

CHAPTER IV

A N A L Y S I S

IV.1. CHARACTER

Jane Eyre, as the central attention in this story, receives some injustice treatments during her childhood which give the effect on her development character-traits.

In Encyclopedia Americana it is stated that *justice* is the highest conception of the proper bearing of all the members of a community towards one another and of the law of the state towards the individuals constituting its population (1970:262).

Each man has his own conception of the proper bearing, but there is only one highest conception of the proper bearing. A proper bearing occurs when one respects others' right. Therefore every person obliges to give what becomes others' right and he has the right to uphold his own right too. From the notion of justice above, we can determine whether one's action is just or not. One is unjust when he does not care about other's right, he only does what he wants to do. This kind of treatment happens on the main character, Jane Eyre, at Gateshead and Lowood.

The readers will learn from the beginning of this novel how unlucky Jane is in undergoing the tyrannical treatment of her aunt, Mrs. Reed, of her cousins and of all the people around her. In Mrs. Reed's house at Gates-

head Jane Eyre loses her rights as a ten years-old child. Besides not sending Jane to school until she is ten years old, Mrs. Reed does not permit her to play with other children and she never judges wisely the fight that happens between her own son and Jane Eyre, when John, her son, accuses Jane Eyre of attacking him first, she takes her son's part. She punishes Jane Eyre by condemning her to stay in the Red-room where Mr. Reed has died.

From what Jane says in the following quotations, one will know how her aunt treats her which draws the child's sense of outrage and injustice :

'John had *an antipathy to me*. He bullied and punished me; not two or three times a week, nor once or twice in a day, *but continually*: every nerve I had feared him, and every morsel of flesh on my bones shrank when he came near ... *he struck suddenly and strongly ..*'
(JE, Chapter 1 : 6).

Another as follows:

'My head still ached and bled with the blow and fall I had received; no one had reproved John for wantonly striking me; and because I had turned against him to avert further irrational violence, I was loaded with general opprobrium.

'Unjust! -- unjust!' said my reason, forced by the agonising stimulus into precocious though transitory power.. escape from insupportable oppression - as running away, or , if that could not be effected, never eating or drinking more, and letting myself die.

What a consternation of soul was mine that dreary afternoon ! How all my brain was in tumult, and all my heart in insurrection! Yet in what darkness, what dense ignorance, was the mental battle fought!' (JE, Chapter 1 : 7)

Further on, from the quotations below, the readers can see what kind of person Jane is. Her outburst directed to her aunt does not show any feeling or respect anymore. She cannot control her emotions any longer, because she cannot bear to face more hardness and cruelty in her life.

' Because it is the truth. You think I have no feelings, and that I can do without one bit of love or kindness; though I was in agony, though I cried out, while suffocating with distress. "Have mercy ! Have mercy, Aunt Reed !" And that punishment you made me suffer because your wicked boy struck me -- knocked me down for nothing. I will tell anybody who asks me question this exact tale. People think you a good woman, but you are bad, hard-hearted. You are deceitful "deceitful!" (JE, Chapter 4 : 17)

From this scene, the writer is on the opinion that Jane's attitude shows her real rebellious nature. However, she is so oppressed by her imprisonment by Mrs. Reed that although she is actually afraid of living in poverty, she is willing to be sent to a charitable school for poor girls.

Being free from injustice treatment as Gateshead, Jane Eyre faces another injustice at Lowood school where she is sent to study. All children at Lowood school, including Jane, are treated unjustly by the principal of Lowood school, Mr. Brocklehurst. Besides lacking of material welfare such as wretched food and insufficient clothing, the charity children also lack of spiritual welfare at Lowood. Moreover, when she knows that her sole friend as well as teacher has got married and has left

her, Jane's motive for staying at Lowood is gone. Restlessness comes over her and she prays for a new servitude. She wants to be free in order that she can change her way of life.

‘ I tired of the routine of eight years in one afternoon. I desire liberty; for liberty I gasped; for liberty I uttered a prayer; it seemed scattered on the wind then faintly blowing. I abandoned it and framed a humbler supplication. For change stimulus. That petition, too, seemed swept off into me at least a new servitude ‘ (JE, chapter 10 : 41)

From the previous lines, it is obvious that Jane can be considered as a woman of *dynamic character* and a woman with a *strong personality* who faces her struggle for life by herself.

As the readers already know Jane had actually experienced a hard life since she was a child, but this does not make her powerless to show her own opinion to others. Through the tyrannical treatment, Jane does not only develop into a woman with a strong personality but also dare face to struggle a better life. Knowing that she has neither relatives nor friends to help her, this problem does not make her feel hopeless, for she realizes that being away from the world of Lowood she can gain a varied life in a new situation and place. She describes one of her inner conflicts about life as follows :

' You are good to those who are good to you. It is all I ever desire to be. If people were always kind and obedient to those who are cruel and unjust, the wicked people would have it all their own way; they would never feel afraid, and so they would never alter, but would grow worse and worse. When we are struck at without a reason, we should so hard as to teach the person who struck us never to do it again.' (JE, chapter 11 : 47)

This principle seems to be the guide of action and conduct until she becomes a governess. Bearing her principles in mind, the readers can easily understand what kind of character Jane Eyre has. She is very optimistic and will do what she thinks is right without feeling worried. Having been a governess, Jane is sure that she can improve her static life. We can get the impression from her contemplation in the tenth chapter of the novel that she is a woman who is eager to liberty. Everytime she contemplates on her future life, she only thinks of obtaining liberty. This is not surprising because she has been oppressed since she was a child both in the care of Mrs. Reed and in Lowood institution. In other words, Jane's background has made a considerable impact upon her character. Jane always wants to make great efforts to improve her condition. She is not willing to give up to fate.

