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INTD 100

Professor Hanson

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1. *This essay is in a narrative style, and is broken into several parts. Summarize part I in one paragraph, using 120 words or fewer. Note: The purpose of this exercise is to complete the summary in no more than a certain number of words. What key moments stand out in your mind? What is the central realization of the author at the end of the section?*

The essay starts with the author describing his lack of a relationship with his now deceased father. His father always told him to never trust a white man, and they would always “do anything to keep a Negro down”. Later in part I, the author talks about his time living in New Jersey and the issues he faced in a time where segregation was ordinary. He eventually got so fed up with the way white people treated him that he entered a restaurant and tried to attack a waitress after she refused him service. He snapped out of his rage and realized if his friend had not caused a distraction in the aftermath, he easily could have been murdered.

2. *Repeat exercise 1, but instead use only twenty words. What happens in part I of the essay?*

We are given a firsthand account of someone’s dealings of racism and discrimination in the 1940s.

3. *Consider part III. Construct a tract of writing that a) defines and explains the poison metaphor the author describes at the funeral of his father, b) identifies the author’s “cure” or cures for the poison, and c) provides several pieces of supporting evidence for the identification of the author’s cure.*

While at his father's funeral, the author recognizes that perhaps he mistook his father's protectiveness of his children as harshness. He states that parents have to protect their children from the poison of the world, and all of Harlem, as well as all the hate within the world, is poison. "All of Harlem, indeed, seemed to be infected by waiting. I had never known it to be so violently still". He then questions if an antidote for this poison even exists, suggesting that we should fight poison with poison, suggesting that sometimes hate should be met with hate. But as we think back to his encounter with the waitress at the restaurant, perhaps this is not the best solution. In his specific case, his "antidote" was writing, although it led to a large rift with his father since he moved away from preaching (his father's profession) to be able to write more.

4. *Consider the final part of the essay, when the author describes the fight in the Hotel Braddock. Write a tract of between 200-400 words on the author's treatment of evidence and facts. What does the author have to say about the importance of facts about the fight to the people in that neighborhood? Notice the author's writing takes on the tone of a reporter regarding the ensuing riot. What facts stand out regarding the outcome?*

In the lobby of Hotel Braddock, a white police officer and a black soldier (not in uniform) got in a fight over a black woman. The author tells us that this was not an uncommon occurrence, but unlike all these other disputes, this specific incident ended with the soldier being shot by the police officer. After the shooting, a rumor starts to spread that the soldier was shot in the back while protecting the woman involved. Even though this wasn't true, believing it was the Harlem community's way of justifying the riots that took place later that summer. Throughout much of the book, the author talks about how at one point or another, every black person has felt a blind rage toward white people (and even opens up about his own personal experience of this). After being

discriminated against for so many years, and then having a police force move into their neighborhood, the people of Harlem finally struck back. “The effect, in Harlem, was like the effect of a lit match in a tin of gasoline... Harlem exploded”. Just as the author’s hate for white people (as well as the main character of the book *Native Son*, who is discussed earlier) consumed him, it consumed the people of Harlem. And although not much was accomplished by looting all the Harlem stores, a message was sent to white America that a change was coming.