

Rewriting The Tempest, George Lamming's *Water with Berries*

Lamia ZAIBI

Abstract

George Lamming's *Water with Berries* (1971) is representative of resistance works that proliferated in the 1970s. Lamming's preoccupations were defined and honed in the context of the anti-colonial movement of the 1950s, and while his vision is more sharpened and complicated in his later works, one can argue that *Water with Berries*, simply extends the themes developed in his earlier work. It is representative of post-colonial narratives that attempted at reworking Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, thus marking the endeavor of post-colonial writers to retaliate and write back.

As a re-writing of *The Tempest* and a reworking of the Myth of Caliban and Prospero, *Water with Berries* is illustrative of textual resistance, in relation to a canonical text. Lamming's attempt to retaliate against dominant discourses by inverting roles and imposing other meanings as seen from the vantage point of the colonial subject is much in concordance with a rising interest in the play incorporated in the cultural forces against colonialism which was in full swing in the 1950s.

This essay is an attempt at showing how George Lamming uses the Caliban-Prospero model as a paradigm of resistance in view of recapturing their own cultural heritage and show that it has its own internal validity and ethos.

Keywords: resistance, culture, post-colonial studies, paradigm, language