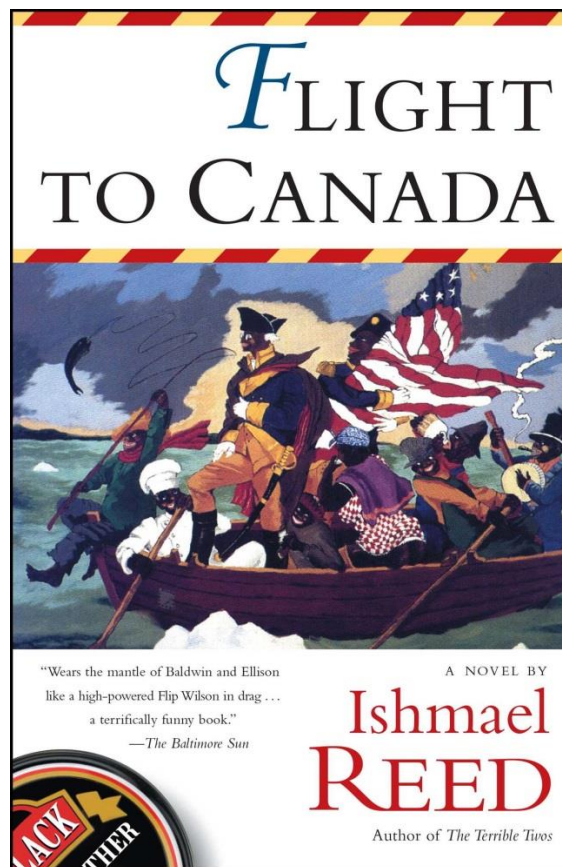


Language in India [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com) ISSN 1930-2940 18:6 June 2018  
Prof. S. Arunraj and Dr. P. Viduthalai, Editors  
*Portrayal of Social Issues in Literature and Media*  
Centre for Media and Social Science, Salem, Tamilnadu and  
Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Periyar University, Salem

## An Encounter with the Oppression and Discrimination in Ishmael Reed's *Flight to Canada*

P. Premalatha, M.Phil. English



Courtesy: <http://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Flight-to-Canada/Ishmael-Reed/9780684847504>

### Abstract

The major social issues prevails in literature in oppression discrimination years and culture is heralded by many as leaving almost magical come powers to general the common and cities to make the sad happy in the novel flight to Canada by Ishmael reed explores about on cultural shower among people this paper aim to portray the black people against oppression and cultural discrimination in this

Language in India [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com) ISSN 1930-2940 18:3 March 2018  
Prof. S. Arunraj and Dr. P. Viduthalai, Editors: *Portrayal of Social Issues in Literature and Media*  
P. Premalatha, M.Phil. English

An Encounter with the Oppression and Discrimination in Ishmael Reed's *Flight to Canada*

way black people suffers under cultural discrimination. Though this discrimination black people are isolate and suffer under the psychological problems. The action interprets about the suffering of people who stuck with cultural discrimination shown this kind of discrimination is also the violence

## **Introduction**

This paper deals with the topic cultural discrimination that comes from the theory cultural studies. Cultural discrimination explains about the variations between the upper class and obstacles lower class. That is the sufferings of lower class people such as slavery, domination. *Flight to Canada* depicts the cultural discrimination between black and white people.

## **African-American Literature**

African-American literature is the body of literature produced in the United States by writers of African descent. Which begins with the 18th century writers as Phillis Wheatley. The role of African American literature within the larger American Society, African culture, racism, slavery and social equality. African American writers have been recognized by the highest award including the Nobel Prize to Toni Morrison. African American literature began from late 20th century and early 21st century

The important development in African American literature during the last three decades include the overwhelming success well as a growth in the number of authors. The themes and issues explored in this literature are the role of African Americans within the larger American society, African – American culture, racism, slavery and social equality.

## **Slavery**

Since the history of African American writers paid attention on the themes of wavy poor and inhumane behaviour that slaves commonly experienced. Classic slave narratives included Frederick Douglass. Modern writers like Toni Morrison and Alice Walker adopted this theme of slavery and slave narratives in their works as well.

## **Cultural Studies**

Cultural studies were initially developed by British academics in the late 1950s, 1960s and 1970s and has been later transformed of various disciplines around the world. The discipline of Cultural Studies is a field of theoretical, political and empirical study that leads to Cultural analysis which concentrates on the political dynamics of contemporary culture its historical Foundations, defining traits conflicts, and contingencies.

Ishmael Scott Reed is an American poet, novelist, essayist, songwriter, playwright, editor and publisher, known for his satirical works challenging American political culture. In 1995, the college awarded him an honorary doctorate degree. He was nominated for a Pulitzer prize for his work *Flight to Canada*, 1976

## **Cultural Discrimination**

In recent years and culture is announced by magical powers: to regenerate the economy and cities, to make the sad happy, and to combine the prohibit. The triumph of multi-culturalism means the art, literature and music of many more civilizations than Western Europe are often elevated. Aesthetic

---

**Language in India** [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com) ISSN 1930-2940 18:3 March 2018

**Prof. S. Arunraj and Dr. P. Viduthalai, Editors: Portrayal of Social Issues in Literature and Media**

P. Premalatha, M.Phil. English

An Encounter with the Oppression and Discrimination in Ishmael Reed's *Flight to Canada*

125

judgment relies: taste, discrimination, beauty and truth. It can be alienated to the beauty of our cultural tradition decrying it as superior, rarefied and elitist. The exercise of our taste and discrimination. May go against the work of art our and cultural world becomes a relatively undistinguished one. Certainly, lazy cultural relativism or a tolerance towards anything new and shocking, let alone forcing the arts into an instrumentalist straitjacket, will not help us to forge any common understanding and love of the arts.

### ***Flight to Canada***

Ishmael Reed's genius lies in his perception and expression of the cultural conflict basic to the oppression of black Americans historically and contemporarily and "obscure references". Reed achieved an exceptional level of insight, satire, and intrigue in *Mumbo Jumbo*. In *Flight to Canada*, he gives us insight, satire, intrigue and hilarity in complex analysis of American black, White relations, the cultural struggle between western Civilization and the Afro-American focusing on the afro- American membership in the so-called Third World by virtue of domestic colonization.

Reed does not accept the recognition of racial and cultural freedom as a myth. Oppression simply takes another form as slavery is abolished. Many are fooled into believing it is virtually non-existent. The Raven Quick skills struggle and discover the harsh reality of the veil.

### **Conclusion**

*Flight to Canada* raises the consciousness to the cultural contours of the political struggle and the foils of the past in the struggle for liberation, extricating the myths, Black and White have so entangled.

### **Works Cited**

Reed, Ishmael. *Flight to Canada*. New York: Atheneum, 1989.

Walsh, Richard. "A Man's Story is His Gris- Gris': Cultural Slavery, Literary Emancipation and Ishmael Reed's *Flight to Canada*." *Journal of American Studies* 27, 1993: 51-71.

---

P. Premalatha, M.Phil. English  
Vivekanandha College of arts and Science for Women (Autonomous)  
Elayampalayam  
Tiruchengode