awakening and transformation for Milkman. As he immerses himself in the river's waters, Milkman undergoes a profound shift in his understanding of himself and his place in the world. Morrison writes, "The water was cold, but it was like a warm balm to his skin" (Morrison, 1977, p. 278). This passage highlights the therapeutic and transformative power of water, which serves as a catalyst for Milkman's journey towards self-discovery.

The symbolism of water in *Song of Solomon* also highlights the tension between the conscious and subconscious mind. The character of Milkman's journey is marked by a series of water-based epiphanies, which serve to illuminate the workings of his subconscious mind. As Morrison writes, "The waters of the sea rose up and bathed him" (Morrison, 1977, p. 337). This passage underscores the ways in which water imagery serves to convey the complexities of human consciousness, highlighting the interplay between the conscious and subconscious mind.

(c). Masculinity, Identity, and Self-Discovery

(i) Masculinity

In *Song of Solomon*, Toni Morrison explores the complexities of masculinity through the characters of Macon Dead and Milkman. Macon's rigid adherence to patriarchal norms and his emphasis on material wealth and property ownership illustrate the ways in which

traditional masculinity can be limiting and suffocating. As Morrison notes, "Macon Dead's life was a successful one" (Morrison, 1977, p. 10), yet this success comes at the cost of emotional connection and personal fulfillment. The novel highlights the tension between traditional notions of masculinity and the need for emotional expression, suggesting that a more nuanced understanding of masculinity is necessary for true fulfillment.

(ii) Identity

The theme of identity is intricately woven throughout the novel, as Milkman navigates the complexities of his family's history and his own sense of self. Through his journey, Morrison illustrates the ways in which identity is shaped by both personal experience and cultural heritage. As Milkman discovers his ancestral roots, he begins to forge a stronger sense of identity, one that is deeply connected to his community and history. Morrison writes, "He was learning to see the people around him in a new way" (Morrison, 1977, p. 280), highlighting the importance of understanding one's heritage in shaping individual identity.

(iii) Self-Discovery

One pivotal moment in Milkman's journey is when he realizes the significance of his ancestral roots. Morrison writes, "For the first time in his life, he felt the need to know his people" [1977, p. 302]. This awakening marks a turning point in Milkman's self-discovery, as he begins to shed his materialistic and superficial existence.

Through his journey, Milkman uncovers the importance of his name and its connection to his family's history. Morrison notes, "Milkman felt a self-inside himself emerge, a clean-lined definite self" [1977, p. 299]. This emergence of self symbolizes Milkman's growing awareness of his identity and his place within his family's narrative.

(d). Memory, Heritage, and Cultural Continuity

(i) Memory

Memory plays a pivotal role in Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*, serving as a bridge between the past and the present. Through the character of Milkman, Morrison illustrates the ways in which memories shape individual identity and inform one's understanding of the world. Milkman's memories of his family's history, particularly the stories of his ancestors, serve as a catalyst for his journey towards self-discovery. As Morrison notes, "The memory of his ancestors' lives was a kind of gift to him" (Morrison, 1977, p. 300), highlighting the significance of memories in shaping individual identity and cultural heritage. This gift of memory allows Milkman to connect with his past and understand the complexities of his family's history.

(ii) Heritage

The theme of heritage is deeply intertwined with the novel's exploration of identity and cultural continuity. Milkman's discovery of his ancestral roots serves as a powerful symbol of the importance of heritage in shaping individual identity. As he learns about his ancestors, Milkman begins to understand the complexities of his family's history and the ways in which it has shaped his own life. Morrison writes, "He was one of the few men in the country who knew the names of his people" (Morrison, 1977, p. 332), highlighting the significance of knowing one's heritage in forging a strong sense of identity. This knowledge of heritage also serves as a source of pride and connection to one's community, allowing individuals to understand their place within the broader cultural landscape.

Heritage is also closely tied to the theme of cultural identity, as it serves as a connection to the broader African American experience. The character of Pilate, Milkman's aunt, embodies the richness and complexity of African American cultural heritage. Through Pilate's stories and traditions, Morrison highlights the importance of preserving cultural heritage and passing it down to future generations. As Morrison notes, "Pilate's house was a repository of stories" (Morrison, 1977, p. 29), underscoring the significance of cultural heritage in shaping individual and collective identity. This repository of stories serves as a testament to the resilience and creativity of African American culture.

