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## Racism in Baldwin's *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

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### Abstract

Racism is a man-made man enforced phenomenon. It may be defined as the behavior and emotion of a group of people towards another group whose physical characteristics are dissimilar to the former one.

James Baldwin (1924-1987) used his personal experiences as a lens through which readers could view the broader societal issues of racism and inequality. His semi-autobiographical novel "Go Tell It on the Mountain" explores themes of religion, identity, and the struggle for acceptance within a racially divided society. By weaving his own experiences into his storytelling, Baldwin made his writing relatable and emotionally impactful, inviting readers to empathize with the challenges faced by African Americans. A central element of Baldwin's intent was to critique white America's role in perpetuating racism and discrimination. Through his use of powerful rhetoric and personal anecdotes, Baldwin challenged readers to step into the shoes of African Americans and understand the emotional and psychological toll of racism. He believed that empathy was essential for meaningful social change and that literature had the power to cultivate it. By inviting readers to empathize with his characters and the experiences he described, Baldwin sought to bridge the gap between racial divides.

**Keywords-** Black Existence, Empathize, Perpetuating, Psychological Toll, Relatable, Sharecropping.

