“Salvation”

Summary

In the short essay “Salvation”, author Langston Hughes writes about when he was young and went to a “revival” with his Auntie Reed, which led to his atheism. The night of the “revival” Langston and other children sat on the mourners’ bench as “sinners” to be delivered to Jesus Christ. His Auntie Reed had described to Langston a bright light, and a feeling inside upon meeting with Jesus. After the preacher gave his sermon, the children on the mourners’ bench were asked to join Jesus. Elderly church members shouted and prayed as the number of children on the bench began to dwindle as they joined Jesus. Finally, the majority of the children had gone to the altar except Westley and Langston. Westley, who became tired from the long revival, walked to the altar. Westley did not go to the altar because he meet Jesus, but to finally get the revival over with to go home. Langston was the last to go up to the altar, which ended the revival. Although Langston went up to the altar he did not met Jesus. Langston waited all night, the whole revival, and never met Jesus. Later that night after the revival Langston sobbed in his room, but Auntie Reed thought his tears were of joy from having found Christ. “But I was really crying because I couldn't bear to tell her that I had lied, that I had deceived everybody in the church that I hadn't seen Jesus, and that now I didn't believe there was a Jesus anymore, since he didn't come to help me” Hughes wrote.

Works Cited

Hughes, Langston."*Salvation*” Literature Network Forums. Web. 21 Apr. 2015. < <http://www.online-literature.com/forums/showthread.php?67465-Salvation-A-short-essay-by-Langston-Hughes>>