

# Everything you touch, You Change including God: Experiences of Bulter

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## Abstract

This study aims to highlight how Octavia Butler's life influenced her writing "Parable of the Sower." Characterization, storyline, and other aspects of the novel are all very intimately tied to Butler's life. Butler and Lauren were both raised in traditional Baptist homes, and they have both always been captivated by the psychological effects of religion. Butler had the opportunity to explore cultural and racial variety while growing up in the ethnically mixed Pasadena neighbourhood. Butler drew on her historical reading and background to create the fictitious worlds. What Butler predicted for the future is more important than ever today. She saw a world that was poised to come to an end. She encountered a Black woman prophet who understood that absolutely nothing is predetermined and that we have the power to shape events and change their trajectory. It encourages us to let go of the conventions that can push us towards a disastrous future and to embrace our greatest strength—the capacity for change. She offers a vision of a humanist future where metaphysical spirituality is possible without

the need for a conventional, all-powerful Supreme deity. She created imaginary worlds like the one we live in, but she also gave each of us the inspiration to follow our own goals and face our apprehension about the unknown while being brave and creative. The Earth seed aphorism serves as a constant reminder that "Everything you touch, You Change..."

Keywords: Earth seed, Dystopia, Racial Discrimination, Slave memoirs

The book "Parable of Sower" by Butler serves as a dystopian warning that the human race will face and also about the unspeakable atrocities if we continue on the current course. The book is very closely knitted to Butler's life in terms of characterisation, plot and other instances. Butler took inspiration for her fictional worlds, her historical reading and background.

Octavia Butler, an African – American (born in California), the only surviving child of Octavia Margaret Guy, a housemaid, and Laurice James Butler, a shoeshine. The sole survivor out of a total of five kids was Butler. The four older brothers she had all died before she was even born. Butler often pondered what her life may have been like if her siblings had survived. Butler's father died when she was seven. She was raised by her mother and maternal grandmother. This tension was embodied by Lauren's character in the book. The main character of the book is Lauren, an African-American woman who was raised in a gated neighbourhood in Robledo, California. She has four step siblings Keith, Marcus, Gregory, and Bennett who live together. Butler's want for brotherly love is seen through her character Lauren. Many things which Butler longed and wished for is seen fulfilled through her works. Lauren's father is an African-American Baptist minister, lecturer, and dean who works at a university close to his gated community in Robledo, California. He is a respected member of the neighbourhood and regrets that Lauren's mother, his ex-wife, was a drug user. Cory, his second spouse, works as a teacher Reverend Olamina is a wise, compassionate, and equitable individual. Lauren, with whom he is quite close, refers to him as "the best man I know."

Lauren was raised in a conservative Baptist home and has always been fascinated by how religion affects the psyche. Growing up in the racially integrated community of Pasadena allowed her to experience cultural and ethnic diversity in the midst of racial segregation. She was raised as a Baptist, like Butler. Butler also faced discrimination and humiliation in her life. She accompanied her mother to her cleaning work, where the two entered white people's houses through back doors, as workers. Her mother was treated poorly by her employers.

From an early age, an almost paralyzing shyness made it difficult for Butler to socialize with other children. Her awkwardness, paired with a slight dyslexia that made schoolwork a torment, made Butler an easy target for bullies, and led her to believe that she was "ugly and stupid, clumsy, and socially hopeless. As a Black lady from a religious family, she had a delicate relationship with the traditions she was raised in. She had crippling timidity in her early years. She lost herself for hours in science fiction and fantasy books in the nearby library. When Butler was 12 years old, she watched the movie *Devil Girl from Mars* and reflected, "I could write something better than that."

Similar to Butler, Lauren was born with a neurological disease called hyperempathy, which causes her to feel both the joy and the suffering of others around her. Although some individuals (including Lauren's father and brother Keith) view hyperempathy as humiliating or a burden, it is demonstrated that it has both positive and negative aspects, enabling Lauren to form a unique and unconventional interaction with the world around her. Many of Lauren's decisions are ultimately influenced by her hyper empathy. Lauren acknowledges that her excessive empathy is a weakness in a world filled with sorrow. From the perspective of the reader, Lauren's hyperempathy might be viewed as a positive because it helps her comprehend how cruel the world is and helps her get ready. Lauren's hyper empathy helps her comprehend people's misery, which can be felt either positively or negatively depending

on the situation, internal anguish, or external pain. Indeed, Lauren is "a really odd young woman". In spite of widespread denial and deception, she has an insatiable thirst for the truth and is incredibly brilliant and well-read. Additionally, Lauren is incredibly brave, which enables her to endure the difficult situations into which she is put when her family is slaughtered and her neighbourhood is set on fire.

As a young woman, she creates the Earth seed theological system, which is centred on the notion that "God is Change." It is a school of thought that promotes the notion that all living things are changing and that the only way to live is to accept the fundamental contradiction of existence: that we are all evolving while also dying. She is the daughter of Reverend Olamina and an unidentified woman who passed away during childbirth.

Similar to Butler, Lauren gradually gains support for her goals. Before becoming a prophet in the eyes of Earth seed followers, she is first introduced to us in the novel as a flawed human being.

Butler also took the time to read slave memoirs, such as Fredrick Douglass' autobiography, who managed to flee slavery and go on to head the abolitionist movement. Fredrick influences her strongly for his views. A mention of slave memoirs is made by Butler in the book with the character of Bankole. Bankole is handsome, with a beard which reminds Lauren of Frederick Douglass. He and Lauren become lovers.

Octavia Butler is the actual author of this book, but Lauren Olamina is also a writer. In fact, the first item we encounter in the book are her verses from Earthseed: The Books of the Living. Many readers can relate to an author because many readers presumably occasionally scribble in notebooks as well. The fact that Lauren acts on the ideas she generates while writing may be what truly distinguishes her as a writer. Lauren describes her writing process like this: "I've never felt that it was anything other than real: discovery rather than invention, exploration rather than creation". Lauren's fundamental realisation is actually

this: "God is Change". If God is change, then being a part of and bringing about change seems to be something you have to do. Naturally, Lauren's initial efforts to promote her message aren't very successful. The reality Lauren has discovered seems quite obvious to her.

The phrase "the Destiny of Earthseed is to take root among the stars" also appears in Lauren's literature, and she plans to assist humanity in realising this ambitious objective. She wants to assist individuals in navigating even the most difficult path. She wants to create a brand-new planet.

Today more than ever, what Butler predicted for the future is crucial. She observed a world that was about to end. She saw a Black, female prophet who recognised that nothing is predetermined and that we have the ability to influence events and alter their course. It invites us to embrace our greatest strength, the ability to change, and to let go of the norms that could force us into a catastrophic future. She gives us a glimpse of a humanist future that allows for metaphysical spirituality without the necessity for a traditional, all-powerful God figure.

She made up worlds similar to the one we inhabit, but she also inspired each of us to pursue our own aspirations and confront our fear of the unknown by being courageous and inventive. We are reminded by the Earth seed proverb that "Everything you touch, You Change..."

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