

LESSON NOTE ON LITERATURE-IN-ENGLISH WEEK 2

SUBJECT: Literature-in-English

TOPIC: African Poetry: "The Grieved Lands of Africa" by Agostinho Neto

CLASS: SS2

WEEK: 2

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

Agostinho's "The Grieved Lands of Africa" is a lamentation poem that explores the glaring injustice and the inhumanity against humanity perpetrated by the colonial administration in Africa. The poem focuses on the "grieved lands of Africa" as it set to serve as a remembrance of the many years of anguish and pain Africans went through in the hands of colonial masters; the Europeans majorly seen in line 2, "tearful woes of ancient and modern slaves". This recalls the tears of Africans as they are transported as slaves bubbled up and down on the high seas.

In line 17, the poet tells of how Africa remains live even in the face of all these challenges. It speaks of the courageous and fervent spirit of the Africans. In line 25-28, "Even the corpses thrown up by the Atlantic² does not discourage the Africans. The poet also makes us see how sorrowful the land of Africa was. In line 6-16, where the poet motif (motive) of the grieved lands of the African continent suffered from the "infamous sensation of the stunning perfume of flower crushed in the forest by the wickedness of iron and fire (modernization)". The so-called modernization in the stance could be seen from an imperialist point of view that comes to a foreign land to steal away the wealth or other mineral resources of their land and then leave the land Africa in grieve.

However, the reference to "Lands" in the poem is an indication that the injustice to Africa was done in all over the continent of Africa. In the last stanza of the poem, the poet shows how enduring the land of Africa in itself is and how its tenacity (level of perseverance) has sustained it over the years. Lines 37-42, have it that "they live"; this line is very emphatic in the sense that, the grieved lands of Africa is not dying; "because we are living" Africa is "imperishable particles of the grieved lands of Africa".

SETTING

The poem is set in Africa.