

## **Black Heroism's Representation on Black Panthers Movie**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Most Hollywood production heroes come from western nations who are white, but not all heroes come from western countries, but some black heroes come from African nations. Marvel dares to raise a story with a background of black people as superheroes who managed to change the world's eyes that black people also have power over life in the world. This research has two objectives. First, analyzing the Black Panther film script is related to Black Heroism, a minority in the Hollywood film industry. Second, examine the elements of Black Heroism contained in the Black Panther film script to find out the aspects of Black Heroism. This research was conducted at the university using materials in the form of film script texts, films and academic books. The data collection technique in this study used library research, namely reading in-depth on the Black Panthers film script and marking and identifying data related to the research problem to be raised. This technique is used because the data source is written. The collected data is then analyzed using textual analysis or text analysis. It can be concluded that the character of the superhero in Marvel is different depending on the background of the superhero.

**Keywords:** *Black Heroism, Black Panthers, Marvel*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Most Hollywood production heroes come from western nations who are white, but not all heroes come from western countries, but some black heroes come from African nations. However, not infrequently, we find most Hollywood artists come from the west and make some actors who come from black skin less visible. But, lately, like 2018, Hollywood has released a superhero who comes from black leather. Hero is a saviour who saves someone who needs help. Heroes usually have characters that make them strong. According to Guerin et al. to save others usually, the hero must do

some obstacles such as fighting with monsters or solving unsolvable puzzles (Guerin, 2005). Thus, heroes are expected to grow out of innocence and immature individuals.

Hollywood-produced films often feature white American heroes while criminals are black, Asian, Arab, and Latino (Jiyantoro, 2010). Making Hollywood films have the power to shape the reality that heroes are white people and villains are black, Asian, Arab and Latin so that the white race has a superior position against criminals. Subconsciously make others feel that there are no superheroes who come from black. Black people are usually seen as people of lower status, making Black Heroism in the Black Panther film script a hot conversation. Marvel dares to raise a story with a background of black people as superheroes who managed to change the world's eyes that black people also have power over life in the world. And that also opens our eyes that black people have an arguably more advanced civilization than we know.

There is a minority and a majority race, Like black people living among white people. Where a racial group is not always generalized but can be generalized as a social group divided based on in-group or out-group, between superior and inferior groups, between majority and minority, between dominant and subordinate; understanding that is based explicitly on subjective physical characteristics (Liliweri, 2005). superior position against criminals. Subconsciously make others feel that there are no superheroes who come from black. It can be seen that the difference in skin colour is one of the most sensitive issues almost all over the world. Where lies something difference in the behaviour and nature of other people towards people who are in that position. Not only social behaviour but also the behaviour of the local government. Like the case of George Floyd, who died due to the brutality of the American Police on May 29, 2020, it has also become a hot topic of conversation in America, which also dramatically impacts the world view and the world's opinion community towards the case. Make the world community demand justice for black people living in America.

The formulation of the problem in this study is to determine black heroism in the Black Panthers film script. As we know, Hollywood always uses white actors to be superheroes in their stories. But this time, Hollywood, especially Marvel, uses black actors to play superhero characters in the Black Panthers movie. Not only the main character but the country's background also comes from a black nation. They are creating a new view that superheroes come from white people and come from black people.

This research has two objectives. First, analyzing the Black Panther film script is related to Black Heroism, a minority in the Hollywood film industry. Second, examine the elements of Black Heroism contained in the Black Panther film script to find out the aspects of Black Heroism.

The non-academic benefits of this research are to provide readers more knowledge about the results of writing broadly about the representation of black heroism in the Black Panther film script and open the public's view that black people have the same position. And also the same power as black people. White. The reader can better understand the representation of black heroism contained in the Black Panther film script. The second benefit, namely the educational benefits of this research in terms of education, is to be one of the shreds of evidence of research using the theory of black heroism.

*Black Heroes in the United States: the Representation of Africans Americans in Contemporary American Culture*, according to Corso in other instance, black characters were symbolically caricatured for the film to endorse a vision of blackness as radically different in both body and mind from an average white person to the point that these representations were often considered comically repulsive by the audience (Laurea, 2017).

