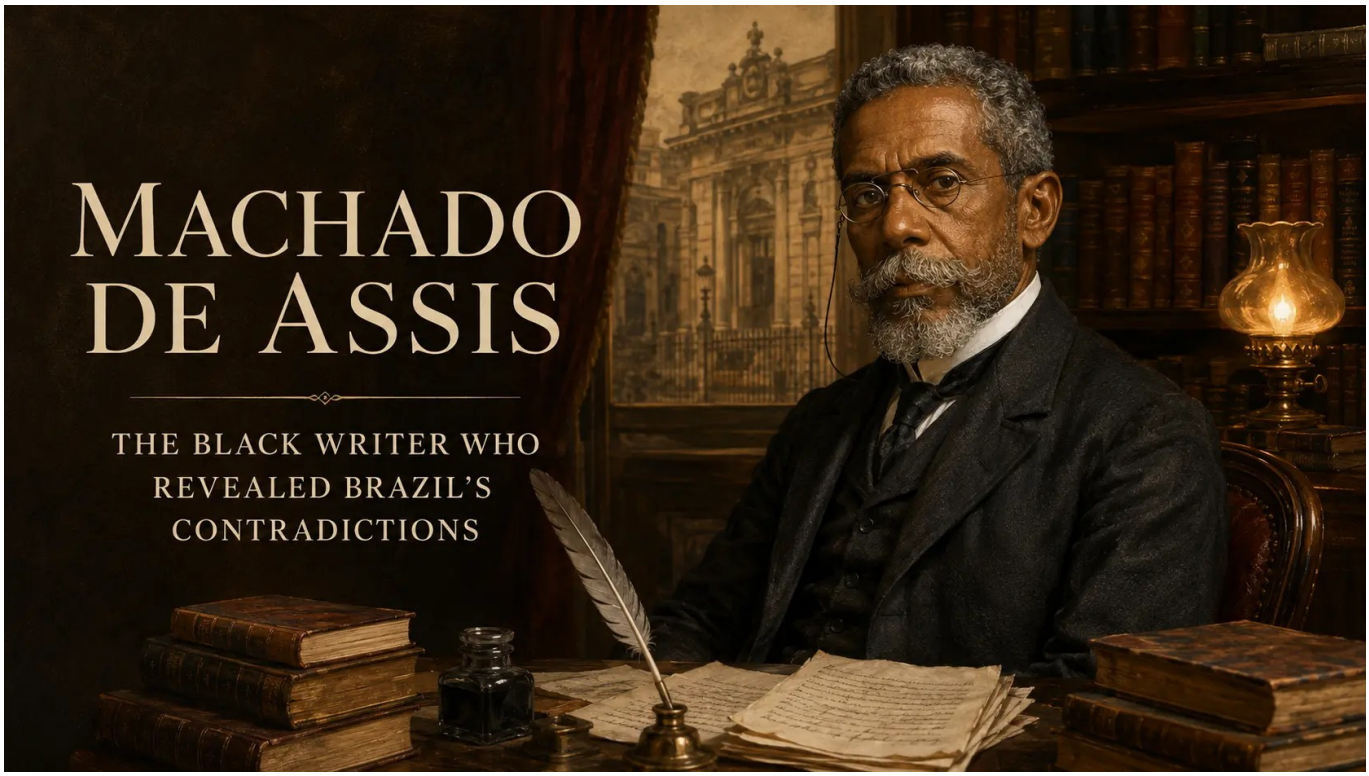
Machado de Assis: The Black Writer Who Revealed Brazil's Contradictions



