Mad and black: the 1939 Notebook of the Évolué

In A. James Arnold and Malachi Mcintosh's recent readings of Aimé Césaire's Cahier d'un retour au pays natal (1939), the speaker “I” is presumed to be the author. Moving away from this kind of reading, I offer a different approach. I analyze the poem in psychoanalytic and rhetorical terms in order to delineate a poetics of “black madness.” Drawing on Suzanne Césaire, Aimé Césaire, and Frantz Fanon's psychoanalytic observations, I argue that the speaker of Cahier, an évolué, is “mad.” He is a black man who believes he is white and is doubly alienated by this delusion. He is separated from his own Martinican people and from Western society which seeks to objectify him. The poetics of Cahier presents a possible “way out” for the speaker's marginality and “madness.” It is in the poem's pathos, irony, metaphor, and allegory that the “madness” of being black is brought out of the “unconscious.”

Department
Comparative Literature

Subject
Aimé Césaire, Psychoanalysis, Madness, Aimé Césaire
Psychoanalysis
Madness
Cahier d'un retour au pays natal
Postcolonial studies
Martinique
Negritude

URI
http://hdl.handle.net/2152/65746

Collections
UT Electronic Theses and Dissertations
No matter how it is analyzed, scrutinized, or satirized, the 1939 production of THE WIZARD OF OZ is a top-notch example of how to turn a great story into a fabulous, milestone of a film. 111 of 129 people found this review helpful. Was this review helpful to you? Looking for some great streaming picks? Check out some of the IMDb editors’ favorites movies and shows to round out your Watchlist. November Streaming Picks. Holiday Picks. The Black Notebooks (German: Schwarze Hefte) are a set of notebooks written by German philosopher Martin Heidegger (1889–1976) between 1931 and 1941. Originally a set of small notebooks with black covers in which Heidegger jotted observations (some have said “sketches”), they have been collated into a 1,000-page transcript. Peter Trawny is editing the transcripts and publishing them in the Gesamtausgabe (GA). The first transcript was published in 2014. As of 2020, fourteen notebooks have been The original 1939 version of the poem, given here in French, and in its first English translation, reveals a work that is both spiritual and cultural in structure, tone, and thrust. This Wesleyan edition includes the original illustrations by Wifredo Lam, and an introduction, notes, and chronology by A. James Arnold. …more. And yet, the poet was ready to write the Notebook. The first version of the long lyrical poem was eventually completed in 1938, and published in 1939. One of the prevailing stereotypes about Martinicans is that Black males are irresponsible, unfaithful and typically absent from the household while women assume the responsibility of raising and supporting families alone. Many analysts explain this situation as the consequence of slavery.