On paper *from the violent "Black Buck stereotype to the "Black Hero": Representations of African Americans an Black Masculinity in America Cinema*, the 1970s and the Blaxploitation period brought more diverse portrayls of African Americans which developed from previous stereotypes; thus paving the way for the biracial buddy movies and authentic "Black Heroes" (Guerrero, 1993). Stresses the importance of a strong black body image, especially in a action movies from the 1970s onwards, both in terms of securing visibility and roles for the African American actors, as well as making the black body a means of telling "powerful stories of subjection and resistance" Taske on *from the violent "Black Buck stereotype to the "Black Hero": Representations of African Americans a Black Masculinity in America Cinema* (Tasker, 2002).

Contemporary literature is literature written or created after World War II to the present because it was written in the 21st century. Early contemporary literature was heavily influenced by earlier literature and war literature, an example of the dystopian novel about the displeasure caused by war. New genres have emerged, such as sci-fi or science-fiction (Santoso et al. l, 2019). Science fiction is an idea or whatever that pops into your head that hasn't materialized in the real world but will happen and change everything for everyone (Ray Bradbury). A good work of science fiction generally uses a "what-if" scenario. Creation something like this describes a world that is actually the same as the world we live in but replaces or add one or more new conditions in it. This new thing was called by Darko Suvin as novum (Attebery 174).

Contemporary literature has several theories in it, including Lucien Goldman's Genetic Structuralism. This Genetic Structuralism theory examines more extrinsic elements in literary works. Literary works arise because of the genetic component that influences the literary work. The product of the historical process that continues and is lived by the people of origin of the literary work concerned (Goldmann, 1977). Like what

happened when the literary work was done. Not only Genetic Structuralism but Heroism Theory is also included in contemporary literature.

Through the approach of heroism in the Black Heroism category by Thomas Carlyle in his book, *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and The Heroic in History*. Carlyle said that the history of the world is something made by human biographies (1841). Carlyle explained that the Great Man or Hero is a great person, majestic, knight, and has a holy hero soul. A Hero can have a big impact on the formation of the history of world development. The history achieved universally by the hero is the origin of the creation of great history in the world. Hero is a leader who is made by some people as a great figure and as a reference for the daily life of the surrounding community. Heroes must have sacred objects or advantages in the strength they have to become the hero. All these criteria become one behaviour which then forms an action called heroism, although not all criteria must exist, one of them or even all of them (Harvey et al. 2009).

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Carlyle also said that someone who was considered to have reached a point that was beyond the minds of the people at that time could also be said to be a real form of a hero (1841). Heroes are not limited by powers that cannot enter from human thought, but Heroes can also be given to someone who struggles to create something that had never existed before in the human era at that time. "a civilian who voluntarily risk his or her own life, knowingly, to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the life of another person...." (Baumeister & Bushman, 2014).

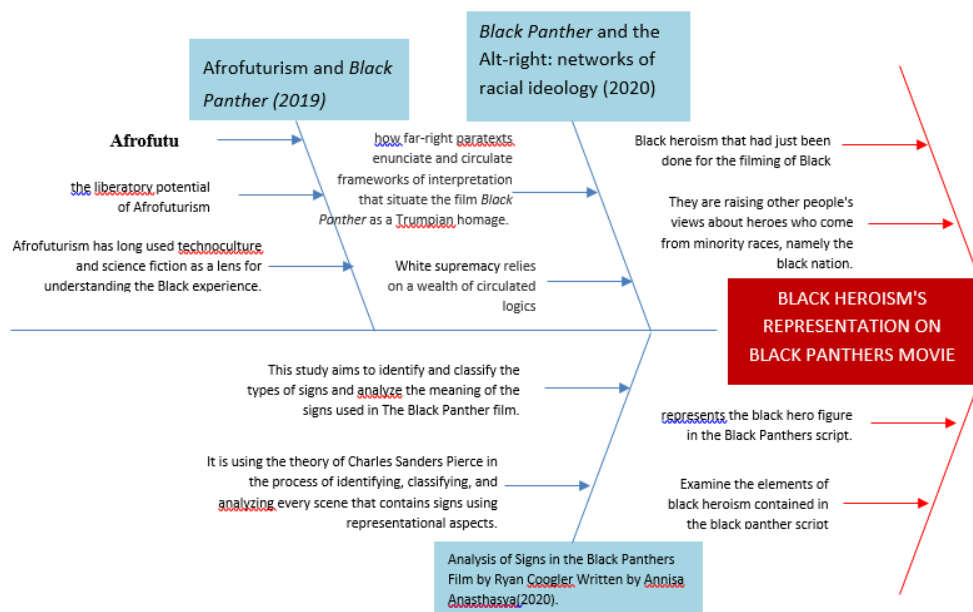
This research first is Analysis of Signs in the Black Panthers Film by Ryan Coogler, Written by Annisa Anasthasya (2020). This study was conducted to describe the forms of signs that appear in the Black Panther film. In contrast to previous research, this study focuses more on the discussion of black heroism in Hollywood films. Hollywood is trying new things, namely making a new hero figure who comes from the black nation. Most hero films in the Hollywood film industry feature white people and come from European or American countries. However, in this Black Panther

