



The Black Intellectual Tradition and the Great Conversation with Dr. Angel Parham

Lesson 10: Toni
Morrison, Part II

Outline:

Song of Solomon, a novel by Toni Morrison continued

- Naming and remembering the name.
- The longing for one's true name.
 - The name that his finger fell on was Pilate.
 - We see a reference to the Union man who wrote the name down wrong.
 - There is a fundamental disconnection from their family history.
 - Many black people were illiterate post emancipation and so this allowed them to be taken advantage of and to be radically misnamed.
- Macon Dead's father:
 - The passage is almost a kind of paradise.
 - You get the major personalities of the Civil War in the names of the farm animals.
 - You get the desire of the white community to have the very valuable wood on the land.
 - The father is ultimately shot to death and the children are scattered to the wind.
 - Papa couldn't read, so he never found out what he was registered as until Mama told him. There is disadvantage and exploitation in not being able to read.
 - Even though he gets an Eden like farm, he is thwarted there also because he is killed.