

# Echoes of Anguish and Resistance of Women in Postcolonial Writing

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*Editors*

*Dr. K. Manikandan*

*Dr. K. Rajkumar*



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1 PARK STREET • KOLKATA 700 016

## Psychological Torment of Sethe in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

M. Paul Joses  
Research Scholar,  
V.H.N.S.N. College, Virudhunagar (Autonomous)

Dr. K. Muthurajan  
Associate Professor of English,  
V.H.N.S.N. College, Virudhunagar (Autonomous)

Postcolonialism can be considered as the aftermath of colonialism or a study of an impact that colonialism has left in a society or in an individual's mind. Slavery was predominant in America in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries people were kidnapped from the continent of Africa, forced into slavery in America and exploited to work as indentured servants and labor in the production of crops. It was mainly dominant in the Southern part of America where umpteen numbers of slaves were employed in different parts of a white household. Many escaped the clutches of slavery and ran towards the North where there was tolerance and freedom. Only a very few succeeded in their journey with great a struggle.

The novel *Beloved* by Toni Morrison deals with slavery and its aftermath through distinctive characters. Toni Morrison focuses more on mental trauma that a slave undergoes in his/her treatment. Slavery can haunt a person's mind forever. The character Sethe from *Beloved* is an excellent example of that. She was mentally traumatized by some events that happened in her life. When she was a slave, she was abused sexually, and she was nearly beaten to death by her owner which left a scar which never healed both in her body and in her mind. As the novel progresses we can see the traces of slavery haunting her mind and her suffering in accordance to her past life as a slave.