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ENG 104-01

“Dutchman” the response essay

In this essay, the reader is assigned to make his or her points of view arguments for the article “Dutchman”; this article’s setting was during the late 1950s to early 1960s, racial profile was heavily emphasized; however the reader found an interesting argument, which is, the writer tried to present the idea-“no good deeds”, base on the facts: LULA’s seduction, Clay’s reaction towards to LULA’s actions, and Clay’s submissiveness toward to LULA’s seduction.

According to urban dictionary, the definition of “good deeds” is “An act from which you get no benefit that costs you.” Therefore, the reader defines “good deeds” in this article is an interaction between opposite sex, without seeking benefits or sexual interactions.

First of all, it showed that LULA’s seduction towards to Clay, earlier in the article, “LULA: I was. But only after I’d turned around and saw you staring through that window down in the vicinity of my ass and legs.”(Baraka 1) Such sentence showed LULA’s initial intention, which was seductive; however her motives changed later on. With this point of view, writer tried to point out the society between straight male and female can only exist with sexual seduction at first; the logic did however explain the hook up culture that has been developed throughout the generations since the 1960s. The younger generation heavily emphasizes on flirting when it comes to opposite sex meeting for the first time; the day to day friendly type of relationship between two straight opposite gender is rarely to be seen so that explain the point that writer was trying to convey, there is “no good deeds”

Second, it was once again reinforced, in the reality; “good deeds” does not exist through the reaction of Clay toward to LULA’s action. First of all, if the reader has read through the entire article; it can conclude that Clay does not have a submissive personality, in fact it showed that he wanted to dominate over the white supremacy at the end; however the reader got the vibe that Clay was purposely obeying LULA’s offensive language and insults. Such evidences showed that Clay’s first intention was not “good deeds”, because as an ordinary person, he or she would stand for himself or herself, when his or her dignities were under attack by outside influence,

“

LULA: you look like you have been trying to grow a bear. That’s exactly what you look like. You look like you live in New Jersey with your parents and are trying to grow a beard. That’s what. You look like you’ve been reading Chinese poetry and drinking lukewarm sugarless tea. You look like death eating a soda cracker

CLAY: Really? I look like all that?”(Braka 3)

Through this interaction, it was obvious that Clay undergo with all LULA’s insult without even trying to fight back for his images; in such sense it could assume that Clay’s intention between himself and LULA’s interaction was not “good deeds”.

Last, it can conclude that Clay was submissive to LULA over several occasions, however he finally snapped when he realized he wasn’t getting anything that he was wished for. Such reason can further prove the point that the author was purposely selling the no “good deeds” idea. “

LULA: Now you say to me, ‘Lula, Lula, why don’t you go to the party with me tonight?’ It’s your turn, and let those be your lines.

CLAY: Lula why don’t you go to this party with me tonight, huh?

LULA: say my name twice before you ask, and no huh’s.

CLAY: Lula, Lula, why don’t you go to this party with me tonight?”(Baraka 4)

This conversation showed that Clay was inferior to Lula’s dominate and seductive image, where he let go his dignity and confident, in order to get what he thought he would be getting, which was sex with Lula, and it also confirmed the point- no “good deeds”.

At the end, reader concluded that the writer demonstrated the stereotypical fact about opposite sex interaction in current society, which was essentially a beneficial relationship between twos. She used the scenarios between Lula and Clay: : LULA’s seduction, Clay’s reaction towards to LULA’s actions, and Clay’s submissiveness toward to LULA’s seduction,.