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Department of English

Amandivilai, Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu, India

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International Conference on Language, Literature, and Humanities



This is to certify that Dr V Rejulin Jerin Kumar, Assistant Professor, Centre for Postgraduate Studies and Research in English, Muslim Arts College, Thiruvithancode, Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Thirunelveli, Tamilnadu, India has presented a paper titled A Question of Individual Liberty in Ayi Kwei Armah's Why Are We So Blest? in the Two Day International Conference on Language, Literature, and Humanities Organised by the Department of English, St. John's College of Arts and Science, Ammandivilai, Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu, India in collaboration with Cape Comorin Trust, India & Cape Comorin Publisher, India from 20-21 August 2022.

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154. A Question of Individual Liberty in Ayi Kwei Armah's *Why Are We So Blest?*

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Africa is a continent blessed with lot of natural resources. It has been colonised by the European colonisers for centuries. Most of the African nations got independence in 1960. The novel *Why Are We So Blest?* by an African writer, Ayi Kwei Armah expresses the strategies the colonisers used to make the people of independent nation to believe Whites as 'grace'. The paper makes the readers realise how the educated people of independent nations become the victims of the mental and psychological frustrations of the society. The ways the educated Africans liberate themselves from the frustration of the white people in America, are discussed in detail. Contradictory ideas of westerners and the educated Africans in America, are analysed in this paper. Justification of the question asked as the title, 'why are we so blest?' is analysed from the perspective of the two educated Africans Solo and Modin from this novel.

Keywords: Colonisation, Frustration, Loneliness, Underprivileged, Destruction

155. *Crossing the Barriers: A Reading of Bama's Karukku*

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Dalit literature is a body of text produced by writers about caste discrimination. The primary aim is the liberation of dalits. It focuses on the women who try to escape physical savagery from men. Bama's fictional writings delineate several issues of violence on dalit women. Bama in *Karukku* portrays the marginalization and exploitation of dalit women as well as the whole community at the hand of upper class society. The study highlights the pathetic real-life events and struggles underwent by a dalit women. Dalit people depend on Naicker community people for their everyday survival. Wherever dalit women go, they are encircled by many circumstances evolved out of traditional caste backdrops. Bama envisages the empowerment of the Dalit people through education. The study, thus portrays the socio-economic reality of dalit women who fight for survival.

Keywords: Dalit, Exploitation, Caste, Discrimination, Survival.