film, the hero is black and comes from Africa. In contrast to previous research, this study examines the black heroism that has just been done for the making of the Black Panthers film—raising other people's views about heroes who come from minority races, namely the black nation. The drawback of this research is that it only discusses the religious signs in the Black Panther film, not analyzing its heroic elements.

The second previous study was Afrofuturism and Black Panther (2019). This study examines Afrofuturism in the Black Panther film. The researchers, Myron T. Strong and K. Sean Chaplin on the liberating potential of Afrofuturism. This study discusses Afrofuturism to understand the black experience in technoculture and science fiction. The film's ability to talk about the developed side of Africa. In addition, there are no restrictions on visitors, repairs, restrictions, civil wars, which are prevalent in Africa. So that black film audiences feel proud of these things. But in this study doesn't examine the values of heroism in the Black Panther movie.

The third previous study is Black Panther and the Alt-right: networks of racial ideology (2020), written by Scott J. Varda and Leslie A. Hahner. In this study, we analyze how to play Trumpian by pronouncing and interpreting the Black Panther film by right-wing paratext. The film is used to assess right-wing views by the media as well as post-race neoliberal worldviews. The research from this paratext on white supremacy rests on the logic of circulating logic that is spread through new texts as well as around contemporary media in the formation of the ideology that is displayed. However, this study doesn't link the Black Panther movie with black heroism.

Figure 1



## METHOD

This research started in May and was completed in July. This research was conducted at the university using materials in the form of film script texts, films and academic books. How to retrieve data can be seen in the previous study. The data collection technique in this study used library research, namely reading in-depth on the Black Panthers film script and marking and identifying data related to the research problem to be raised. This technique is used because the data source is written. The collected data is then analyzed using textual analysis or text analysis (Gadamer in Selden, 1991). Text analysis aims to interpret the data found by using related theories, in this case, the contemporary theory, namely Genetic Structuralism by Lucien Goldmann and Heroism (2004). The technique of interpreting the data is by reading the selected quotations, making an analysis, and giving opinions.

The approach of Contemporary theory is of Genetic Structuralism with one of its elements, namely the world view and the theory of heroism. The world view, according to Goldman (1980), states that "by 'world view' we mean a coherent and unitary perspective concerning man's relationship with his fellow men and with the universe" (Goldman, 1980). The world view is an essential awareness of society in living life. The world view is a categorical structure that is a comprehensive complex of ideas, aspirations, and feelings, which connects members of certain social groups and opposes them with other social groups called world views (Faruk, 1999). Because the events that occur can affect the author's story. Therefore, the writer is the bridge between the perceiving society and the world. For example, the author raises the case of minority groups and also the majority in America, such as blacks who are treated unfairly.

Then the next approach is the theory of heroism. There are four elements of the theory of heroism, namely Social Class, Personality, Physical Form and Masculinity. The first is Social Class. Where usually, the hero figure has a higher social class because there are several advantages they have to defend the truth. In general, social strata in society give birth to a social class consisting of three levels, namely the upper class, the middle class, and the lower class. Lower-class (lower class) The upper class represents an elite group in society whose numbers are very limited. The middle class represents professional groups, groups of workers, entrepreneurs, traders and other functional groups. At the same time, the lower class represents a group of unskilled workers, day labourers, casual workers, and the like (Bungin, 2006). The hero figure is usually synonymous with strength, intelligence and also his prowess which is more prominent and makes him in the upper class.

