

A Literary Overview of Racial Consciousness in *Things Fall Apart*

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In *Things Fall Apart* missionaries come in Umuofia in the middle of the novel. A white man appears in Umufoia with his iron horse or motor, villagers take him as an albino, and they were so surprised and shocked to see him that they determined to kill him. Obierika brought news of missionary`s murder in Abame and acted it wrong. Then people discussed with each other if they came to their clan by mistake or something wrong? Nevertheless, after sometime on the next visit to Mbanta, Obierika come to know that the missionaries have penetrated to Umufoia and want to use it as a center of their religion. However, the villagers did not care for this.

In addition, when the first white missionary comes to Mbanta, he is welcomed with sweet humors by the villagers. He attracts the villagers on the behalf of God and religion. The villagers believed and whispered dead missionary is round the bend. Even Okonkwo joins the discussion and express amusement. Nevertheless, it was the first step to construct their colony. Moreover, Carroll explains:

“The Umuofians, we feel, are justifiably skeptical toward the new religion which is being imported in this gauche and complacent manner into the midst of their self-conscious society. But not everything is greeted with laughter and incredulity.”

Although Achebe satirizes the Igbo cosmology and tells us about dead Igbo people don't know anything about the world society. They were out of the ordinary from whites but now the white man asks for the land. Subsequently this is the fundamental and most important point and irony from where their world has been misrepresented. The villagers allowed them to construct a church in the 'evil forest', or the 'dumping -ground' for the powerful fetishes upgrade medicine men when they dead. On the other hand in their foolishness, thoughtlessness and ignorance they see it as an evil land. In spite of this when nothing happened to missionaries and they were not killed in the expected four days, the clan came to the conclusion that the white men had extra ordinary supremacies.

Moreover, it was their first triumph on villagers, their viewpoint, and their religions and on their Gods. In Umuofia, these missionaries came here for their own sake but meanwhile they

made their tenacious hold upon Umufians to the end of once resources without restrictions from the greatest to the smallest.

Even one can see jokes on white man were such an object of humors and mock in the beginning when they first arrive in Umuofia but after that, they were taken as very horrible and terrible people. Eventually a white man appears in the village and he was taken as albino.

However, it was not very easy getting the men of high title, chief priest and the elders, but the rulers of Mbanta established the missionaries. Moreover, Nwoyi, Okonkwo's first son was the first person who had been fascinated. He was so attracted and concerned of their faith from the beginning that whenever they came to give a sermon, he was there. Nonetheless at the same time he was frightened as his father did not like the missionaries at all. Now they have succeeded to change his religion and later on, he christened as Isaac. First, they built their church. Now from these days we can see the vision to make Umuofia as a colony. So they establish their government in Umuofia.

However, when they came to know about that it is rather late, because white men were conscious and interested, they brought not only a religion but also a government to look after the converts. Then their own people said that their (Umuofians) own religion and their customs are bad. Nevertheless, it is not completely, in the blacks, there is something in correct with the whites too. Even Mr. Smith, Mr. Brown's descendant was an unusual kind of man. He predestined Mr. Brown's policy of cooperation and negotiation. He saw things as black and white. And black was evil. One can see the great conflict between two cultures.

In the middle of the novel, Okonkwo exiled to his mother's native soil, as he commits an offense, in spite of this when he returns after seven years, he finds the consequence of the Christian church. Now this village has been transformed by the existence of the Europeans and now the blacks or the villagers were obeying their instructions and regulations. Moreover, when in the last part of the novel, Okonkwo tries to get higher up against missionaries; he is compelled and constrained to suicide. Here Achebe achieves a weird and wonderful combination of repentance, disappointment and becomes spectator of the mercilessness and suffering of the life of Umuofia given by Europeans. This is the Christianity's gratuitous and unreasonable attack upon their traditional principles and standards.

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