

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

IV.1. Puritanism Reflected By The Plot

To make easy, before analysing Puritanism through the plot of the novel, the writer will give the chronology of the events in the story. Relating to the problem, the analysis will be concerned with some events reflecting Puritanism. The arrangement of the events occurring in the story are :

1. Hester emerges from the blackness of the prison, with the child on her arm not hiding the letter A in scarlet cloth pinned to her breast. She moves through the gray and climbs the scaffold. From the balcony overhead The Reverend Mr. Arthur Dimmesdale adjures her to reveal the father of her child, but she refuses it.
2. Hester and the child have fallen ill in the prison, and the leech is Roger Chillingworth, her husband. Because Hester has kept the lover's identity a secret to Chillingworth, she must keep his identity as her husband.
3. Pearl is thought to be such a strange and willfull

child that there has been talked among the Puritan magistrates of taking her away from her sinful mother.

4. The old leech suspects Dimmesdale and has taken up residence in the same house, to continue all through the scene his relentless probing of Dimmesdale's heart.
5. Subtly tortured by Chillingworth and finally driven half-insane, Dimmesdale dressed in his ministerial robes and left his room at midnight, hoping to find relief in a private mimicry of public confession. Standing on the scaffold he shrieks aloud, but nobody recognizes his voice.
6. In the forest, Hester meets Dimmesdale, and she throws away the scarlet A from her dress and lets down her long banch glossy hair. She invites him to go out from Boston.
7. Three days after the meeting in the forest, Dimmesdale preaches the Election Sermon, the climax of his ministerial career. While Hester listens outside the meeting house. Then Dimmesdale appears in a great procession of Puritan worthies and instead of marching with them to the official banquet, he totters up the steps of the scaffold after calling Hester to support him. At last they

stand together in public, on the pedestal of shame.

In the beginning of the story, Hawthorne describes the crowd of Puritans that want to see the execution of adultery punishment for Hester Prynne. Hester has committed adultery for about one year before the story began. Now, she is forced to stand on the scaffold of the pillory with her infant in her arm for about three hours, and to wear the letter A -standing for adultery- on the breast of her gown. The acceptance of such punishment as whipping, branding, and execution was the Puritan response to the Scripture, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." (Exodus, XX : 14). Hawthorne describes the reaction of Puritan women standing near the scaffold. They talk about punishment for Hester:

"This woman has brought shame upon us all, and ought to die. Is there not law for it? Truly there is, both in the Scripture and the Statute Book" (p.41).

Standing on the scaffold of the pillory, Hester is forced to reveal her partner of crime. It is one aspect of Puritanism, that the sinner has to do confession, in order he or she gets a peace. Because Hester is the member of Mr. Dimmesdale's church, therefore Governor Bellingham says :

"Good Master Dimmesdale," said he, "the responsibility of this woman's soul lies greatly

with you. It behooves you, therefore, to exhort her to repentance, and to confession, as a proof and consequence thereof." (p. 51)

According to the Doctrine of Puritanism, by confession the sinner will feel peace in his or her life, and more effectual to get salvation, as Dimmesdale says to Hester in front of the public.

"If thou feelest it to be far thy soul's peace, and that thy earthly punishment will thereby be made more effectual to salvation, I charge thee to speak out the name of thy fellow - sinner and fellow - sufferer!" (p.52).

But Hester won't speak the father of her child, although the Reverend John Wilson cries more harshly than before.

In the prison, having finished to stand on the scaffold, Hester is found to be nervous, so the jailer Bracket brings a physician, Roger Chillingworth, which is known later as Hester's husband just arrived from Europe. When Chillingworth asks her partner in crime, Hester refuses it; then he requests her to promise in keeping his identity as her real husband. In the last conversation in this prison, Hester calls him like Black Man in the forest; because of the expression of his eyes. In this case, the author depicts the belief of Puritanism in New England toward witchcraft. Black Man refers to a witch or the devil man.

"Why dost thou smile so at me?" inquired Hester, troubled at the expression of his eyes. Art thou

like the Black Man that haunts the forest round about us?" (p.59).

After going out from the prison, Hester Prynne has to adopt the letter A embroidered in scarlet on the front of her dress in penance for adultery, for the rest of her life, whenever and wherever. She lives with her shame in a New England community which is deeply imbued with Puritan values. Even though the letter itself imposed (she accepts her punishment and does not leave the community), it is really Puritan ideology that fixes its meaning. In this case, she faces the conflict toward Puritans. She is kept away from Puritan society. She lives in the outskirts with her child only. She has to struggle to support herself and her child by her skill, as a seamstress. She has to sell her works in the market among intolerant people, stern, and unsympathizing look to her. On the other hand, some children of Puritans always revile to her and her child. Through this event, the author describes how the law of Puritanism for an adulterer has been familiar for children's mind. Let's see the description of the situation :

" As the two way farers came within the precincts of the town, the children of the Puritans looked up from their play, or what passed for play with those sombre little unchins,- and spoke gravely one to another : "Behold, verily, there is the woman of the scarlet letter; and of a truth, moreover, there is the likeness of the scarlet letter running along

by her side! Come, therefore, and let us fling mud at them!". (p.75).

