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Isolation and its Aftermaths

Isolation is an act of being left out, making individual experience low self-esteem and loneliness. It is common in the current society with people deciding to undertake certain activities without involving people that are close to them; it may occur, for example, where people are not informed about some functions that will take place, and that concerns them. The leading cause of this is the feelings of different social classes where some feel they are more critical than others. The less privileged, the poor mainly face these challenge that causes loneliness. It makes people have low self-esteem about themselves and worthless in the community. Isolation is evident in so many scenarios; school, religious sites, homes, and also workplaces. The focus of my paper on ⁴ Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* novels, in part, about friendship among other factors, and yet, the narrative is peopled with figures of isolation as well as loneliness.

Mary Shelley is the author of the novel *Frankenstein*. The book depicts the theme of isolation as experienced by its characters. Some of the characters found to come across separation are Victor Frankenstein, who earns the novel its title, Frankenstein and Robert. Robert is mentioned in the story as he ⁵ looks for a new route to the Pacific Ocean through Russia via the Arctic Ocean.

Shelley pinpoints different themes in the novel displayed by the actions of associate characters.

She allows her characters to narrate their story to pass a message to the audience. Isolation goes all through the Shelley, with Victor being the primary prey. Victor recounts the scene by alluding to two mountains rather than one. This narration develops a tremendous experience. The separation between Victor and his colleagues whereby he remains in the *recess* of the rock that almost symbolizes the preservative womb that is provided by the mountain as it is evidenced from the novel;

¹ "From the side where I now stood Montanvert was exactly opposite, at the distance of a league; and above it rose Mon Blanc, in awful majesty. I remained in a recess of the rock, gazing on this wonderful and stupendous scene. The sea, or rather the vast river of ice, wound among its dependent mountains, whose aerial summits hung over its recesses. Their icy and glittering peaks shone in the sunlight over the clouds. My heart, which was before sorrowful, now swelled with something like joy; I exclaimed" (Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley p. 63)

Victor remains alone and solitary in the unreality he has weakly fashioned out of reality. Family is essential for everybody, and it helps in breaking emotional isolation. However, Victor is not seen close to his family, which brings him terror and agony. He lived a lonely place that made his father, at one point, put across this statement. In a report, the creature contemplated himself to be laudable of a mate. After Victor demolishes the new creature, the creation is seen to be sent into a fit of temper and turning to be vengeance. ¹ The monster saw my determination in my face and gnashed his teeth in the impotence of anger. "Shall each man," cried he, "find a wife for his bosom, and each beast has his mate, and I be alone? I had feelings of affection, and they were requited by detestation and scorn. Man! You may hate it, but beware! Your hours will pass in

dread and misery, and soon the bolt will fall which must ravish from you your happiness forever

(Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley 115)

In Shelley's novel, the main character is Victor, and the theme of alienation is seen throughout his story. He goes ahead to do his research on creating a new creature but finds no one to share his achievements, failures, challenges, and new ideas. This situation causes loneliness that results in hatred, and hatred leads to cases of murder, despair, and tragedy. Separating himself from family and friends leads to self-destruction and interfering with his career at the end of it all. Shelley brings it clearly that loneliness brings calamity not only to the victim but also to the society. It is evident from the novel that the act of one separating himself from the community causes a lot of pain to the whole nation. According to Victor, the monster turns vengeful due to isolation that fills it with anger and hatred but not because he is terrible.

According to the novel, isolation can have good results if it is taken positively. It is through separation that Victor was able to achieve his goal of creating a creature. He saw it as a powerful weapon for reaching his goals. However, instead of creating a beast as he anticipated, he made a monster, and that led to his fall. Isolation is dangerous and should not be taken by anyone as the only option for achieving set goals. It leads to the loss of family and friends that are essential factors in one's life. In *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, isolation is also evident throughout the novel. Dickens' interest was in the welfare of children. He aimed to make sure children received proper education, good health, and acceptance in society. In the mid-nineteenth century, training was not supported in London. The few private schools around are too expensive because the owners started them for personal gains. Those that could not afford to pay for those costly schools are taken to bush schools that did not get any support from the government, making it difficult to provide for all the resources from the little money they got from donations.

