

Racism at the Root of Monstrosity

It is evident that monstrosity conflicts with the social events partaking in our world today. Human society is responsible for the construction of various prevalent monsters that remain involved in social exchanges, job enrollments, and politics. Throughout the existence of mankind racism has been consistently relevant amongst these monsters. Racism is the monstrous engagement of discriminatory behavior that is produced by humanity and utilized by the monsters roaming society. The act of racism is depicted today in multiple contemporary news articles that display the monstrous qualities that coincide with racism. An article that sufficiently expresses these qualities was released by CNN and labeled “Some of Us Are Complicit in Racism”. In this article I successfully drew connections between the article itself, and the discriminatory acts displayed in the novel “Frankenstein”, by Mary Shelley.

This article, written by Shai Held, vividly depicts the prevalence of racism in society today and the monstrous behavior that coincides with it. In Portland Oregon, a male white supremacist was identified after murdering two men who decided to contest the suspect’s public “anti-muslim rant”. Days after this event, an “Isis-linked terrorist” ruthlessly killed 22 people at a concert that took place in Manchester, England. These incidents of monstrosity were initiated by emotions that contained discrimination and resulted in racist behavior. Held brings these two occurrences up briefly, but dives deeply into a crime he considers “unforgettable”. This “unforgettable” crime was committed on Richard Collins, a young black man enrolled in Bowie State University. Richard Collins was murdered after he refused to step aside and allow a white male

student to pass by. The white male suspect was affiliated with various online groups that solely promoted discrimination against people of color.

In the article, Held recalls the famous statement declared by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, “racism is an eye disease”. In “Frankenstein”, Victor Frankenstein contains this disease. He rejects his creation solely on the basis of its appearance and discriminates against it due to the creature's lack of similarity. This lack of similarity is present in all three of the crimes that Shai Held utilized as references. The refusal to accept diversity results in the monstrous activity that has consistently circulated through society since the beginning of humanity. Some of these monstrous activities are even displayed by those targeted by racism and discrimination. This can be seen in “Frankenstein” through the creature's killing-rampage in response to its rejection.

Through “Frankenstein” and “Some of Us Are Complicit in Racism”, it is clear that racism is directly connected to monstrosity. When racism is present, monstrous emotions, thoughts, and actions proceed. This is shown through numerous crimes triggered by the concept of racism. Shai Held and Mary Shelly shared similar purposes for writing these two pieces. This purpose was to persuade their audience that discrimination and racism is often at the core of monstrosity. Failure in the acceptance of diversity motivates people to become monsters. Although many attributions contribute to the definition of monstrosity, racism plays a vital role in the development of monstrosity.