She is sure that she can earn enough money to support herself by making use of her talents. Her self-confidence and her mental strength clearly show that she is an independent woman with self-esteem and pride.

Becoming independent for Jane Eyre does not mean that she can do anything she wants without paying attention for the sake of others, but it means that she wants to support herself and to develop herself. She does not want to depend on her relatives or other people around her; besides, she is confident that what she does is the right thing for her own good. The above description demonstrates the effect of Jane's background upon her character.

The other aspect that helps Jane Eyre to develop her independent character-trait is her hatred of being dependent. During her childhood Jane became the burden of others. At Gateshead Jane Eyre was supported by Mrs. Reed, and at Lowood her cost of living came from the benefactors and at those place she was unjustly treated. This fact arises Jane's hatred of being other's burden because she concludes that if she depends on others all the time, she will be always unjustly treated. The quotation below shows how Jane hates to be hatred :

'I had nothing to say these words, they were not new to me. My very first recollections of existence included hints of the same kinds. This reproach of my dependence had become a vague sing-song in my ear; very painful and crushing; but only half intelligible' (JE, chapter 4 : 17)

Jane's independent character-trait does not only appear when she is in common circumstances, but also when she is in terrible circumstances.

Jane falls in love with her master at Thornfield, Mr. Rochester. Although she has the different class distinction with him, she still continues her love relationship because she always longs for warmth relationship and protection from somebody she loves and because she is sure that Mr. Rochester's proposal to marry her is based on love.

After knowing that Mr. Rochester has a living wife and she can not marry him, she decides to leave him. Jane refuses his request to live together in another country. Jane is not willing to be his mistress and lose her respect. She prefers to leave him and remain single. She loves him too much to lower her moral standard and values on marriage, for she knows that true happiness can not be found in compromise. That's why she chooses to resist Mr. Rochester when it would be morally wrong to give in.

Her assertion of her right to leave Rochester when she discovers the existence of Rochester's wife is also based on a self-respect. As she tells Rochester on the first occasion,

'Do you think, because I am poor, obscure, plain, and little, I am soulless and heartless? You think wrong - I have as much soul as you, - and full as much heart!' (JE, chapter 26 : 122)

and as she inwardly declares on the second,

'Sir, your wife is living ; that is a fact

acknowledged this morning by yourself. If I lived with you as you desire I should then be your mistress : to say otherwise is sophistical - is false. I care for myself. The more solitary, the more friendless, more unsustained I am, the more I will respect myself' (JE, chapter 26 : 123)

Those quotations show Jane's ability to win herself-respect. She wants to defend it so that she is brave to stand on her own feet and living. By devoting her life to God, she has strong confidence to be independent. Though she is poor and powerless, she finds peace.

By leaving Thornfield, Jane has to struggle to gain a better life once again in new condition and environment. Fortunately, she gets a better position to be a teacher. She is aware that this position will give her an independent life. She submits herself to an introspective which is as follows :

Meantime, let me ask myself one question : Which is better ? To have surrendered to temptation ; listened to passion; made no painful effort --- no struggle --- or to be a village schoolmistress, free and honest in a breezy mountain nook in the healthy heart of England ?

Yes : I feel now that I was right when I adheres to principle and law, and scorned and crushed the insane promptings of a frenzied moment' (JE, chapter 29 : 140)

Furthermore, she prefers teaching at a safe place to being a governess in a wealthy family although she actually has that opportunity. Her desire for independence in this case shows that Jane wants liberty.

'In truth it was humble but then it was sheltered, and I wanted a safe asylum : it was plodding but then, compared with that of a governess in a rich house, it was independent, and the fear of ssertude with strangers entered my soul like iron: it was not ignoble not unworthy not mentally degrading. I made my decision'. (JE, chapter 30 : 142)

Another fact which be considered as an illustration of Jane's strong character appears in the above statement, too. She says that she has made the decision about her position : 'I made my decision'. In other words, Jane's self-confidence and self - respect constantly and consistently support her throughout her experiences of life in both small and essential matters.

Those facts also show that Jane is a wise woman. Jane Eyre's decision to leave Mr. Rochester considered as a wise decision since it shows that she obeys the law and her religion. If Jane is not a wise woman, she will marry Rochester illegally. But, anyway, Jane tries to act wisely although she knows that her wisdom must hurt her feeling and Mr. Rochester.

Jane's wisdom also can be seen when she is offered a job as a teacher in Moor House by St. John. She accepts it although she knows that she should teach rough and illiterate village girls at a meager salary. Jane doesn't want those children to suffer from injustice because of the lack of the qualified teachers. It is truly a hard work at first. But with all her efforts, she could comprehend her scholar and the children nature.

Spending her time as a teacher in Moor House, Jane still can not find a way forgetting Rochester. At last, she decided to meet him.

Jane's escape from Moor House is the reverse of her flight from Thornfield, and in leaving Moor House she has none of the doubts that she felt on leaving Mr. Rochester formerly. To return to Mr. Rochester is a mature decision now of her whole self. She still determines to accompany him although he is in agony, he is crippled, blind and a widower, and has gone bankrupt.

The writer of the thesis also finds that Jane Eyre is not greedy ; for Jane, relationship is more important than money, because when she learns that her only uncle is dead and he has left her a great deal of inheritance, Jane cries because she is sad as her only relative is dead. But then she discovers that the Rivers are her cousins. She is very glad and she shares her inheritance with them.

'My uncle I had heard was dead only my relative ever since being made aware of his existence. I had cherished the hope of one day seeing him; now I never should, and then this money come only to me and a rejoicing family, but to my isolated self' (JE, chapter 31 : 145)

'You three, then, are my cousins. half our blood on each side flows from the some source. Oh, I am glad --- I am glad' I am not brutally selfish, blindly unjust or friendishly ungrateful. Besides, I am resolved I will have a home and connections'.