Here comes the theme of isolation that is identified when Beaufort fell sick, and upon attending the healthcare in a bid to be accorded right medication, misery and despair are all that welcomed him. His little saving was drained as he paid the hospital bills; however, it was sufficient to sustain him for some months. Her daughter became disturbed by the rate at which his father's situation deteriorated every day. By bad luck, Beaufort's daughter shows her father die in her presence. The life-threatening medical illness of Beaufort brought to her daughter a stressful life event that was seen to challenge coping as well as adaptation. In many certain instances, the function of a family is identified to show up predictive of psychology results for members of the family to take care of a dying relative, the includes adaptation during a successive moment of grief. The daughter missed the relationship with her father since he was no more, and this caused isolation in a family bond. Mary Shelley's Frankenstein novel evidences this form of segregation as it is stated;

¹ "Several months passed in this manner. Her father grew worse; her time was more entirely occupied in attending him; her means of subsistence decreased, and in the tenth month, her father died in her arms, leaving her an orphan and a beggar. This last blow overcame her, and she knelt by Beaufort's coffin weeping bitterly when my father entered the chamber. He came like a protecting spirit to the poor girl, who committed herself to his care. After the internment of his friend, he conducted her to Geneva and placed her under the protection of a relation. Two years after this event Caroline became his wife" (Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley p. 14)

Isolation is established as Dickens signifies the importance of companionship and the formation of the company. Left to himself is a young man Scrooge finds togetherness in stories ³ lonely boy was reading near a feeble fire" (Charles Dickens p. 30). Loneliness and isolation is evident

through Scrooge especially with the death of Marley (Dickens p 6). Being a partner for unknown years scrooge is described as “³ Sole executor, his sole assign, his sole administrator, his sole friend, his sole mourner and his sole residuary legatee”, to Scrooge (Dickens, p 7). This means that, there was a very strong friendship between Marley and scrooge that has been terminated by death and isolating all of them.

Nevertheless, he finds it necessary to make money as it is a responsibility for an adult. He focuses on this role of making money and doing away with personal relationships. The difference that is witnessed to exist between Scrooge as the opening paragraphs of the novella and the justified Scrooge is substantial, and it can be established that it is not just for the sake of helping the poverty-stricken people, but it is as a result of his united the collapsed society, “⁶as good a man, as the good old city knew” (Charles Dickens p. 85)

In the novel, Cratchit is also a victim of isolation. He is weak and therefore represents the less privileged in the society. The community where Scrooge and Cratchit lives is characterized by separation, caused by social inequalities among the people. There is an unequal distribution of wealth, as seen when comparing Cratchit and Scrooge. Cratchit has very little coal for himself, while Scrooge uses a lot of it. Dickens brings it out clearly that people are living in isolation, with harsh weather, unbearable, and not human-friendly. However, they have chosen to find happiness there even if it is not there because they got themselves used to the environment. During Christmas, Mrs. Cratchit feels that someone may come to their yard and steal from them; thus, they are living in a place that is isolated. It shows that people around can decide to take from their home, there is inadequacy, and there is no satisfaction. People are denied the right to basic needs like food and also other needs like ² education. "At this festive season of the year, Mr. Scrooge," said the gentleman, taking up a pen, "it is more than usually desirable that we should

make some slight provision for the Poor and destitute, who suffer greatly at present (Charles Dickens p. 10)

There is a connection between the two texts, *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley's and Charles Dickens's *Christmas Carol* in several ways, with the theme of isolation being predominant. In both novels, some characters face alienation in several ways as seen from their stories. Shelley talks about family negligence which leads to Victor creating a monster. Dickens also addresses the same theme of parental responsibility, where he communicates about Scrooge not getting parental love during his childhood. There are adverse effects of isolation in both novels; In *Frankenstein's*, Victor creates a monster that leads to the destruction of his life, and in *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge became inhospitable to people, selfish and rude. There is also supernatural power in both novels in that Victor makes another creature that is similar to a human being, and Scrooge is visited by three spirits that warn him against his way of living. The connections are essential in that they create emphasis. This way, people will learn the impacts of isolation and avoid it. The audience will get a better understanding of the message is contained and be keen and cautious of what is not encouraged in society.

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