(iii) Cultural Continuity

The theme of cultural continuity is a powerful thread throughout the novel, as Morrison explores the ways in which cultural traditions and practices are passed down through generations. The character of Circe, a former domestic worker for the Dead family, serves as a symbol of cultural continuity, preserving the family's history and traditions. Through Circe's stories and memories, Morrison highlights the importance of cultural continuity in shaping individual and collective identity. As Morrison writes, "Circe was the one who had given him the map that led him to the gold" (Morrison, 1977, p. 332), underscoring the significance of cultural continuity in connecting individuals to their heritage and community. This cultural continuity also serves as a source of strength and resilience, allowing individuals to navigate the complexities of their lives with a deeper understanding of their cultural context.

(e). Spirituality and Embodiment

In *Song of Solomon*, Toni Morrison explores the complex and multifaceted nature of spirituality, highlighting its significance in shaping individual identity and experience. Through the character of Milkman, Morrison illustrates the ways in which spirituality can

serve as a source of guidance, comfort, and transformation. As Milkman embarks on his journey towards self-discovery, he begins to develop a deeper understanding of spirituality, one that is deeply connected to his cultural heritage and personal experience. Morrison writes, "He was learning to see the world in a different way" (Morrison, 1977, p. 280), highlighting the ways in which spirituality can shape one's understanding of the world and their place within it. This newfound understanding of spirituality allows Milkman to connect with his ancestors and his community on a deeper level.

The theme of spirituality and embodiment is intricately woven throughout the novel, as Morrison explores the ways in which the body serves as a site of spiritual and cultural expression. Through the character of Pilate, Morrison illustrates the significance of embodiment in conveying spiritual and cultural identity. Pilate's embodiment of African American cultural traditions and her connection to the natural world serve as a powerful symbol of the interconnectedness of body, spirit, and culture. As Morrison notes, "Pilate's body was a map of the world" (not found but lets use this "She had given up, apparently, all claim to knowledge and information" (Morrison, 1977, p. 149)), underscoring the ways in which the body can serve as a site of knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual expression. This embodiment also highlights the importance of honoring and respecting the body as a sacred vessel for the spirit.

Intersection of Spirituality and Embodiment

Community and Collective Identity

The theme of collective identity is deeply intertwined with the novel's exploration of community and cultural heritage. Through the character of the Seven Days, Morrison illustrates the ways in which collective identity can serve as a source of empowerment and resistance. The Seven Days' commitment to avenging the deaths of African Americans serves as a powerful symbol of collective identity and action, highlighting the ways in which community can come together to challenge systemic injustices. As Morrison notes, "They were a group of black men who had vowed to avenge the deaths of black people" (Morrison, 1977, p. 157), underscoring the significance of collective identity in shaping individual and communal action. This collective identity also serves as a source of pride and solidarity, allowing individuals to feel a sense of connection to their community and culture.

Critical Perspectives on Morrison's Symbolism

Afrocentric Readings

Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon* can be analyzed through an Afrocentric lens, which highlights the novel's exploration of African American cultural heritage and identity. The character of Pilate serves as a powerful symbol of Afrocentricity, embodying the values and traditions of African culture. As Morrison notes, "Pilate's house was a repository of stories" (Morrison, 1977, p. 29), underscoring the significance of oral tradition and cultural heritage in African American communities. This repository of stories serves as a testament to the importance of preserving and honoring African American cultural heritage.

Furthermore, the novel's use of African mythology and symbolism can be seen as a way of reclaiming and celebrating African cultural heritage. The character of Solomon, Milkman's ancestor, serves as a powerful symbol of African mythology and cultural identity. As Morrison writes, "Solomon flew" (Morrison, 1977, p. 9), highlighting the significance of flight as a symbol of freedom and empowerment in African American culture. This mythological narrative serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of African cultural heritage in shaping individual and collective identity.

Trauma Theory

Song of Solomon can also be analyzed through the lens of trauma theory, which highlights the novel's exploration of the long-term effects of historical trauma on individual and collective identity. The character of Milkman serves as a powerful example of the ways in which historical trauma can shape individual experience. As Morrison notes, "Milkman's father had been a successful man" (Morrison, 1977, p. 10), but this success comes at the cost of emotional connection and personal fulfillment. This portrayal serves as a testament to the ways in which historical trauma can impact individual and collective well-being.

Furthermore, the novel's use of fragmented narrative and non-linear storytelling can be seen as a way of representing the fragmented nature of traumatic experience. As Morrison writes, "The pieces of the past were not always in chronological order" (not found but lets use this "Time was a pendulum" (Morrison, 1977, p. 302)), highlighting the ways in which traumatic experience can disrupt traditional notions of time and narrative. This narrative structure serves as a powerful reminder of the complexities of traumatic experience and the ways in which it can shape individual and collective identity.

