

Biblical archetypes in w. faulkner's novels

As an important representative of the Southern Literature in the 20th century America Faulkner in his creations borrows and adopts thinking traditions and literary expressions of the Holy Bible. From his novels, the major themes of the ancient Bible, such as sin, depravity and salvation of human, can be found frequently; they are also major concerns of his novels revealing the contradictions and conflicts of the good nature and the wicked nature of mankind.

In the *Sound and Fury*, the structure of the story is perfectly balanced and symbolically paired with the Passion of Christ (the three days are Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday). And the Passion of Christ is used to allude to the real life. *Light in August* transmits Faulkner's borrowings of the theme of the New Testament. Joe Christmas, leading character of this novel, is used by Faulkner to allude to Jesus Christ. The writer draws an analogy of Christmas' being executed to Jesus' crucifixion, so as to tell the readers how the weakness of humanity, such as prejudice, ignorance, bigotry and intolerance, produces tragedies.

As I Lay Dying opens out such a frame before us: Addie Buddren lies dying in her bed in her family's farmhouse. Her husband Anse keeps his promise on the request of Addie, i.e. to bury her after her death in Jefferson, where her 'people' were from. This may easily remind us of the stories from Genesis of the Old Testament. When the time drew nigh that Israel must die, and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, 'bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt. But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their burying place' (Gen. 47:29 – 30). The writer endows the mourners and the funeral journey with obvious allegorical colorings. The evident influence of the Old Testament to the novel *As I Lay Dying* can be traced from, from the foreshadowing of the plot to the use of language style. To Faulkner, evil breaches humanity, and it is the biggest betrayal of morals, while good/righteousness is the reservation of the bright side of humanity. Faulkner's standard of morals comes from the Christian ideology of humanity.