The second is Personality. Personality is the attitude or character possessed by the hero. Nothing is more sacred than the integrity of one's own mind. Therefore, everyone must believe in himself (Emerson, 2008).



The hero's level of trust is higher than ordinary people in general. Therefore the hero is braver in acting and also saves people who are in trouble.

The third is Physical Form and Masculinity. The physical form of the hero figure has an important value for their position. However, there are not many heroes who must have hero standards in general. Like a big body and muscular and able to lift tons of loads that exist, the hero figure is more often shown as a strong figure with a muscular body because a hero must take bold and dangerous actions to protect the weak (Adi, 2008). Sometimes, skin colour also affects the existing social strata. Make the hero always white and big. However, we can see as of now that skin colour doesn't affect the hero figure.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Superheroes Always Get Strength From An Item**

As is known, superheroes always have more power than humans in general. Either that power comes from themselves, or even they get it when experimenting. Black Panther is a superhero from Africa where they get the power of the heart plant, which makes them get the power of the Black Panthers to become superheroes.

'Father  
And when the time of man came,  
five tribes settled on it and called it Wakanda.  
The tribes lived in constant war with each other  
until a warrior shaman received a vision  
from the panther Goddess Bast who led him to  
the Heart-Shaped Herb, a plant that granted him superhuman strength,  
speed, and instincts (Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole, 1998:01)

It can be seen that superheroes have the power to come from the descendants of gods or get miracles. In the quote, you know that the origin of the power of the black panthers is from the plant 'The Heart Shaped Herb' and makes the peace of the five tribes in Africa. This plant allows them to determine the leader. Leaders can also protect their people from any disturbing threat. This leader figure has also become a hero figure in their region because he has the power to protect his people and country.

Black Panthers is a drama that tells of a superhero from the land of Wakanda from Africa. The superhero has extraordinary powers that were bestowed on him by the god Panthers. The power is there when we drink the plant 'The Heart Shaped'.

'Shaman :  
Allow the Heart Shaped Herb to give you  
the powers of the Black Panther and  
take you to the Ancestral Plane.' (Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole,1998:109)

It is told that Eric won the war against T'Challa and made him get the power from the plant 'The Heart Shaped Herb' and then performed a traditional ceremony to go to the Ancestral Realm to sing to the ancestors to get their blessing. From this, it can be concluded that the power of the Black Panther comes from these plants. Superheroes don't always have powers from birth. Usually, they can also be linked up to become the descendants of superheroes, but there are also those who have just found their strength in the course of their lives.

## 2. Marvel Production Movies That Contain Black Heroism

Usually, Marvel-produced hero films generally contain white, European or American main characters or heroes. But this time, Marvel is producing a black and African hero film with Black Panther's title. In this drama script, it tells the story of a man named T'Challa whose name is the throne of his father. The country he leads is called Wakanda, which is on the African continent.

'T'CHALLA

I am not King of all people. I am  
King of Wakanda. And it is my  
responsibility to make sure our  
people are safe and that vibranium  
does not fall into the hands of a  
person like you (Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole, 79:2018)

In the quote above it is told that T'Challa is the king of Wakanda. As the king of Wakanda, he must protect his people and the vibranium in Wakanda. He didn't want the vibranium to fall into the hands of someone who would abuse Wakanda's natural resources.

In Wakanda, there is a natural wealth in the form of metal vibranium, which is much sought after for weapons.

'FATHER

Millions of years ago, a meteorite  
made of vibranium, the strongest  
substance in the universe struck  
the continent of Africa affecting  
the plant life around it.

The meteorite hits Africa and we see plant life and animals affected by vibranium.'  
(Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole, 2018)

T'Challa's father tells the story of the origin of the arrival of vibranium in Wakanda to T'Challa. Millions of years ago there was a meteor of vibranium hitting the land of Africa. And in the end, Wakanda has that vibranium much sought after. The quote also proves that Wakanda is in



Africa and Black Panther is a black hero.

T'CHAKA (CONT'D)  
(IN XHOSA)  
What is wrong my son?