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Machado de Assis: The Black Writer Who Revealed Brazil's Contradictions	**Machado de Assis: o escritor negro que revelou as contradições do Brasil**
Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis was born in Rio de Janeiro on June 21, 1839, into a slaveholding society marked by profound racial and social divisions. He was the son of Francisco José de Assis, a Black painter and gilder, and Maria Leopoldina Machado de Assis, an immigrant from the Azores, and spent his childhood on Morro do Livramento. His family had few resources, and Machado did not regularly attend schools or universities. Even so, he became one of the most important writers in world literature.	Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis nasceu no Rio de Janeiro, em 21 de junho de 1839, numa sociedade escravista marcada por profundas divisões raciais e sociais. Filho de Francisco José de Assis, pintor e dourador negro, e de Maria Leopoldina Machado de Assis, uma imigrante açoriana, passou a infância no Morro do Livramento. Sua família tinha poucos recursos, e Machado não frequentou regularmente escolas nem universidades. Ainda assim, tornou-se um dos escritores mais importantes da literatura mundial.
Machado de Assis's journey seems as extraordinary as some of his stories. While still a teenager, he became involved with printing workshops, newspapers, and the literary circles of Rio de Janeiro. At the age of fifteen, he published his first poem. In 1856, he began working as an apprentice typesetter at the National Press, where he met the writer Manuel Antônio de Almeida. He later worked as a proofreader, journalist, columnist, theater critic, and civil servant. In a world where opportunities were limited for the poor and even more restricted for Black people, he educated himself through reading, observation, and contact with the cultural circles of	A trajetória de Machado de Assis parece tão extraordinária quanto algumas de suas histórias. Ainda adolescente, aproximou-se das oficinas tipográficas, dos jornais e dos círculos literários do Rio de Janeiro. Aos quinze anos, publicou seu primeiro poema. Em 1856, começou a trabalhar como aprendiz de tipógrafo na Imprensa Nacional, onde conheceu o escritor Manuel Antônio de Almeida. Posteriormente, atuou como revisor, jornalista, cronista, crítico teatral e funcionário público. Em um mundo no qual as oportunidades eram limitadas para os pobres e ainda mais restritas para as pessoas negras, ele construiu sua formação por meio da leitura, da observação e do

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the imperial capital. [Brazilian Academy of Letters](https://www.academia.org.br/academicos/machado-de-assis/biografia)	contato com os ambientes culturais da capital do Império.
Machado began his literary career by writing poems, plays, reviews, chronicles, and novels influenced by Romanticism. Works such as "Ressurreição", "A Mão e a Luva", "Helena", and "Iaiá Garcia" already revealed his ability to understand human emotions and social conventions. However, it was with "The Posthumous Memoirs of Brás Cubas", published in 1881, that his literature took on a truly revolutionary form.	Machado começou sua carreira literária escrevendo poemas, peças teatrais, críticas, crônicas e romances de feição romântica. Obras como "Ressurreição", "A Mão e a Luva", "Helena" e "Iaiá Garcia" já revelavam sua capacidade de compreender os sentimentos humanos e as convenções sociais. Entretanto, foi a partir de "Memórias Póstumas de Brás Cubas", publicado em 1881, que sua literatura assumiu uma forma verdadeiramente revolucionária.
In this novel, the story is narrated by a dead man, free from any obligation to please the living. Brás Cubas speaks directly to the reader, interrupts the narrative, changes the order of events, and exposes the selfishness and vanity of the Brazilian elite with irony. Machado broke away from traditional forms of the novel and created an original way of telling stories. In doing so, he anticipated techniques that would become common in modern literature only much later.	Nesse romance, quem conta a história é um homem morto, livre das obrigações de agradar aos vivos. Brás Cubas conversa diretamente com o leitor, interrompe a narrativa, altera a ordem dos acontecimentos e expõe, com ironia, o egoísmo e a vaidade das elites brasileiras. Machado abandonava as formas tradicionais do romance e criava uma maneira original de narrar, antecipando recursos que somente muito tempo depois se tornariam comuns na literatura moderna.
Works such as "Quincas Borba", "Dom Casmurro", "Esaú e Jacó", and "Memorial de Aires" followed. His characters are rarely entirely good or evil. They hesitate, deceive others, remember events in ways that suit them, and seek to justify their own choices. In "Dom Casmurro", for example, Bentinho tries to convince the reader that Capitu betrayed him. However, the entire story reaches us through his jealous and insecure voice. Machado turns the reader into a judge while concealing the very evidence needed to reach a verdict.	Vieram então obras como "Quincas Borba", "Dom Casmurro", "Esaú e Jacó" e "Memorial de Aires". Seus personagens raramente são completamente bons ou maus. Eles hesitam, dissimulam, lembram os fatos de maneira conveniente e procuram justificar suas próprias escolhas. Em "Dom Casmurro", por exemplo, Bentinho tenta convencer o leitor de que foi traído por Capitu. Contudo, toda a história chega até nós por meio de sua voz ciumenta e insegura. Machado transforma o leitor em juiz, embora esconda dele justamente as provas necessárias para chegar a um veredito.
Slavery and racism also permeate his work, sometimes subtly and at other times brutally. In stories such as "O Caso da Vara", "Pai contra Mãe", and "Mariana", he revealed the violence embedded in everyday life, family relationships, and Brazilian institutions. Instead of delivering lengthy speeches, he showed how seemingly respectable people could accept cruelty when their own interests were at stake. His irony forced readers to notice what society preferred to regard as normal.	A escravidão e o racismo também atravessam sua obra, algumas vezes de forma discreta e outras de maneira brutal. Em contos como "O Caso da Vara", "Pai contra Mãe" e "Mariana", ele revelou a violência incorporada ao cotidiano, às relações familiares e às instituições brasileiras. Em vez de apresentar longos discursos, mostrava como pessoas consideradas respeitáveis podiam aceitar a crueldade quando seus interesses estavam em jogo. Sua ironia obrigava o leitor a perceber aquilo que a sociedade preferia tratar como normal.
In 1869, Machado married Carolina Augusta Xavier de Novais, an educated Portuguese woman who became his companion, reader, and intellectual collaborator. Their marriage lasted 35 years. Carolina's death in 1904 caused him profound	Em 1869, Machado casou-se com Carolina Augusta Xavier de Novais, uma portuguesa culta que se tornou sua companheira, leitora e colaboradora intelectual. A união durou 35 anos. A morte de Carolina, em 1904, causou-lhe profundo sofrimento e inspirou o soneto "A