'It would please and benefit me to have 5.000 pounds; it would torment and oppress me to have

twenty thousands; which, moreover, could never be mine in justice, though it might in law` (JE, chapter 31 : 146)

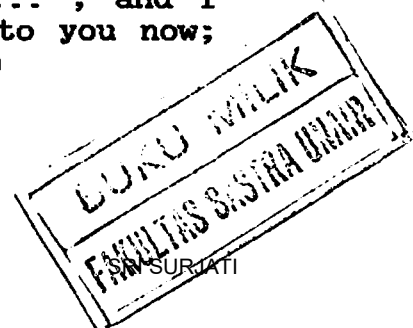
Jane is not selfish or ungrateful. Although as a child she convinces herself that she will be kind to those who are kind to her and she will strike back to those strike her, but then we see that she makes reconciliation to the Reeds and she forgives them, even she feels pity on them.

`I must dislike those who, whatever I do to please them, persist in disliking me; I must resist those who punish me unjustly. It is as rational as that I should love those who show me affection or submit to punishment when I feel it is deserved` (JE, chapter 20 : 93)

It is shown clearly when Jane is summoned to attend the death-bed of Mrs. Reed, in Gateshead. The return to Gateshead recreates her childhood and its sufferings, and charts her moral and emotional growth. We can believe about Jane's feeling of forgiveness from her saying :

`I had left this woman in bitterness and hate, and I came back to her now with no other emotion than a sort of truth for her great sufferings, and a strong yearning to forget and forgive an injuries` (JE, chapter 20 :94)

`Dear Mrs. Reed ... think no more of all this, let it pass away from your mind. My disposition is not so bad as you think. Forgive me for my passionate language. I am passionate, but not vindictive. Many of time, as a little child, I should have been glad to love you ... ; and I long earnestly to be reconciled to you now; kiss me, aunt` (JE, chapter 20 : 94)



From the discussion above, we can see that Jane Eyre moves from stage to stage of Jane's character development, divided into four sharply distinct phases : *childhood* at Gateshead; *girlhood*, which is schooling in both senses, at Lowood; *adolescence* at Thornfield; *maturity* at Moor House, *winding up with fulfilment in marriage* at Ferndean. In accordance with Wellek and Warren's criteria on character on the theoretical framework, Jane Eyre can be categorized as a *round or dynamic character*. She does not belong to the stock character since she is not a "made" character. Jane always gives the reader new surprises, various kinds of ideas and actions. Since her childhood, Jane Eyre was capable of judging her experiences by a fine instinct for what made for her own psychic health and happiness, thus made her able to face life more successfully after each experience.

She is a dynamic character, because from the beginning of the story till the end, Jane has showed a dynamic way of thinking and a broad view point.

IV.2. SETTING

Jane Eyre takes place on the towns in England. The place exactly is never settled on one or certain place, but it always change from one place to another along with the movement of the main character, Jane Eyre, as the central character in the story. The whole of the story takes place in a few different parts of Midlands and northern countries of England.

The first chapter of the novel is emphasized on Jane's hometown where she was born. It is in *Gateshead*. It is winter, and Jane Eyre can feel the cold winter wind had brought with it clouds so sombre and see the rain so penetrating. The setting reveals from the author's description about leafless shrubbery, clouds, rain, winter wind, drawing-room, red-room, cruel cousins etc. The words *sombre, leafless, raw, drear* and *lamentable* set the mood. The weather - *a drear November day* - parallels Jane's situation.

Jane never likes living in Gateshead, for her aunt and her cousins always showing an antipathy and injustice treatments to her. Mrs. Reed often punishes her by condemning her to stay in the *red-room*. Mr. Reed, her mother's brother, died in this room. Jane thinks if he were living, he could help her. Then she thinks he might come back in spirit. Her imagination fosters the idea and she interprets a moving light on the ceiling as her

uncle's spirit. The red room experience - being trapped in a room - terrifies Jane much. The setting of the red-room reveals from the description about the white bed and overshadowed walls, dimly gleaming mirror, the locked door, and the dark room.

Setting refers not only to place but also time and everything that time implies (Roberts, 1969:42). Morning, for example, is a *time of beginning*, and perhaps of *optimism*. The quotation below which found in the story is another example :

'They went, shutting the door, and locking it behind them ... it was past four o'clock, and the beclouded afternoon was tending to drear twilight' (JE, chapter 2 : 8)

The word *twilight* above is close to evening and hence a less optimistic time. Considering to the tyrannical treatment of her aunt and her cousins, Jane feels hopeless and pessimistic for her future.

Then the place of the setting changes when Jane Eyre is sent to Lowood institution, a school for the girls from poor families. The building of the school was spread far with many windows and lights burning in some at night. Jane is a little bit afraid of living there, because she feels that the teachers and the principal of Lowood school always treat the children badly. As the principal of Lowood school, Mr. Brocklehurst should be responsible for

the money he receives from the children's relatives and from public contribution but it seems that Mr. Brocklehurst is a corruptor. He does not carry out his duty as a clergyman well because he does not care for the welfare of the children in the institution. Instead of using the money he gets for the welfare of the charity children, he uses it for fulfilling his family extravagance. However, it is wonder that Jane has a good time there for she feels that time goes so slowly and she can not stand for hard treatment. We can see it from the following paragraph :

My first quarter at Lowood seemed an age, and not the golden age either; it comprised an irksome struggle with difficulties in habituating myself to new rules and unwonted tasks. The fear of failure in these points harassed me worse than the physical hardships of my lot' (JE, chapter 7 : 30)

But, later, Jane Eyre begins to be familiar with Lowood's atmosphere there, like the lessons, the crowded school-room, the teachers, punishment, wretched food, insufficient clothes, etc. The mood shows in such words, as : saddened, raw, chill, apprehensive, wild wind, dreary silence, furious gusts, bitter cold, gloomy room.

