**Women as a Stigma of Bravery: An Analysis of Maya Angelou “Maya Angelou”**

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**Abstract**

Marguerite Annie Johnson known as Maya Angelou was an American poet and civil right activist. She is well known for her unique autobiographical writings. Many of her poems encompass the themes of survival and protest. She was the hero for many women. She voices out the rights of women, racism and slavery. The paper examines the racism and injustice meted out of women the in United States. Got throws light on the intuition of black people opportunity, slavery and the rights for women. The regarding attempts to analyse whether the rights bestowed to women are acquiesced by the society.

**Keywords:** Protest, Racism, Injustice, Survival.

“STILL I RISE” the title make the sense that, Angelou endured many extrinsic extremist who made her path gruelling and still she rising up. The poem celebrates self-respect and self-confidence. And uses of several figurative language such as anaphora, alliteration and similes made the readers delightful and to deduce, strength is overpriced than beauty. This is also a major outbreak of how dark people have been illtreated by our society and also the denied opportunities.

By the line,

*Did you want to see me broken?*  
*Bowed head and lowered eyes?*  
*Shoulders falling down like teardrops,*  
*Weakened by my soulful cries?*

By the words Angelou imparting servitude of the society and slavery done for women and also the brutalization activity on African-American people.

That the society aimed her to see broken with bowed head and lowered eyes along with her soulful cries but even though, she rises up similarly stronger and stronger that no men can hit by her womanhood.

And I not only have the right to stand up for myself, but I have the responsibility. I can’t ask somebody else to stand up for me if I won’t stand up for myself. And once you stand up for yourself, you’d be surprised that people say, “can I be of help?”
By the quote Angelou disseminated that how she stood brave and master enough to face all herculean situations and enigma given by the society. She is judicious wise in her writings each sensible word bestowed the deep emotions which have been elapsed in every woman’s life.

IN THE 6TH STANZA
You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I’ll rise

By the lines Angelou pour out her heaviness of heart and soul, that how the society is backbreaking and oppress. The hateful words won’t break her down into piece on the contrary it made her so mighty and powerful. Even the whole universe can’t stop her victory. She forcefully assured that if this cultural society tries to defeat her, she rises like a ‘’air’’. here It shows the braveness of women. No man can stop the acquirements of them. Each one as the wings to fly high and high.

The notion falls in 8th stanza:
I’m a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

The lines depict discrimination have been bombarding the African Americans in united states. Discrimination signifies treating a person or group worse than others by gender, racial, and religious form. the research on discrimination developed under the foundation of NPR and Robert wood Johnson, by the Harvard T.H Chan school of public health. The research revealed a shocking detail, discrimination troubled a major group of people in America. the interview comprises African American, Asian American, native American, Latinos, men and women. That every people individual sustained discrimination everywhere. By the research nearly (45%) of African American gone through racial discrimination in job interviews, public places like shops and malls, when consulting a doctor or health clinic and also while renting a home or apartment.

The same research declared that 41% of women report against in equal pay and promotion opportunities. the biggest gender gaps are faced in the area of income, 25% of women says that they have been payed less than a man who performed the same job. Despite the tremendous struggle made for gender equality, women still face violence, low income, denied promotion in jobs. When this situation will change? How far women should fight for their rights? When will the society treat men and women equal? these are all the troubling questions still rising by women. The only answer for all these questions is ‘’still I rise’’. This is anthem for all women who are troubling. whatever be the situation Angelou says still I rise, which gives more strength and energy to go forward.

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