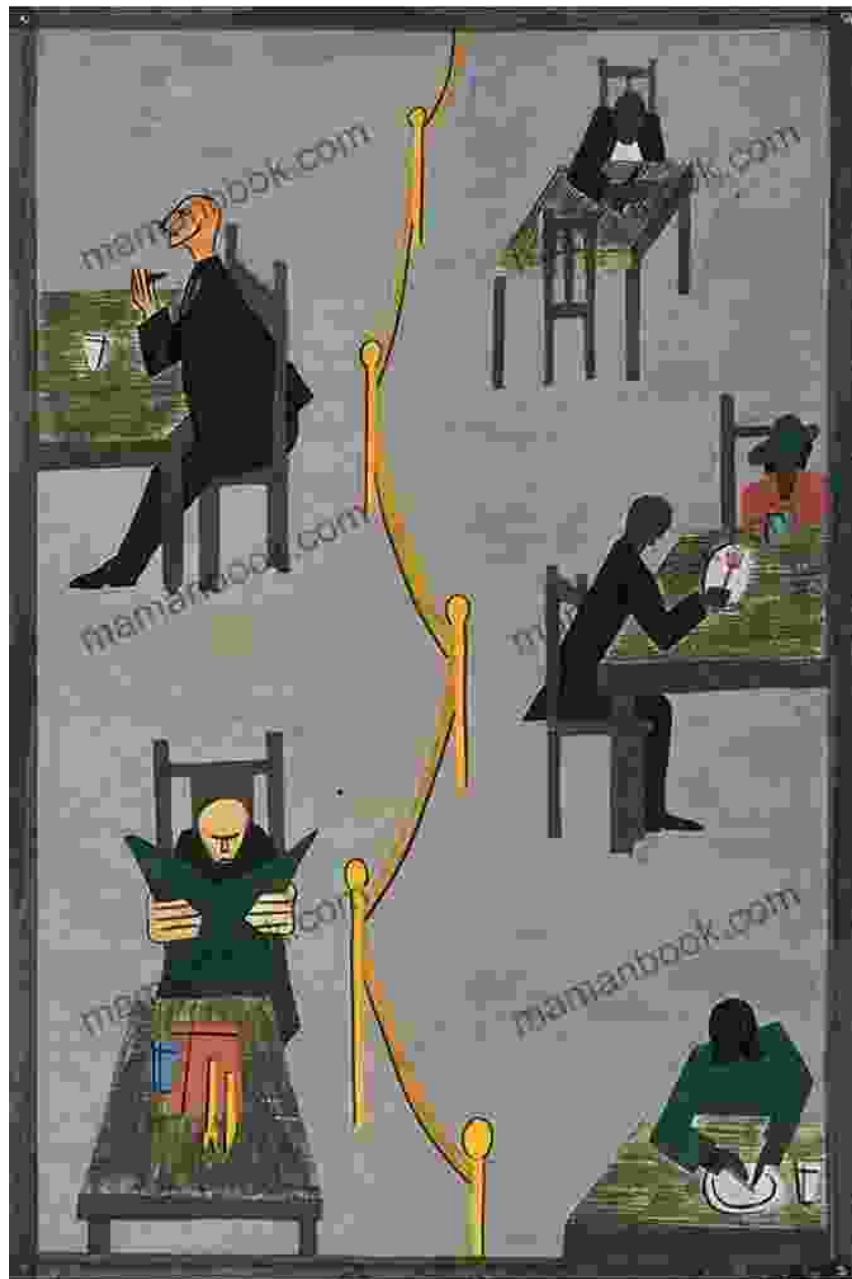
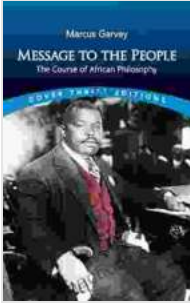


Message To The People: An In-Depth Exploration of Jacob Lawrence's Iconic Painting



Message to the People: The Course of African Philosophy (Dover Thrift Editions: Black History)



by Marcus Garvey

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 908 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 162 pages
Lending : Enabled



Jacob Lawrence's *Message to the People* is a powerful and poignant work of art that captures the struggles and aspirations of the African American community. Created in 1944, at the height of the Great Migration, the painting depicts a group of African Americans gathered in a church, listening to a speaker who is addressing them from the pulpit. The work is a powerful indictment of racism and segregation, and it speaks to the hopes and dreams of a people who are determined to overcome oppression.

Historical Context

The Great Migration was a period of mass migration of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North, Midwest, and West. This migration began in the early 20th century and continued until the 1970s. African Americans were drawn to the North by the promise of better jobs and opportunities, but they often faced discrimination and prejudice in their new homes.

The Harlem Renaissance was a cultural and artistic movement that flourished in Harlem, New York, in the 1920s and 1930s. The movement celebrated African American culture and identity, and it produced a wealth of literature, art, and music. Jacob Lawrence was a participant in the Harlem Renaissance, and his work often reflected the social and political issues of the time.

The Depression was a period of economic crisis that began in 1929 and lasted until the late 1930s. The Depression had a devastating impact on the African American community, as unemployment rates soared and poverty became widespread. Jacob Lawrence's work from this period often reflects the struggles of African Americans during the Depression.

Symbolism

Message to the People is full of symbolism that conveys the artist's message about race and inequality. The church is a symbol of hope and community, but it is also a place where African Americans have often been subjected to discrimination and violence. The speaker is a symbol of leadership and inspiration, but he is also a reminder of the challenges that African Americans face.

The people in the congregation are a diverse group, representing different ages, genders, and social classes. They are all listening intently to the speaker, and their faces express a range of emotions, from hope to determination to resignation. The painting suggests that the African American community is united in its struggle for equality, but it also acknowledges the challenges that the community faces.

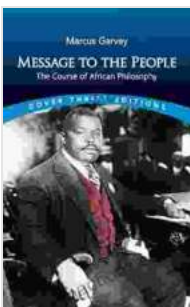
Artistic Techniques

Lawrence used a variety of artistic techniques to create *Message to the People*. The painting is executed in tempera, a type of paint that is made from egg yolk and pigment. Tempera is a durable and versatile medium, and it allowed Lawrence to create a rich and vibrant palette of colors.

Lawrence also used a variety of brushstrokes in the painting. He used thick, impasto strokes to create the figures in the foreground, and he used thin, delicate strokes to create the background. This contrast in brushwork helps to create a sense of depth and perspective in the painting.

The composition of *Message to the People* is carefully calculated. The speaker is placed in the center of the painting, and he is surrounded by the congregation. This arrangement creates a sense of unity and focus, and it draws the viewer's attention to the speaker's message.

Message to the People is a powerful and moving work of art that captures the struggles and aspirations of the African American community. The painting is a testament to Lawrence's talent as an artist, and it continues to inspire and challenge viewers today.



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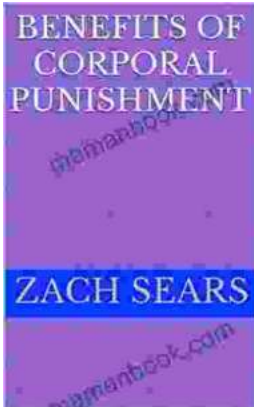
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