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sorrow and inspired the sonnet "A Carolina", one of the most moving declarations of love in Brazilian literature. Machado also faced health problems, including epileptic seizures, at a time when the condition was surrounded by misunderstanding and prejudice.	Carolina", uma das mais comoventes declarações de amor da literatura brasileira. Machado também enfrentou problemas de saúde, incluindo crises de epilepsia, numa época em que a doença era cercada de incompreensão e preconceito.
In 1897, he participated in the founding of the Brazilian Academy of Letters and was elected its first president. He remained in the position until his death, for more than ten years, exercising such influence that the institution became known as the House of Machado de Assis. He occupied chair number 23 and chose José de Alencar as its patron. [Brazilian Academy of Letters](https://www.academia.org.br/a-historia-da-abl/a-lideranca-de-machado-de-assis)	Em 1897, participou da fundação da Academia Brasileira de Letras e foi eleito seu primeiro presidente. Permaneceu no cargo até sua morte, por mais de dez anos, exercendo tamanha influência que a instituição passou a ser chamada de Casa de Machado de Assis. Ocupou a cadeira número 23 e escolheu José de Alencar como seu patrono.
Despite the prestige he achieved during his lifetime, Machado de Assis's Black identity was frequently minimized after his death. Photographs were lightened, portraits softened his features, and some critics preferred to portray him solely as an intellectual integrated into Rio de Janeiro's elite. In 2011, an advertising campaign even depicted him as a white man.	Apesar do prestígio alcançado ainda em vida, a identidade negra de Machado de Assis foi frequentemente minimizada depois de sua morte. Fotografias foram clareadas, retratos suavizaram seus traços e parte da crítica preferiu apresentá-lo apenas como um intelectual integrado às elites do Rio de Janeiro. Em 2011, uma campanha publicitária chegou a representá-lo como um homem branco.
The episode sparked protests and symbolized a process of whitening that affected his public image for decades. This erasure was not accidental. For a society that associated intelligence and refinement with white people, acknowledging that Brazil's greatest writer was a Black man, born into poverty and descended from enslaved people, meant confronting its own prejudices.	O episódio provocou protestos e simbolizou um processo de embranquecimento que acompanhou sua imagem durante décadas. Esse apagamento não foi casual. Para uma sociedade que associava a inteligência e o refinamento à população branca, admitir que o maior escritor brasileiro era um homem negro, nascido pobre e descendente de pessoas escravizadas, significava confrontar os próprios preconceitos.
Instead of fully recognizing his origins, people sought to adapt his appearance to the prestigious position his work had earned. The rediscovery of photographs, documents, and biographical studies helped restore an essential dimension of his identity and personal history.	Em vez de reconhecer plenamente sua origem, procurou-se adaptar sua aparência ao lugar de prestígio que sua obra conquistara. A redescoberta de fotografias, documentos e estudos biográficos ajudou a restituir uma dimensão essencial de sua identidade e de sua trajetória.
Machado de Assis died on September 29, 1908, in Rio de Janeiro. Today, his books are translated, studied, and admired in many countries. International critics recognize the modernity of his writing, the psychological depth of his characters, and the extraordinary skill with which he exposed the relationships among power, appearances, and self-interest.	Machado de Assis morreu em 29 de setembro de 1908, no Rio de Janeiro. Hoje, seus livros são traduzidos, estudados e admirados em diversos países. A crítica internacional reconhece a modernidade de sua escrita, a profundidade psicológica de seus personagens e a extraordinária capacidade com que desvendou as relações entre poder, aparência e interesse.
Recovering Machado de Assis's Black identity does not mean reducing his literature to the question of race. It means fully understanding the man who	Recuperar a identidade negra de Machado de Assis não significa reduzir sua literatura à questão racial. Significa compreender integralmente o homem que a

