

JOURNAL ENTRIES

Frederick Douglass

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In the film *The Shawshank Redemption*, Morgan Freeman explains to Tim Robbins that hope is a "dangerous emotion to have." Likewise, as an African American slave in the middle of the 19th century, Frederick Douglass completely embodies the emotion, and shows how hope was a feeling feared by many and cherished by few. In Frederick Douglass's *Narrative*, I find myself in shock over the environment that human beings created for other human beings. The slave owner's ignorance and audacity was so severe that death was a lesser fear for many slaves compared to the mean-spirited hand of the overseer. Douglass states, "For my part, I should prefer death to hopeless bondage" (57). It is clear how many slaves would get by their days in a state of troubled acceptance of their future, instead of trying their emotions on often empty promises and dreams. This section was so eye-opening, and yet at the same time I wanted to close my eyes in hopes that this story was fiction.