

## Notes

N.B.—The following abbreviations are used:

S for Faulkner, William. *Sanctuary*. London: Chatto & Windus, 1966.

R for Faulkner, William. *Requiem for a Nun*. London: Chatto & Windus, 1970.

SF for Faulkner, William. *The Sound and the Fury*. London: Everyman's Library, 1992.

FU for Gwynn, Frederick L., and Joseph L., Blotner, eds. *Faulkner in the University*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1957.

MS for Joseph L., Blotner, McHaney, Thomas, Millgate, Michael and Polk, Noel, eds. *William Faulkner Manuscripts 19; Volume 1 Requiem for a Nun: Preliminary Holograph and Typescript Materials*. New York and London: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1987.

HL for Taylor, Jeremy. *Holy Living and Dying; with Prayers*. London: George Bell & Sons, 1878.

## ABSTRACT

The problem of Faulkner's treatment of salvation introduced by his *Requiem for a Nun* is so complicated since it is related to a variety of his crucial themes; suffering, sacrifice, freedom and there is no easy way to separate these themes. Faulkner's *Requiem for a Nun* takes up again the character of Temple Drake whose character he had first introduced in *Sanctuary* nineteen years earlier. With Temple, the obvious problem is whether she is saved or not for the extraordinary sacrifice of Nancy. One of the most distinguished Faulkner scholars, Noel Polk, in his critical study, *Faulkner's Requiem for a Nun*, says, "Nancy's murder of Temple's baby is the most savage and reprehensible act of violence in all of William Faulkner's fiction; that it is totally without justification; that it is the act of a madwoman and not of a saint; that Nancy's and Stevens's stated motives are not necessarily their real ones; that Stevens is not at all out to 'save' Temple but rather to crucify her; and that Temple rather than Nancy is at the moral center of the novel." However in studying Faulkner's concept of faith, Polk's argument does not seem to be substantiated. Though, as far as I know, no one has mentioned this, Faulkner's concept of faith and sacrifice owes much to Jeremy Taylor, a seventeenth-century Anglican bishop and writer, whose *Holy Living and Dying* is one of Faulkner's favorite books. Faulkner even brought it along when he was hospitalized. Hence, with the reference of Jeremy Taylor, the aim of this paper is to study the transformation of Temple Drake in consideration of Faulkner's concept of faith, and ultimately, to refute Polk's view of Nancy's sacrifice.