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National Museum of African American History and Culture

The Literary Corner: Introduction to African English Fiction/Prose with Brooks Robinson (side a)

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WEBVTT

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<i>Eldred Jones</i>: [[continuation from previous statement, inaudible]] Where a person, with this enormous power, came to confuse his instrumentality. You know, as an instrument of the god, with the absolute power of the god.

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<i>Eldred Jones</i>: and he got his roles confused [[laughter]]

<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: [[laughter]]

00:06:07.000 --> 00:06:18.000

<i>Eldred Jones</i>: And there again, one saw a good man, a man who upheld very high standards, broken within the society.

00:06:18.000 --> 00:06:36.000

<i>Eldred Jones</i>: That to me, was a much better, um, it had a greater impact, simply because he was able to show the operations of the human spirit. He was able to show human feelings really within the context of a society.

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<i>Eldred Jones</i>: The imperialistic society was almost on the periphery. The district commissioner was on the edge of society, he was a bit of a nuisance. But really, he showed the society itself, generating its own strengths and its own weaknesses.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: And problem

<i>Eldred Jones</i>: Yes

<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: Yeah

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<i>Eldred Jones</i>: I think that, I think that was a very significant work. Now, continuing this progress of one foot in the modern era and one foot in history. He now comes back for his fourth novel, to the absolute contemporary situation, the independent society of Nigeria with A Man of the People.

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<i>Eldred Jones</i>: Which centered on a very plausible politician.

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: mh-hm [[Affirmative]]

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<i>Eldred Jones</i>: This was a man who had all of the charms for winning votes. He was, underneath, quite hard and unscrupulous,

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<i>Brooks B. Robinson</i>: [[laughter] Yeah

<i>Eldred Jones</i>: But he was very charming. He won the votes, and the interesting thing is, that novel is narrated in the first person by a very idealistic young man. At least when we encounter him, all of his ideals were, seemingly, very idealistic. He comes into contact with this minister, who he recogni-- [[recognizes]]



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