Invisible man 3

Linguistics, English



A book about racism, Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man talks about racism in the American society against the Blacks. In his struggle to fit in the society and be accepted in the community, the main character tells a story of mostly disappointing experiences. From his childhood, the character illustrated his invisibility in the society from the moment he was humiliated by white men in his town. His desire to belong to a group continues until he becomes a member of a Brotherhood that leads him nowhere else but to where he used to be, an invisible man, who, according to him should simply accept his own identity and value his own individuality.

Although it seems that in the modern society equality among races has been achieved, there remains to be a huge number of people who are represented by the main character in Invisible Man. Not only the African-American society struggles to find their own identity and value in a diverse community such as the United States, but also those from other continents of the world. Students as well as professionals from different ethnicities and culture do everything in order to make themselves fit in the American society. Social groups in different forms have started to exist in the society offering a sanctuary to those who feel neglected by other members of the community. Just like the main character in the novel, he found refuge in social groups such as the Brotherhood where he eventually though he has found his worth. However, as people become too attached to these groups, they eventually find out that this does not necessarily make them heard of their voices. In fact, the identity that they thought they had found in being a one among the members is not theirs but what the leaders of the group wanted them to be. In this reading, Ellison made it clear that embracing one's individuality is the

key to achieving peace to oneself. The desire of being accepted in the society is not achieved by seeking acceptance from other people and various social groups. The world itself is already filled with people who have prejudices among each other. Finding peace in oneself is the only key to being accepted in the society that is in itself already a mess.