The continuing event is the conflict between Hester and the leaders of Puritans; namely Governor Bellingham and Master John Wilson as the leader of the state and the church. They will deprive Pearl from Hester. Because of her sin, Hester is viewed as an unable woman to teach her child into Puritanism way, as said by Mr. John Wilson to her :

" What canst thou do for the child, in this kind?"
"I can teach my little Pearl what I have learned from this!" answered Hester Prynne laying her finger on the red token." (p.81).

In those situation, Dimmesdale gives argument to governor and John Wilson in order that Hester keeps up Pearl constantly. Through the concept of Sin and Fall of Man in Puritan's mind, Dimmesdale tries to help Hester by using the reason to keep her soul alive and to preserve from blacker depths of sin.

".....And may she feel, too,- what, methink, is the very truth,- that this boon was meant, above all things else, to keep the mother's soul alive, and to preserve her from else have sought to plung her! to remind her, at every moment, of her fall, but yet to teach her, as it were by the Creator's sacred pledge, that, if she bring the child too heaven, the child also will bring its parent thither!" (p.84).

In the above quotations, Hawthorne takes Puritanism elements clearly of Fall of Man, Of Sin and of Heaven concepts. Through Dimmesdale, the author also depicts the custom of Puritans in falling into blacker depth of sin; it means by using Satan or a witch's help.

The following event, the author presents the inner conflict of the Minister Dimmesdale. Although, no one knows that he was actually the crime partner of Hester Prynne, but as a Puritan who is faithful, he can not avoid the guilty feeling in his heart. Gradually the guilty feeling influences his soul and health heavily. He often takes a walk and smiles or almost laughs to every people; his adherents even wonder if he is going mad. After visiting the death of Governor John Winthrop, Reverend Dimmesdale stands on the scaffold where Hester Prynne ever had stood. Through Dimmesdale's inner conflict, Hawthorne wants to describe how a Puritan feels deeply his sin, and how the doctrine of Sin influences the Puritans so deeply.

When Arthur Dimmesdale gets information from Hester Prynne about the identity of Chillingworth and his revenge to him by giving some tortures to his heart; again and again the author presents the sin of man and the existence of God through Dimmesdale's speaking :

"I freely forgive you now. May God forgive us both.

We are not, Hester, the worst sinners in the world." (p. 140)

In *New England Holiday*, Mr. Arthur Dimmesdale will deliver an Election Sermon. The Election Sermon, for New England Puritan formerly, was preached on the inauguration day of the newly elected Governor, a customarily observance coinciding also with the opening session of the legislature. By presenting the Election Sermon in the novel, Hawthorne depicts the big role of religion to the state. The Election Sermon reflects the form of Puritan Government, a theocracy. In the Election Day, all of people free to do something or holiday; all of the people gather in the meeting-house (pulpit) to watch the procession of the Election Sermon. In this procession, Mr. Dimmesdale does not show the depression or physical weakness which has characterized him for many years later.

By elaborating on the scene and indicating the historical importance of Election Day, Hawthorne also lends significance and drama to the act by Dimmesdale which will soon mark the climax of the book. The minister Mr. Dimmesdale turns out to be the father of Hester's Pearl, and at the end of the novel he confesses sin publicly and dies. After giving his sermon to all people, he turns towards the scaffold and calls Hester and Pearl to support him up yonder scaffold because of

his body more weakly. On the scaffold, three of them hand in hand, while the people give fulsympathy, as knowing that some deep life-matter. In a bad condition of his health, Dimmesdale confesses his sin in front of the Puritans .

"People of New England! "Ye, that have loved me! - Ye, that have deemed me holy! -behold me here, the one sinner of the world! At lat - at last!- I stand upon the spot where, seven years since, I should have stood; here, with this woman, whose arm, more than the little strength wherewith I have crept hither ward...." (p. 180)

Dimmesdale feels getting a peace and salvation after revealing his sin to all people. Confession is one thing for Puritan to seek peace and salvation. He is dying and Hester head against her bosom. In this climax, again and again, the author presents the religious sense in Dimmesdale's speaking to Hester.

"The sin here so awfully revealed! - Let these alone be in thy thought! I fear! I fear! It may be that, when we forgot our God, -....It was thenceforth vain to hope that we could meet hereafter, in an everlasting and pure reunion. God knows; and He is merciful! He hath proved his mercy, most of all, in my afflictions. By giving me this burning torture to bear upon my bearst! By sending yonder dark and terrible old man, to keep the torture always at red heat! By bringing me hither, to die this death of triumphant ignominy before the people!...Praised be his name! His will be done!" (p. 181).

