

# **The Myth of the God/Lucy(fer) Dichotomy: Empowering the She-Devil/ Jablesse in Jamaica Kincaid's Fiction**

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## **Abstract:**

Within the literary tradition, *myths* –as symbols– have been often considered indispensable textual components that are strategically employed by a number of authors – regardless of their nationality or ethnic origins– to voice myriad concerns. Postcolonial Caribbean writers, for instance, display a tendency to summon cultural elements into their texts not only to celebrate their native culture, but also to achieve particularly-desired aesthetic and political effects. A postcolonial, feminist Caribbean author who writes within the frame of post-modernism, Jamaica Kincaid figures among those writers whose fiction is characterized by the dissemination of both *religious* and *folkloric* myths. The divine battle between good and evil which finds legitimacy in the Christian religious canon is embodied in the God/ *Lucifer* dichotomy, a binary opposition that is employed by Kincaid to denote the adversarial relationship between the mother figures and their daughters –as delineated in her fiction. The celebration of Lucifer as a positive symbol is further consolidated by the author's veneration of the *jablesse* or the she-devil, a Caribbean folkloric mythical creature which is traditionally perceived negatively. The current paper will thus examine the dialogic correlations between the two mythical elements within Kincaid's texts in an attempt to unravel a point of convergence where the presumably-disparate cultural worlds coincide. Positively approached, the mythical Lucifer and the *jablesse* will be tackled insofar as they symbolize individuality and resistance to paradigms of subjugation.

## **Keywords:**

Myths, religious, folkloric, God, Lucifer, Jablesse, resistance

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