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Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies

Post-racism and Paul Beatty's *The Sellout*

A willing slave, a segregationist black man...excellent components of a funny book about racism. But who laughs loud while reading it. How do we talk about race, if at all, and why should we. Can we talk about post-racism in the current US or indeed global age? The stereotypes of racism are changing, the blatant racist has been joined by the intellectual and the temporal. It makes one think that some people just enjoy hatred as it is.

Attempts at making right a 'history of wrong' by *giving voice*, by *writing against*, are symbolically destroyed by the book burning in Paul Beatty's *The Sellout*. Perhaps it is this novel, which attempts and succeeds in being post-racist by satirizing the unmasking act itself.

Towards the end of the novel Beatty suggests a theory of blackness which consists of four stages. And the reader finds herself between thinking whether 'Race Transcendentalism' or 'Unmitigated Blackness' is better, more ethical, more politically correct, more moral, more humanist. And that is where Beatty's authorial excellence, worth the Man Booker, shines through because he succeeds to pull us in, to make us think and to make us accomplices in the mind boggling challenge.