

McCarthy Clip 7 Transcript

TIMOTHY PATRICK MCCARTHY: I mean, I just want to read the last paragraph of Grimes, because it is ferocious. And I think it's worth sort of leaving-- leaving on this note, to sort of think about what he's saying to us here.

"I hope some will buy my books from charity, but I am no beggar. I am now entirely destitute of property. Where and how I shall live, I don't know. Where and how I shall die, I don't know. But I hope I may be prepared." That's the only hope here, I hope I'm prepared for death after a period of homelessness. "If it were not for the stripes on my back, which were made while I was a slave, I would, in my will, leave my skin a legacy to the government. Desiring that it might be taken off and made into parchment, and then bind the Constitution of glorious, happy, and free America. Let the skin of an American slave bind the charter of American liberty."

I mean, that too is an aspiration. That's an aspiration, but that's a very different kind of aspiration that we got from Douglass and some of the other folks that we've talked to. And yet both, I think, need to be reckoned with in relationship, in conversation with each other. Which is why we paired them together for discussion today.

Any last thoughts for-- from the provokers, as we end here and move into next week?

CHRISTINA: I just think that was a really good discussion, and that we just need to realize sometimes when we're reading these texts from years and years ago, that there are still aspects that are relevant today.

JEREMY: Yeah, so one more thought, I just hope that this gives us a different-- or an expanded-- lens to look at the white privilege, the white supremacy that remains in America today. And you know, we can continue to think about that and how to make

inroads against that, given than 180 years ago people were talking about it it wasn't all that different.

TIMOTHY PATRICK MCCARTHY: Yep. Good. All right folks, good job today.