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produced it and recognizing the magnitude of his achievement. A poor Black boy, born into a slaveholding society and deprived of formal education, overcame the barriers of his time, became the first president of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, and wrote a body of work that continues to speak to the world. For many years, people tried to whiten his face, but no attempt at erasure could diminish the greatness of his voice.	produziu e reconhecer a dimensão de sua conquista. Um menino negro e pobre, nascido numa sociedade escravista e sem acesso à educação formal, atravessou as barreiras de seu tempo, tornou-se o primeiro presidente da Academia Brasileira de Letras e escreveu uma obra que continua a conversar com o mundo. Durante muito tempo tentaram embranquecer seu rosto, mas nenhuma tentativa de apagamento conseguiu diminuir a grandeza de sua voz.

Contagem de palavras

A tabela abaixo exibe as palavras encontradas nesta música/vídeo/texto, bem como o número de vezes em que aparecem.

Veja também: **Para que serve esta tabela?**

Freq.	Palavra	Freq.	Palavra	Freq.	Palavra
49	the	39	and	33	of
29	his	22	a	21	in
20	de	16	machado	16	he
15	to	12	as	11	assis
9	that	8	was	7	for
7	brazilian	7	black	7	an
6	with	6	people	6	at
5	literature	5	into	5	by
5	became	4	such	4	society
4	rio	4	reader	4	on
4	man	4	letters	4	janeiro
4	him	4	from	4	academy
3	years	3	writer	3	world
3	work	3	who	3	were
3	their	3	stories	3	revealed
3	own	3	not	3	its
3	it	3	identity	3	first
3	even	3	death	3	carolina
3	born	2	www	2	writing
2	works	2	white	2	while
2	where	2	when	2	voice
2	time	2	through	2	this
2	story	2	some	2	social
2	so	2	slaveholding	2	relationships
2	recognizing	2	published	2	profound
2	president	2	preferred	2	position
2	poor	2	photographs	2	org
2	or	2	one	2	novel
2	most	2	more	2	maria
2	many	2	literary	2	later
2	josé	2	irony	2	intellectual
2	instead	2	https	2	however
2	had	2	fully	2	family
2	extraordinary	2	events	2	erasure
2	elite	2	educated	2	e

Freq.	Palavra	Freq.	Palavra	Freq.	Palavra
2	dom	2	da	2	cubas
2	critics	2	could	2	circles
2	characters	2	casmurro	2	brazil
2	brás	2	br	2	began
2	are	2	also	2	academia
1	xavier	1	wrote	1	writers
1	would	1	workshops	1	working
1	worked	1	woman	1	whitening
1	whiten	1	which	1	what
1	ways	1	way	1	violence
1	very	1	verdict	1	vara
1	vanity	1	us	1	until
1	universities	1	understanding	1	understand
1	typesetter	1	turns	1	truly
1	tries	1	tried	1	translated
1	traditional	1	took	1	today
1	times	1	they	1	them
1	theater	1	than	1	ten
1	telling	1	teenager	1	techniques
1	symbolized	1	surrounded	1	suit
1	subtly	1	studies	1	studied
1	still	1	stake	1	spent
1	speeches	1	speaks	1	speak
1	sparked	1	sought	1	sorrow
1	sonnet	1	son	1	sometimes
1	solely	1	softened	1	slavery
1	skill	1	showed	1	servant
1	september	1	selfishness	1	self
1	seizures	1	seems	1	seemingly
1	seek	1	schools	1	romanticism
1	revolutionary	1	reviews	1	restricted
1	restore	1	ressurrei'ão	1	respectable
1	resources	1	remember	1	remained
1	regularly	1	regard	1	refinement
1	reducing	1	rediscovery	1	recovering
1	recognize	1	reading	1	readers
1	reaches	1	reach	1	rarely
1	racism	1	racial	1	race
1	quincas	1	question	1	public
1	psychological	1	protests	1	proofreader
1	produced	1	process	1	problems