Six years later, after finishing her school at Lowood institution, Jane Eyre is appointed as a governess in Thornfield. We will see another scenery of background of the place when Jane decides to go to Thornfield.

It is a fine autumn morning. In her first arrival at

Thornfield, Jane is so surprised for the new scene for her that Thornfield is a fine old hall, rather neglected of late years, but still it is a respectable place. It also has aspects of gloom, cheer, wealth and kindness. It is no wonder that Jane likes the place very much. There is a library where most of the books and several volumes of light literature, poetry, biography, etc put in behind glass doors; and her pupil, Adele, a lively child who is obedient and teachable. Jane has really found the different atmosphere from both Gateshead or Lowood.

Then, Jane falls in love with Mr. Rochester, the owner of Thornfield. It is a midsummer-eve. Some of the sceneries that indicating the happiness' atmosphere are : grounds more Eden-like, trees laden with ripening fruit, sweet-brier and shouthernwood, jasmine, a nightangale warbling in a wood, etc.

She realizes that marrying her employer can not be accepted by her present community. But she tends to ignore other people' advice about class distinction. She is sure that Mr. Rochester's proposal to marry her is based on love.

It is understandable that when she knows that Mr. Rochester is a married man whose wife is insane, she becomes frustated. She is so disappointed that she refuses to be Mr. Rochester's mistress. She determines to break of the relationship for the sake of her status as a gover-

ness, although her heart is broken. Jane decides to leave Thornfield. A paragraph is taken to show the sadness' atmosphere :

'May your eyes never shed such stormy, scalding, heart-wrung tears as poured from mine.... so hopeless and so agonised as in that hour left my lips; for never may you, like me, dread to be the instrument of evil to what you wholly love' (JE, chapter 26 : 131).

Having starved and soaked, Jane Eyre accepts a job as a teacher in Moor House although she knows that she should teach rough and illiterate village girls at a meager salary. She doesn't want the children at the Moor House lack of education. It is truly a hard work at first. With all her efforts, she could comprehend her scholar and the children nature. She found estimable characters amongst them - characters desirous of information and disposed for improvement - with whom she passed many a pleasant evening hour in their own homes. (JE, chapter 30 : 141)

Time elapses, but Jane can not find a way of forgetting Rochester, the man she loved. At last she decided to meet Rochester. She has to find him no matter what his marital is. And then when she finds him, he is in agony, he is crippled, blind and a widower, and has gone bankrupt, she still determines to accompany him in Ferndean Manor.

The story ends at Ferndean Manor, about thirty miles from Thornfield, 'quite a desolate spot', 'deep buried in a wood' in an 'ineligible and unsalubrious site', with 'dank and green decaying walls'.

We have already seen the real place as the background of the story, or exactly where the story takes place, but also we have to know the atmosphere of the story. Sequel further comments that :

' Setting may also reveal to reader something about the atmosphere which helps create the mood ' (1980:68).

Thus, it is also a very important thing to take a look at the atmosphere of Jane Eyre.

From the very beginning till the eleventh chapter of the story, the atmosphere is *generally bleak, gloomy and full of sadness*, for the first part of this story is about the life of an orphan which is full of loneliness, poverty, unhappiness, pain, cruelties, hardships and injustice treatments. Jane Eyre, who is excommunicated from the family circle, has not much intercourse with other people. Being an orphan, Jane never experiences happiness and she never receives warm and sincere affection from her parents or her relatives.

This is the life of a woman who has moral strength resulting from a severe background. As a child who has faced cruelties and hardships in her life, Jane Eyre

becomes a bold woman. She always tries to do the right things in facing reality. Even, when she falls in love with a married gentleman. They have to be separated because of their different social position and the fact that he already has a wife.

However, at the end of the novel, they are eventually married after he has nothing and crippled after the death of his mad wife. By their marriage, we can assume that Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester leave so unhappy and gloomy feeling. The following phrases set the atmosphere : Jane leads Rochester *'out of the wet and wild wood into some cheerful fields'* where *'the flowers and hedges looked refreshed'* by the *'sad sky, cold gale, and small penetrating rain'*. It is just as Rochester' sufferings have at last and Jane brings a new life to him. They are happily reunited.

IV.3. JANE'S DILEMMA, LOVE AND SOCIAL STATUS

IV.3.1. Jane's Social Status

Before the thesis writer analyses Jane's social status, she better presents the statements of Arthur Pollard (1968:02) that Jane Eyre is an autobiographical work since most of the things told in the novels are concentrated on Charlotte's life. She uses her own experiences in writing Jane Eyre by turning her autobiography into her heroine.

Based on those statements, the writer of the thesis considers that the story of Jane Eyre lies during the Victorian period. Thus, it is also very important to present the description of the society during Victorian period before the writer comes to the analysis of Jane's social status.

During Victorian period there was intellectual and spiritual disturbance as well as physical pain both in society and within the individuals. The Industrial Revolution made the economic condition at that time bad because it created poverty. One of the ways used by government to overcome it was by giving churches a responsibility to organize the workhouses for indigent persons and orphan institutions. The fact was that people's condition in the

workhouses and institutions got worse (Pollard, 1968:2).

Further on, Pollard stated that the industrial revolution, however, was just beginning to bring dirt and squalor, ugliness and crime, into the lives of the poor whom circumstances forced to live and work in the mills and factories of the new towns. By the time Charlotte was writing Jane Eyre there was a growing realisation of the price that was being paid for this new property. Labourers were being unfairly treated without redress, women workers were also ill-treated and underpaid, both in their homes and in the mills, white children were often over-worked in abominable conditions. Working hard is important in order to stay alive (1968 : 3)

Society in the country was still effectively feudal. A small agricultural community was still more or less governed by the landlord or lord of the manor to whom rents were paid by tenants of farms or cottages. Such a landlord was usually a magistrate authority except for the local parson.

