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MAYCOMB COUNTY TRIBUNE

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A justification crossroad

By Dolphus Raymond

The people of Maycomb require a certain amount of justification for the things that they do not understand. People are to stay in their place. If there is change, problems begin to arise. The hallucinations that the people of Maycomb have projected on themselves are vivid and when they are broken we become more irrational. The case of Tom Robinson is a prime example of this unspoken system that has been established in our little town of Maycomb. Tom Robinson, a man convicted of raping Mayella Ewell, was shot 17 times. His death was not one of bias, it was simply because he was an escaped prisoner, but the people of Maycomb will disregard this because there is no specific justification for it. We can guess as to what drove him, he was innocent, he was guilty, but it can only be justified by Tom.

It confuses us when the explanation is beyond our knowledge or liking for that matter. The verdict of the Robinson case was unjust and wrong. In most cases it is impossible to disprove facts, but in this particular case the facts were not disproven but disregarded for if a black man should prove himself to be innocent it would disrupt the whole ecosystem of Maycomb. People or children would now begin to question the values of Maycomb county and whether or not they are truly rational. The thought of a disruption was insane to the people of Maycomb.



Rhonus tempor placerat.



Rhonus tempor placerat.

Atticus Finch and Tom Robinson during the prosecution's opening statement.



Rhonus tempor placerat.

Even so, an even smaller disruption occurred when the jurors took a massive amount of time discussing the verdict, this time was so significant because it showed that the jurors were thinking about the verdict and discussing the truth, which comes after Maycomb logic. During the trial I stepped outside and a young man was disturbed and crying, he spoke of the intense disrespect that the Prosecution lawyer had showed to Tom Robinson by repetitively calling him “boy”. It did not occur to him that this was the way of Maycomb and it was justified here.

I have also been a victim of the unjustified justification system of Maycomb county; it is inconceivable for the people of Maycomb to believe that the decisions that I make are legitimate and thought out. Even though My decisions are Unorthodox by Maycomb’s standars My decisions are my own, and I believe that no one should have to justify his or her life decisions simply because it is not completely understood by others. I have a tremendous amount of respect for Atticus Finch the defense lawyer for Tom Robinson. He made it his own responsibility to construct a case with a purpose, to be thought out by the

people of Maycomb, and not initially decided and disregarded. Bob Ewell was a vivid and loud example of the mentality of Maycomb towards its black people. He assumed he would be considered a hero by having his daughter deliver a fallacious testimony accusing a black man of rape.

He was incredibly wrong even though the Ewells won the case against Tom Robinson, a new world of shame had opened up for the Ewells now with the suspicion of Bob Ewells abuse towards Mayella and Mayella’s obvious false accusation towards Tom Robinson for her own conscios relief. I believe that immense amount of time spent by the jurors is a huge step for Maycomb. A huge step in the sense that we are finally looking at problems in the view of right and wrong or just and unjust but, not just black and white. My hope is that Maycomb will continue to make these small but prosperous changes as time goes on, and that our children and our children's children will continue to prosper morally from these changes and not see things in just black in white, but in color. Maycomb is now at a crossroad and we have to figure out which path we want to take on.

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