Freq.	Palavra	Freq.	Palavra	Freq.	Palavra
1	printing	1	prestigious	1	prestige
1	press	1	prejudices	1	prejudice
1	power	1	poverty	1	posthumous
1	portuguese	1	portray	1	portraits
1	poems	1	poem	1	please
1	plays	1	personal	1	permeate
1	patron	1	participated	1	painter
1	pai	1	overcame	1	others
1	other	1	origins	1	original
1	order	1	opportunities	1	only
1	occupied	1	observation	1	obligation
1	o	1	number	1	novels
1	novais	1	notice	1	normal
1	no	1	newspapers	1	needed
1	national	1	narrative	1	narrated
1	much	1	moving	1	morro
1	modernity	1	modern	1	misunderstanding
1	minimized	1	met	1	memorial
1	memoirs	1	meant	1	means
1	mean	1	married	1	marriage
1	marked	1	mariana	1	mão
1	manuel	1	magnitude	1	mãe
1	luva	1	love	1	livramento
1	living	1	limited	1	lightened
1	lifetime	1	life	1	lideranca
1	leopoldina	1	lengthy	1	lasted
1	known	1	justify	1	june
1	judge	1	journey	1	journalist
1	joaquim	1	jealous	1	jacó
1	is	1	involved	1	interrupts
1	international	1	interests	1	interest
1	intelligence	1	integrated	1	institutions
1	institution	1	inspired	1	insecure
1	influenced	1	influence	1	including
1	important	1	imperial	1	immigrant
1	image	1	iaiá	1	human
1	how	1	house	1	history
1	historia	1	himself	1	hesitate
1	helped	1	helena	1	health
1	greatness	1	greatest	1	good
1	gilder	1	garcia	1	frequently

Freq.	Palavra	Freq.	Palavra	Freq.	Palavra
1	free	1	francisco	1	founding
1	forms	1	formal	1	form
1	forced	1	followed	1	fifteen
1	few	1	features	1	faced
1	face	1	exposes	1	exposed
1	exercising	1	example	1	evil
1	evidence	1	everyday	1	essential
1	esaú	1	episode	1	epileptic
1	entirely	1	entire	1	enslaved
1	emotions	1	embedded	1	elected
1	education	1	earned	1	during
1	doing	1	does	1	documents
1	do	1	divisions	1	directly
1	diminish	1	dimension	1	died
1	did	1	despite	1	descended
1	depth	1	deprived	1	depicted
1	delivering	1	declarations	1	deceive
1	decades	1	dead	1	cultural
1	cruelty	1	critic	1	created
1	countries	1	convince	1	conventions
1	contradictions	1	contra	1	continues
1	contact	1	confronting	1	condition
1	concealing	1	companion	1	common
1	columnist	1	collaborator	1	civil
1	chronicles	1	chose	1	choices
1	childhood	1	changes	1	chair
1	caused	1	caso	1	career
1	capitu	1	capital	1	campaign
1	but	1	brutally	1	broke
1	boy	1	borba	1	books
1	body	1	biographical	1	biografia
1	betrayed	1	bentinho	1	become
1	barriers	1	azores	1	away
1	augusta	1	attend	1	attempt
1	associated	1	apprentice	1	appearances
1	appearance	1	any	1	antônio
1	anticipated	1	among	1	already
1	almeida	1	alencar	1	aires
1	age	1	after	1	affected
1	advertising	1	admired	1	adapt
1	acknowledging	1	achievement	1	achieved

Freq.	Palavra	Freq.	Palavra	Freq.	Palavra
1	accidental	1	accept	1	academicos
1	abl	1	ability		