From the description about the society during Victorian period above, it is clear that there are the contrasts between rich and poor, powerfull and powerless, and between higher and lower class of people.

According to Max Weber, such condition of Victorian

society can be defined as a *society of unequals* or a *stratified society*.

Mr. Reed, the brother of Jane's mother was one of the landowner who governed a small agricultural community at Gateshead. He had taken Jane Eyre when a parentless infant to his house; and in last moments before died he had required a promise of Mrs. Reed that would rear and maintain Jane Eyre as one of her own children.

But, Jane Eyre is a ten-year old orphan, unwanted and neglected in the hostile home of her aunt. Mrs. Reed, a tyrant, and cousins John, a bully; Eliza and Georgiana, self-centered girls; and the servants, followers of family sentiment.

In this house Jane Eyre loses her rights as a ten-year old child. Her aunt does not permit her to play with the other children and she also treats her in the same way as her servant. Mrs. Reed does not send her to school until Mr. Llyoid, the apothecary, suggests Mrs. Reed to send Jane Eyre to Lowood institution.

The position of Jane Eyre reminds the writer of the thesis of what Dennis Skilton stated about the system of education during the Victorian period :

~The system of education for girls during the Victorian period has made the girls little education, especially the poor families. That were very few school for girls. The girls from

upper class or middle class may have better education at the hands of their parents or governess. It was possible for the haves to send their daughters to good schools to get good education. meanwhile, the have-nots cannot send their daughters to school or to have governesses since it is too expensive. Therefore, girls from the lower class are sent to work instead of going to school' (1987 : 157).

It is wonder that Mrs. Reed will let Jane has education unless Mr. Lyoid suggests her. She thinks that it is no use to send Jane to school since she has the idea that Jane is not of her race - Jane's mother was disinherited for marrying a poor clergyman, her father, and both died in poverty while Jane was still a baby - and unconnected with her after her husband's death.

Jane's experience at Lowood is hard to endure, full of ills and pains of poor food and routine labour. About the institution, Pollard stated :

' One of the ways used by government was by giving churches a responsibility to organize the workhouses for indigent persons and orphan institutions. The fact was that people's condition in the workhouses and institutions got worse ' (1968 : 2).

This is seen in Lowood institution. All children at Lowood school are treated unjustly by the principal of Lowood school. Besides lacking of material welfare such wretched food, insufficient clothing, the charity children also lack of spiritual welfare at Lowood.

From the discussion above, we can see that Jane Eyre's life lies on poverty and oppression. In accordance with Weber's classification on a class system of stratification (1993 : 06) on the theoretical framework, we can conclude that Jane Eyre lives in the class system of stratification based on status which concerns with the life styles, deference, honor and prestige as the central criteria for ranking people in social order. In this case, Jane is categorized as the low class people.

Later, being impinged by her harrowing experience, Jane is not satisfied with her unhappy condition of life.

So far, we see clearly that Jane's social background has made a considerable impact upon her character. She wants to improve her static life, and also her status.

Jane's struggle to improve her unhappy condition of life reminds the writer to what Joseph Curran Jr. (1977) said of social status that someone can try to improve her status, for example from the lower to higher class of people, by doing some efforts.

~Social status or status is the ranks or level on an individual or group relative to the position of other individuals, or group in a society. An achieved status is one that is reached by choice or effort. (47)

In this case, Jane is not willing to give up to fate.

So, after finishing her study at Lowood institution, Jane Eyre obtains a position as a governess at Thornfield. At Thornfield there is another change in the type and presentation of Jane's character. As a governess, Jane now has a social as well as a personal position, and the people she meets are consequently seen in their place in society as well as in their individual selves. At Thornfield, Jane is glad to feel herself to be the same class as Mrs. Fairfax and the other people in the house. Here, we come to the conclusion that Jane Eyre has succeeded in improving her social status and social position.

her problems to God when she falls in love with her master, Mr. Rochester.

Firstly, Jane only sympathizes with Mr. Rochester, as he takes care of Adela, although she is not his own daughter ; but then, little by little, her sympathy changes into love. We see that a convincingly pleasanter phase of Jane's life begins in Thornfield. Even, however, she is isolated. Her position as a governess, superior to the servants but inferior to the household, emphasizes this. This isolation is further stressed by Jane's apparantly hopeless love. In this case, Charlotte Bronte provides an excellent statement of Jane's feelings.

' You have nothing to do with the master of Thornfield, further than to receive the salary he gives you for teaching his protegee, and to be grateful for such respectful and kind treatments as, if you do your duty, you have a right to expect at his hands; don't make him the object of your fine feelings, your raptures, agonies, and so forth. He is not of your order; keep to your caste, and be too self respecting to lavish the love of the whole heart, soul and strength.' (JE, chapter 22 : 98)

Jane realizes that marrying her master cannot be accepted by her present community. But, it is difficult for her to keep herself apart from him. However strong she mentally is, emotionally she always longs for love and affection since she has never felt such warm and sincere feelings from other. The quotation below shows the

she is unjustly treated. Take a look at what Mr. Brocklehurst has said about her in the following paragraph :

'for it becomes my duty to warn you that this girl, who might be one of God's own lambs, is a little castaway - not a member of the true flock, but evidently an interloper and an alien. You must be on guard against her ... avoid her company, exclude her from your sports, and shut her out from your converse ... scrutinise her actions, punish her body to save her soul -- if, indeed, such salvation possible ... this girl is -- a liar !' (JE, chapter 7 : 32)

From the above quotation, we see that Jane Eyre is accused by Mr. Brocklehurst as a liar. As a figure of an institution leader, his accusation will be accepted by many people who live in the institution. This accusation makes Jane feel hopeless and more isolated than ever.