T'CHALLA  
  
(IN XHOSA)  
I am not ready, Baba.

T'CHAKA  
  
(IN XHOSA)  
Have you not prepared to be King  
your whole life? Have you not  
trained and studied, been by my  
side?' (Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole, 3:2018)

In the quote above T'Chaka, T'Challa's father, communicates with T'Challa in Xhosa. Where Xhosa is the language spoken in South Africa. This proves that Black Panther is set in Africa and Black Panther is a black hero and of African descent

### 3. The Black Heroism Film That Promotes Traditions and Cultures That Are Still Preserved From Generations

Tradition is something that exists and is carried out by a group since time immemorial and is usually passed down to their descendants. This also happened in the Black Panther movie, where many traditions are passed down, even more so in the countries of the African continent—likewise, the writer of the Black Panther film script who included many traditions in this film. The traditions and culture that are carried out are not found in previous Marvel films.

'FATHER (CONT'D)  
To keep vibranium safe , the  
Wakandans vowed to hide in plain  
sight, keeping the truth of their  
power from the outside world.

We see the protective barrier rise around the Wakandan city ,  
as we pull back on the Earth as it spins, now zooming in on  
another part of the world ..

SON  
And we still hide Baba?

FATHER  
Yes.'  
(Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole, 3:2018)

The quote tells of a tradition that has been going on for a long time, even during the time of the first Wakandan leader. His father wanted T'Challa to continue the existing tradition. So T'Challa who is the leader of Wakanda, now wants to continue the tradition. The tradition referred to in the quote above is to keep Wakanda's vibranium secret from the outside world for the safety of Wakanda.

T'CHALLA

(INTERRUPTING)

I accept your challenge, M'Baku .

M'BAKU

Glory to Hanuman .

Zuri puts the Panther mask on T'Challa .

M'Baku grins and places a WOODEN GORILLA MASK over his face .

He clenches his fist and calls out for his Jabari soldiers to form a semicircle behind him , pointing their spears at back.

T'Challa lifts his hand and calls out for the Dora, who fall into place behind him, making a perfect CIRCLE OF SPEARS surrounding the fighters.

Zuri raises his hand, ill-at-ease .

ZURI

Let the challenge begin!

The warriors CLASH, both with great skill . M'Baku with superior strength. T'Challa eludes a salvo of swings, then is driven back by the tip of M'Baku's spear against his shield.

Knocking M'Baku's spear free, T'Challa is HAMMERED ONTO HIS BACK but instantly springs up to dodge more attacks and counter with TWOFIERCE KICKS.'

(Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole, 24-25:2018)

T'Challa, who will be appointed king is doing their tradition before officially becoming king of Wakanda. The tradition in question is a battle between the future king of Wakanda and tribal leaders in Wakanda who want to become King of Wakanda in other words, want to seize the throne of Wakanda. In addition, there are cultural elements in the traditions contained in the quote.

## **There is an Element of Magic in The Black Panther Movie**

Magic and mystical very influential on life to literary works from Africa. Life in Africa cannot be separated from magical elements. The same goes for the Black Panther film, which is set in Africa. In this film there is a scene of astral travel called the Ancestral Plane by T'Challa. This is also not found in other Marvel films .

'INT. HALL OF KINGS, CITY OF THE DEAD - DUSK

Zuri , wearing ceremonial face paint , mixes a Heart Shaped

Herb concoction and pours it into T'Challa's mouth as he lies in a dirt plot in the middle of the room .

ZURI

Allow the Heart-Shaped Herb to restore the powers of the black Panther and take you to the Ancestral Plane.' (Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole, 27:2018)

It is said that in the Black Panther film, there is a tradition that before becoming king of Wakanda, the future king of Wakanda must perform a ritual. The ritual begins with the paint used in the ceremony and T'Challa drinks a potion from a heart-shaped plant. This ritual is the initial stage of the Ancestral Plane which will later bring T'Challa to meet his father and ancestors to another world.

'INT . HALL OF KINGS, CITY OF THE DEAD - DUSK

T'Challa, eyes closed, struggles with the memories as he slips into the Ancestral Plane .

ZURI

Darnaku .

