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Summer Assignment for INTD100: Coffee and Black Holes
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1.

The essay covered the inner struggle and development of an African American author in Harlem in the mid-1900s. In the essay the author's father is filled with hate, which causes their relationship to be complex. The author then proceeds to speak about his white teacher and her interest in helping his family. The author ends Part 1 with a view into the ignorance and hate that surrounds his life. With segregation and racism being a part of the climate, the author is consumed with hate. The author now understands what is eating him from the inside. He knows he must release the hate so he doesn't follow the same path as his father.

2.

The essay explains the experience of a segregated hate filled Harlem and New Jersey during the mid-20th century.

3.

The author begins to mention the poison as not anything with substance or physicality, but as a spiritual poison that breaks down the strongest of men. The poison is the hatred spread throughout the aspects of Harlem. The deteriorated buildings, businesses and pieces of Harlem caused by segregation and unfairness or the world acted as a spiritual poison of the body. The cure to this poison for the author is something that frees his existence from the discrimination is writing. With all the poison brewing in his core the author cures himself with writing. When he was young he spoke up to his father with courage expressing his interest in writing, as his father wanted him to be a minister. The author finishes Part III concluding that hate and injustice will happen, but it is everyone's job to defeat it.

4.

In the final part of the essay the author reflects after his father's funeral a chain of events that happened in New York. He begins to give context of the event as there was a black soldier, a black woman, and a white police officer in a hotel lobby. The men begin to argue over the women which leads to the death of the soldier. Rumors and lies begin to spread across Harlem of what happened. The rumors state that the officer saved the woman from the soldier, which is false but the truth doesn't seem to matter. "Perhaps many of those legends, including Christianity, to which the world clings began their conquest of the world with just some such concerted surrender to distortion". The truth is overshadowed by hate and indifference, much so that it is easily justified with ignorance. With the word of this event spreading rioters begin to target white businesses in Harlem and begin destroying the city of Harlem. The author mentions the rioters bringing all this wealth out into the street; it didn't even look like Harlem. He says that the destruction of all this wealth is a waste, but the rioters needed something to smash to release their anguish.