'I had meant to be so good, to do so much at Lowood; to make so many friends, to earn respect, and win affection ... ; and then I was well received by my fellow pupils; treated as an equal by those of my own age ...; now, here I lay again, crushed and trodden on; and could I ever rise more ? ... Never, I thought. And ardently I wished to die '(JE, chapter 8 : 33)

Consequently, Jane feels no one will pay attention to her because she feels that people will guess her wicked. One of Jane's earliest and most deeply-felt needs is for reciprocated affection. She declares it to Helen Burns,



'If others don't love me, I would rather die than live ... to gain some real affection from you, or Miss Temple, or any other whom I truly love, I would willingly submit to have the bone of my arm broken, or to let a bull toss at me, or to stay behind a kicking horse, and let it dash its hoof at my chest' (JE, chapter 8 : 33-34).

As Jane experiences a lot of negative events in Gateshead and Lowood, surely she has a wrong opinion about life and love. She does not have a feeling of acceptance and a sense of belonging from the people around her and her need of affection is not fulfilled. So, it is not very surprising that her opinion about life and people is negative.

Life, according to Jane, is full of revenge. She has the opinion that she will strike back those who strike her. But, on the other hand, she will love others who love her.

But, fortunately, this wrong opinion about love, life and people does not last long. In Lowood, she meets a girl named Helen Burns. Helen Burns is very religious, and she is not an avenger. Jane learns many things about love and religion from Her. Helen is the person who informs Jane that God exists and Jane actually needs God's love not a human's love. Jane realizes that God loves her although man rejects her. She believes that God interferes in her life. So she prays and surrenders

Mr. Rochester then says there is no necessity for her to leave. Jane says if God had given her beauty and some wealth she would make it as hard for him to leave her as it is for her to leave him. Her spirit is equal to his. This is Jane's declaration of passion :

'Do you think I can stay to become nothing to you ? Do you think I am an automan ? - a machine without feelings ? Do you think, because I am poor, obscure, plain, and little. I am soulless and heartless ? You think wrong ! - I have as much soul as you - and full as much heart ! I should have made it as hard for you to leave me as it is now for me to leave you. I am not talking to you now through the medium of custom, conventionalities, nor even of mortal flesh; we stood at God's feet, equal, - as we are !' (JE, chapter 22 : 101-102).

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Her desire to be loved and protected is clear from this illustration, increases her self-confidence and optimism that what she wants to do is good. Consequently, she tends to ignore people's advice about class distinction although she sometimes realizes that her position as a governess makes it impossible for her to marry him.

Jane's position reminds the writer to what Margaret Lane says of books The Bronte Story that :

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But she refuses. She says that she cares for herself and will respect herself. This is very realistic inueeu, because like other women of her age and position, Jane realizes that if she continues to allow herself to yield to her emotion and passion, she will bring discredit upon herself. Again, this reveals the strength of her will power over her emotion. She thinks that she has so struggled to leave her unhappiness period of her life and now has succeeded in her social status as a governess that she does not want to loose it for the sake of being a mistress.

In spite of her agony, she speaks to Mr. Rochester :

'Sir, your wife is living : that is a fact acknowledged this morning by yourself. If I lived with you as you desire I should then be

IV.3.2. *Jane's Love*

Besides material needs, spiritual needs are also significant for man in maintaining his life. One's basic spiritual need is love - to love and to be loved.

The main character in this novel, Jane Eyre, suffers a lot during her childhood. Jane, who is excommunicated from the family circle, has not much intercourse with other people. Being an orphan, she never experiences happiness and she never receives warm and sincere affection from her parents or her relatives. As a human being, she actually needs love but she can not obtain it. Most people around her reject and oppose her.

In Gateshead, all members of Mrs. Reed's family even her servants, treat her negatively. Only Bessie, the servant, who later gives some attention to her. Her feeling is reflected in what she says :

'I was a discord in Gateshead Hall; I was like nobody there; I had nothing in harmony with Mrs. Reed or her children or her chosen vassalage. If they do not love me, in fact, as little did I love them. They were not bound to regard with affection a thing that could not sympathize with one amongst them, (JE, chapter 2 : 7)

The sense of oppression which Jane feels at Gateshead continues through her schooldays. In Lowood, instead of getting more positive attitude from the people around her,

she is unjustly treated. Take a look at what Mr. Brocklehurst has said about her in the following paragraph :

'for it becomes my duty to warn you that this girl, who might be one of God's own lambs, is a little castaway - not a member of the true flock, but evidently an interloper and an alien. You must be on guard against her ... avoid her company, exclude her from your sports, and shut her out from your converse ... scrutinise her actions, punish her body to save her soul -- if, indeed, such salvation possible ... this girl is -- a liar !' (JE, chapter 7 : 32)

From the above quotation, we see that Jane Eyre is accused by Mr. Brocklehurst as a liar. As a figure of an institution leader, his accusation will be accepted by many people who live in the institution. This accusation makes Jane feel hopeless and more isolated than ever.

'I had meant to be so good, to do so much at Lowood; to make so many friends, to earn respect, and win affection ... ; and then I was well received by my fellow pupils; treated as an equal by those of my own age ...; now, here I lay again, crushed and trodden on; and could I ever rise more ? ... Never, I thought. And ardently I wished to die '(JE, chapter 8 : 33)

Consequently, Jane feels no one will pay attention to her because she feels that people will guess her wicked. One of Jane's earliest and most deeply-felt needs is for reciprocated affection. She declares it to Helen Burns,

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As Jane experiences a lot of negative events in Gateshead and Lowood, surely she has a wrong opinion about life and love. She does not have a feeling of acceptance and a sense of belonging from the people around her and her need of affection is not fulfilled. So, it is not very surprising that her opinion about life and people is negative.