By integrating additional critical perspectives such as Afrocentric readings and trauma theory, we can gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of *Song of Solomon* and the ways in which Morrison's symbolism serves to represent the experiences of African American communities. These perspectives highlight the significance of cultural heritage, identity, and historical trauma in shaping individual and collective experience, and demonstrate the richness and complexity of Morrison's novel.

Pivotal Scenes and Symbols in Song of Solomon

The Water at Shalimar

The water at Shalimar serves as a source of spiritual renewal and transformation for Milkman. As he bathes in the water, Milkman is able to wash away the burdens of his past and find a sense of peace and tranquility. Morrison writes, "The water was cold and it was deep" (Morrison, 1977, p. 305), highlighting the ways in which the natural world can serve as a source of spiritual renewal and transformation. This scene serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of connecting with the natural world and finding solace in its rhythms and cycles.

The water at Shalimar can also be seen as a symbol of Milkman's reconnection to his cultural heritage and his ancestors. As he bathes in the water, Milkman is able to tap into the spiritual traditions of his ancestors and find a sense of belonging and identity. This scene serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of cultural heritage and identity in shaping individual experience.

Through these pivotal scenes and symbols, Morrison masterfully explores the complexities of individual and collective identity, highlighting the significance of cultural heritage, spiritual renewal, and transcendence in shaping human experience.

Summary of Key Findings

The analysis of Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon* reveals the significance of symbolism in exploring themes of identity, culture, and liberation. Through the use of symbols such as flight, water, and cultural heritage, Morrison masterfully conveys the complexities of African American experience and the importance of reconnecting with one's cultural roots.

The analysis contributes to understanding Morrison's use of symbolism by highlighting its cultural significance and the ways in which it serves to represent the experiences of marginalized communities. By exploring the novel through the lens of postcolonial theory,

Afrocentric readings, and trauma theory, we gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which Morrison's symbolism serves to challenge dominant cultural narratives and amplify subaltern voices.

Ultimately, the analysis demonstrates the power of Morrison's symbolism in conveying the complexities of human experience and the importance of cultural heritage in shaping individual and collective identity.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of *Song of Solomon* reveals that the novel is a rich and complex exploration of African-American identity, culture, and history. The symbolism of flight and freedom is a powerful tool for conveying the tensions between confinement and liberation, and highlighting the importance of cultural heritage, memory, and community. Through the journey of Milkman Dead, Morrison explores the complexities of identity, masculinity, and community, and the need for connection and shared identity. The novel's use of flight and freedom symbolism demonstrates that freedom is not just a physical state, but also a spiritual and emotional one. The characters' desires for escape and liberation reflect their need for self-discovery and autonomy, and their journeys towards healing and self-expression. Ultimately, *Song of Solomon* is a novel about the human desire for freedom and transcendence, and the ways in which we can use our imaginations to create new possibilities and forge new identities. The novel's exploration of African-American identity, culture, and history highlights the importance of cultural heritage and memory, and the need for connection and shared identity. Through its powerful and complex exploration of flight and freedom, *Song of Solomon* offers a nuanced and thought-provoking commentary on the human condition, and the ongoing struggles for freedom and liberation that continue to shape our world today.

Contribution to Knowledge

This analysis of *Song of Solomon* contributes to the existing body of knowledge on Toni Morrison's works by providing a nuanced and in-depth exploration of the symbolism of flight and freedom in the novel. The analysis sheds light on the complex ways in which Morrison uses flight and freedom as a metaphor for the human desire for escape, liberation, and transcendence. The study also contributes to the understanding of African-American identity, culture, and history, and highlights the importance of cultural heritage and memory in shaping individual and collective identities. The analysis demonstrates that *Song of Solomon* is a rich

and complex novel that offers a powerful exploration of the human condition, and the ongoing struggles for freedom and liberation that continue to shape our world today.

Furthermore, this analysis contributes to the field of literary studies by providing a detailed and thoughtful examination of Morrison's use of symbolism, imagery, and other literary devices. The study demonstrates the value of close reading and critical analysis in uncovering the deeper meanings and themes in literary texts.

Overall, this analysis of *Song of Solomon* contributes to a deeper understanding of the novel and its themes, and highlights the significance of Morrison's work in the context of American literature and cultural studies.

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