The children begin burying T'Challa in the red sand.' (Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole, 28:2018)

The quote above is a continuation of the Ancestral Plane ritual process. T'Challa is buried in red sand which will then take him to another world to meet the former Black Panthers. A massive ACACIA TREE stands in front of him . T'Challa see.

'Several YELLOW EYES looking at him and realizes PANTHERS are resting on the branches of the tree . T'Challa approaches. A large panther jumps down , then stands on two feet to reveal it's T'CHAKA .

T'Challa looks at his father and immediately pulls him into a hug.

T'CHALLA

Baba!

T'CHAKA

(IN XHOSA)

My son.

T'Challa kneels down before his father , overcome with grief.

T'CHALLA

I am sorry .

T'CHAKA

Stand up! You are a King.

T'Challa rises, and they begin to walk.'

(Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole, 29:2018)

It is said that after T'Challa was buried with red sand to perform the Ancestral Plane, T'Challa entered another realm and met his ancestors and his father. Then T'Challa's father, T'Chaka greeted T'Challa. The evidence in the form of the quote above proves that the Black Panther film contains ritual and magical elements that are characteristic of African culture. This is included in the distinguishing element between Black Heroism in the Black Panther film and other Marvel hero films

### **Elevating Afrofuturism**

Artistic Afrofuturism is a contemporary movement that developed among writers, artists, musicians to African-American and Black diaspora theorists. Afrofuturism develops in the fields of cultural production and scientific thought-literature, visual arts, photography, film, multimedia arts, performing arts, music to theory, which imagines justice and a freer expression of black subjectivity in the future. (Daylanne K, 2017). Thus the Black Panther film is a film that raises about Afrofuturism because they use very sophisticated technology regardless of the African view of hunger, colonization and slavery.

'DESIGN GROUP - MOMENTS

LATER

Nexus of technology . Shuri strolls with T'Challa by work tables of high-tech weapons and gadgets.

SHUR!

I've already sent a car ahead to Busan for you.' (Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole, 34:2018)

As narrated in the quote above, Wakanda, which is on African soil, has used advanced technology called nexus. They have used a lot of gadgets and high-tech weapons. This is included in the element of Afrofuturism.

'Suddenly an AUTOMATED MINING CART whips between light panels, floating above a rail .

ROSS

These train things ... that's magnetic levitation, right?

SHUR!

Obviously.

ROSS

Obviously ... but I've never seen it this efficient . The light panels, what are they?

SHUR!  
Sonic stabilizers.' (Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole, 75:2018)

In the story, the technology in Wakanda is extraordinarily sophisticated. Even beat technology that already exists in other countries. Ross, who is white and is not a Wakandan resident, really admired the technology, and that was the first time he saw it. The vibranium mining carts are highly sophisticated using sonic stabilizers. This is closely related to the element of Afrofuturism.

SHUR!  
(pointing at the necklace)  
Now tell it to go on.  
T'Challa does, and without warning, MILLIONS of vibranium  
laced NANITES spill from the necklace and form a new BLACK  
PANTHERSUIT around the mannequin.

SHUR! (CONT'D)  
Oooh! ! The entire suite sits within  
the teeth of the necklace. Strike it.  
(Ryan Coogler & Joe Robert Cole, 37:2018)

T'Challa told Shuri, the younger brother of T'Challa created the Black Panther costume for T'Challa. Shuri made it with vibranium, and this costume is very sophisticated. So he made a costume in the form of a tooth necklace, and the necklace could turn into a costume in an instant. The costumes are also very attack resistant and very sophisticated. The quotes and their discussion above prove that the Black Panther film has the concept of Afrofuturism, which is not found in previous Marvel films.

## CONCLUSION

Based on an analysis that uses the concept of heroism derived from contemporary theory. It can be concluded that the character of the superhero in Marvel is different depending on the background of the superhero. If the superhero comes from a tribe with a culture that is still thick, like in Africa, then their daily life is still associated with the customs of that culture. Linking elements of tradition that exist in the area.

Just like delaying the tradition of maturity to determine whether or not he deserves to be a king and protect his people, from this, we also find that the black nation is not always at the bottom. Without us knowing, they have an advanced civilization that could destroy the world. From this text, we can conclude that not all castes can be determined by skin colour and

where they come from. But it is determined by how they explore the resources in their area.

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