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fluctuations of Jane's feeling :

'Did I say that I had nothing to do with him but to receive my salary at his hands ? Blasphemy against nature! true, vigorous feeling I have gathers impulsively round him. I must conceal my sentiments. I must remember that he cannot care much for me. I have certain tastes and feelings in common with him... we are for ever surended - and yet, while I breathe and think, I must love him' (JE, chapter 22 : 100)

Jane is disappointed to learn that Mr. Rochester has gone to the Leas for a party where there are many beautiful women, especially Blanche Ingram, a girl of a good family whom he is expected to marry. Jane now admits to herself that she loves Mr. Rochester although she has no real hopes of affection from him. She realizes that she cannot unlove Mr. Rochester just because he does notice her. Jane's plainness poverty, and position are contrasted to ~~Blanche~~ Blanche Ingram. Jane despairs, but does not feel jealous. After Jane meets her, Jane feels that Blanche is too inferior to make one jealous, because her personality is not genuine, she has a poor mind, and she is lack of heart.

Jane cries when she thinks that Mr. Rochester will marry Blanche Ingram, and that she should leave Thornfield. Jane admits her grief over separation from Mr. Rochester, cries, and wishes she had never been born. To leave Mr. Rochester for her, is like looking on death.

Mr. Rochester then says there is no necessity for her to leave. Jane says if God had given her beauty and some wealth she would make it as hard for him to leave her as it is for her to leave him. Her spirit is equal to his. This is Jane's declaration of passion :

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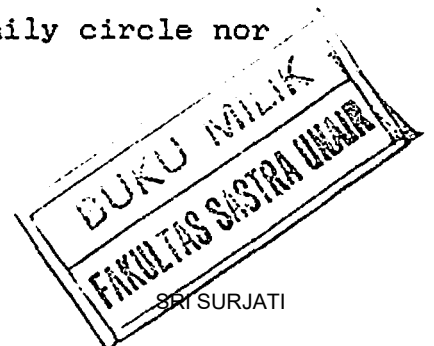
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' She belongs to neither the family circle nor



the servant one, and yet she has to oblige to maintain her position as a governess. Above all, what people at that time know is what they have to by their employers' (1953 : 122)

Let's notice this conversation between Jane and Mrs. Fairfax below :

" .. and Mrs. Rochester, I dare say, is fond of you. I have always noticed that you were a sort of pet of his. I like to suggest even the possibility of wrong. I knew such an idea would shock perhaps offend you; and you were so discreet, and so thoroughly modest and sensible, I hoped you might be trusted to protect yourself. Last night I cannot tell you what I suffered when I sought all over the house, and could find you no-where, nor the master either; and then, at twelve o'clock, saw you come in with him. "

" Well, never mind that now," I interrupted impatiently; "It is enough that all was right. "

"I feel so astonished. He means to marry you ? "

" He tells me so."

" I hope all be all will be right in the end " , she said : "But, believe me. you cannot be too careful. Try and keep Mr. Rochester at a distance : distrust yourself as well as him. Gentleman in his station are not accustomed to marry their governess." (JE, chapter 23 : 108)

From those quotations, we see that Mrs. Fairfax, the housekeeper of Thornfield is surprised when Jane informs her about their engagement. She finds the news difficult to believe and advises her to be careful in how she behaves. Jane is ready to follow this advice. She continues to behave quietly and properly. She is sure that

Mr. Rochester's proposal to marry her is based on love.

But however emotional and passionate her feelings are for Mr. Rochester's, Jane is still able to keep her self-esteem and pride. It is clearly shown when Mr. Rochester embarrasses her by plans to give her new clothes and jewels and to provide her with other luxuries. She objects. She is determined to stay as she is, independent and self-supporting. She insists declining to see Mr. Rochester except during the evenings as has been her practice.

She doesn't even dine with him, nor she kiss him when he asks her to do so because she lives up to her principles and she will not consent to his request until the marriage is due.

The quotation below draws Jane's happiness throughout month of engagement :

"That is the best of it. "Are you happy, Jane?". Again and again I answered, " Yes ". I thought over what had happened and wondered if were a dream. I could not be certain of the reality till heard him renew his words of love and promise ... I think it a glorious thing to have the hope of living with him, because I love him " (JE, chapter 23 : 105-106).

So far, we have discussed about Jane Eyre's love. In the following part of this chapter we will discuss the attitude of Jane Eyre when she finally knows that

Mr. Rochester is still a married man whose wife is insane. She is faced on the dilemma : being disgraceful to the mistress, or she has to determine to break off the love relationship for the sake of her status as a governess, although her heart is broken.

IV.3.3. Jane's Dilemma, Love and Social Status.

Jane Eyre feels so happy throughout the month of engagement till the day of the wedding. On the wedding morning, Jane Eyre notices two strangers in the church yard who follow them inside. The marriage service starts, and when the minister asks if there is any reason why these two should not be married, a voice says the marriage cannot go on.

Mr. Rochester tries to ignore the voice, but the minister cannot. The stranger, Briggs, a solicitor, says that Mr. Rochester has a wife. When asked for proof, he brings forward Mr. Mason, who says his sister is Mr. Rochester's wife. The marriage is abandoned.

Facing this fact, Jane Eyre finds herself desolate. Jane shuts herself in her room to think of her lost hopes. She cannot imagine that she will fall into the category of mistress and loose her respect.

