

Nick Huhn  
Response #2 assignment – Dr. Lucas  
March 6, 2000

[A continuation of Mr Compson's letter to Quentin...]

...Miss Rosa's conscience was a tormented one: a conscience haunted by countless years of dreadful anguish brought about by not only a recollection of painful memories, but an intense emotional and spiritual connection with events people and places that dissipated many years ago. I do not fully comprehend this battered conscience of Miss Rosa or how it perpetuated and prolonged and brooded the sour abhorrence of an engaging – but nevertheless eccentrically enchanting – Southern chevalier like Thomas Sutpen, but I can only hope that this distraught conscience is finally at peace with Miss Rosa's 'painless' passing. I ponder whether or not Miss Rosa's morbid meditation continued to gnaw at her nerves and soul while she was held prisoner in her recent unconscious state – comprehension of this deep perplexity would require extensive knowledge of the deep dank labyrinthine recesses of Miss Rosa's thoughts and experiences – and I can only pray that her tortured anguished mind was liberated from such painful torments as the burning fire known as her life was reduced to smoldering embers and eventually extinguished completely. I still remain awestruck by the degree with which Miss Rosa steadfastly maintained her odious convictions for an interesting mythical Pandora's box of a man, her revulsion of a culture and way of life that dissolved long ago, and the bitter resentment she shared for both. As you and I have been detached by time from this era of mysterious bygones, I can only hope that the stories you've heard and the nuances of a historic proud South that you have observed can shed some light on how Miss Rosa was forced – (*or forced herself?*) – to sustain her unwavering emotional convictions. How is it that her life was consumed by such agony as a result of events that transpired many years ago? I would surmise that only a heart so impassioned with the rich opulence of memories of the Old South could provide the answers to this hypothetical question, but that heart has evanesced into oblivion and perhaps the extravagant tales of emotion and history have transcended time and space along with Miss Rosa. I hope that nothing so burdensome and painful will ever consume your heart and thoughts, my son, because the torrid past and complex emotions that plagued Miss Rosa are not to be dwelled upon – your conscience, Quentin, should be consumed with your scholastic pursuits. Please do not let this sad news weigh too much on your already stressed soul – Miss Rosa's legacy lives on with us despite the absence of her physical being on this earth. I send my well wishes to you and I hope to enjoy your company again soon...