'I felt weak; nothing had smitten, or scathed me, or maimed me; where was the Jane Eyre of yesterday? - where was her life? - where was her prospects?' (JE, chapter 25 : 120)

Jane feels so depressed and hopeless that she becomes, for a moment, introspective to her thoughts and feelings, and finds how weak and blind she has been in facing this complex problem. She is just beginning to relish the treshold of her happy life ; now she has to suffer from the bitter reality. She feels that her sufferings are almost undescrivable. We can see Jane's lamentation in the following quotation :

'The whole consciousness of my life torn, my love lost, my hope quenched, my faith death-struck, swayed full and might above me in one sullen mass... I thought of him now. I could go back and be his comforter - his pride; his redeemer from misery, perhaps from ruin... What was I ? In the midst of my pain of heart and frantic effort of principle, I abhorred myself. I had no solace from self respect. I had injured - wounded - left my master. I was hateful in my own eyes' (JE, chapter 26 : 131)

The statement now has brought us to a realisation of the complex position of Jane Eyre. She has faced on the dilemma : being his mistress or leaving him for the sake of her status. However, in spite of her strong emotion and passion for Rochester, she has to preserve her self-esteem and reputation in society. She determines to break

off the love relationship for the sake of her status as a governess, although her heart is broken. In this case we see that Jane Eyre has the tendency to put the social status as the most important factor in making decision. In other words social status plays an important role in the course of Jane Eyre's life.

She comes to the dilemma to choose between love and her own status in society; so it is necessary to observe Jane's inner conflict which offers her alternative to choose between duty to her status or desire to marry Rochester.

Since she never experiences any warm and tender affection from others, it is understandable that she desires to be loved and protected knowing that Mr. Rochester is in love with her. If Mr. Rochester were unmarried man, Jane would probably decide to marry her master without paying any attention to her status and whatever people around her may comment on her decision.

But in reality, she cannot deny the fact that she would be a mistress if she stayed with him. Jane gets confused in facing the dilemma whether to continue her relationship with the man she loves and only becomes his mistress or whether to leave him for the sake of her good reputation in community.

In this case, we can see one of Jane's chief virtues,

determination. After the interrupted marriage ceremony she is tested in the cruellest possible way. She is fully aware of her own love for Rochester. She submits to a long, passionate and persuasive argument that she should accept the compromise status of mistress because Bertha Mason Rochester is not a wife in the true sense. Finally she comes to the thought that being a mistress is disgraceful and the worst future state. Because of her moral strength, Jane finally gets a solution : she must leave Thornfield , although basically, she has to struggle with her own resolution considering that this will make Mr. Rochester distressed.

“I should be able to do nothing with him. I felt an inward power; a sense of influence, which supported me. The crisis was perilous, but not without its charm. I have a right to deliver myself from it if I can. The sufferings of this mortal state will leave me this heavy flesh that now cumpers my soul. Of the fanatic’s burning eternity I have no fear : there is not a future state worse than this present one (JE, chapter 26 : 123-124)

Her ability to hold back her emotion and passion shows that she has great moral strength. The action she takes is the result of deep consideration and reflection of the consequences; and she is absolutely confident that this is the best solution she has to make. Bruce Mc. Cullough had a comment about this,

reminiscence and finds herself in danger of being betrayed by her conscience as well as her feelings. She has only herself to consider, for she has no relatives, as she then believes, to be offended by her action. If she resists such a headlong man, he may be driven to some fatal recklessness. She clings on desperately, however, to her view of what is right and fless from the house' (1946 : 181)

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'Sir, your wife is living : that is a fact acknowledged this morning by yourself. If I lived with you as you desire I should then be your mistress ; to say otherwise is sophistical ---- I false. I care for myself. The more solitary, the more friendless, more sustained I am, the more I will respect myself. I will keep the law given by God; I will hold to the principles received by me '(JE, chapter 26 : 124-125)

With the flight of Jane Eyre from Thornfield, Charlotte Bronte does not seem to put an end to her heroine's sufferings. Jane has to struggle to gain a better life once again in new conditions and environment.

Fortunately, she gets a better position as a teacher. This makes her more optimistic than what she has done before and hopes that it does not disturb her conscience.

She is aware that this position will give her an independent life. She submits herself to an introspection which is as follows :

'... He did love me - no one will ever love me so again. But where I am wandering, let me ask myself one question : Whether is it better ? To have surrendered to temptation ; listened to passion; made no painful effort --- no struggle --- or to be a village schoolmistress, free and honest in a breezy mountain nook in the healthy heart of England ?

Yes : I feel now that I was right when I adheres to principle and law' (JE, chapter 30 : 141)

Furthermore, she prefers teaching at a safe place to being a governess in a wealthy family although she

actually has that opportunity. Her desire for independence in this case shows that Jane wants liberty.

Time elapses, but Jane cannot find a way of forgetting Mr. Rochester. Jane's love for Mr. Rochester is really true and sincere. To some extent, she admits that loving a married man is contrary to law, and is disgraceful but she cannot deny her emotions.

After long consideration, Jane Eyre at last decides to meet Mr. Rochester. She has to find him no matter what his marital status is.

And when she finds that he is in agony, he is crippled, blind, and a widower, and has gone bankrupt, she still determines to accompany him and will marry him. Jane's attitude is the robust one she showed in happiness : she discount his injuries ,

"I thought you would be revolted, Jane, when you saw my arm, and my cicatrized visage."

"Did you ? Don't tell me so - let I should say something disparaging to your judgement."
To be your wife is, for me, to be as happy as I can be on earth."

This seems to be a declaration of her true love which is never based on property and position. The quotation below supports that statement,

^ I love you better now, when I can really be useful to you, that I did in your state of proud

independence, when you disdained every part but that of the giver and protector; you shall not be left desolate, as long as I live' (JE, chapter 35 : 162)

Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester are now felt to be more equal and better suited than they were at Thornfield.