Dimmesdale's speakings show how God very determines all

of things occur on the world. It is the reflection of the Predestination doctrine in Puritanism.

Those final scaffold scene brings the novel to its dramatic climax and its solution. Dimmesdale's decisive act comes at the moment of his greatest personal triumph. The nature of that act - a recognition of Hester and Pearl which is at the same time an escape from Chillingworth- comes as no surprise. It is what the minister has been struggling to do throughout the novel. And the author shows us clearly that it is something which he must do alone. Dimmesdale symbolically rejects the help of Reverend Wilson (a representative of the church) and of Governor Bellingham (a representative of the state). Hawthorne has clearly made the minister as the key actor in the climax of his novel. Mr. Dimmesdale turns out to be the father of Hester's daughter, and at the end of the novel he confesses his sin publically and dies.

There is a solution, but little joy, in the climax of Hawthorne's glooming novel. Although Dimmesdale has won a long delayed victory over himself, he shows little elation or optimism. He has made peace with God, unlike Hester, who could have happiness even in her physical escape from Boston. Dimmesdale is too much the Puritan to be optimistic about the future, hereafter.

IV.2. Puritanism Reflected By The Characters

Through the characters of the story, the author illustrates the Puritanism and its displacement in the Puritan society. From the fourth major characters in The Scarlet Letter, the author does not describe all of the characters reflect Puritanism. Through the characterization of Arthur Dimmesdale and Hester Prynne, the author depicts the fidelity and disobedience (violation of the Puritanical codes).

For Chillingworth, the author does not illustrate his characterization reflect Puritanism ideas. In The Scarlet Letter, Chillingworth is illustrated as a revengeful one, and doing something evil to Dimmesdale by torturing his heart. Even the author more illustrates Chillingworth as a devil man, and never feel remorse in his heart. And Roger Chillingworth is as typical of the unpardonable sin. He tries to play God, and instead he makes of himself a devil. He is not representative of Puritanism world. Hawthorne describes his change into a devil.

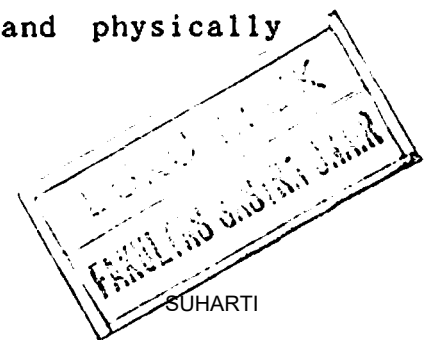
"A large number.... affirmed that Roger Chillingworth's aspect had undergone a remarkable change while he had dwelt in town, especially since his abode with Mr. Dimmesdale. At first his expression had been calm, meditative, scholar-like. Now there was something ugly and evil in his face, which they had not previously noticed, and which grew still the more obvious to sight the oftener they looked upon him." (p.93)

And in chapter X of the novel, Hawthorne develops this idea more fully, as it shows the manner in which Chillingworth works on Dimmesdale pretending to be his friend and physician. And in chapter XIV of the novel, his transformation into a devil appears to have been completed. His manner does not reflect Puritanism at all, because The Puritanism Doctrine bend men not merely to the law of the state but also to the law of God. Chillingworth uses Satan's help to fulfill his will, his revenge to Dimmesdale. Even from the beginning to the end of the book, the author does not depict him into Puritanism sense. Then, there is no a reason to analyze Puritanism through Chillingworth's characterization.

For Pearl, she also does not reflect as a Puritan child. Pearl, in the story, is the type of her mother sin and she is taught by her mother self. She is not led into Puritanism way as the other children. Whereas she lives alone with her mother and both of them are isolated by Puritan society. So there is a little sosialization of Puritanism ideas in her. Therefore she only gets education from her mother. It is clear that she does not reflect Puritanism at all.

IV.2.1. Arthur Dimmesdale

Arthur Dimmesdale is young, pale, and physically



delicate, with large melancholy eyes and a tremulous mouth suggesting great sensitivity. As an ordained Minister, certainly he is well educated, and he has a philosophical turn of mind. Yet he is modest, and the eloquence of his sermons is of a quiet kind. There is no doubt that he is a devoted servant of God, passionate in his religion and effective in the pulpit.

".....a young clergyman, who had come from one of the great English universities, bringing all the learning of the age into our wild forest-land. His eloquence and religious fervor had already given the earnest of high eminence in his profession. He was a person of very striking aspect, with a white, lofty, and impending brow, large, brown, melancholy eyes, and a mouth which, unless when he forcibly compressed it, was apt to be tremulous, expressing both nervous sensibility and a vast power of self-restraint." (p.51)

Dimmesdale's original sin is the same with Hester's, and he, actually, has possessed a will to acknowledge it. Let's see his speaking on the balcony when he asked Hester to reveal her partner in crime ;

"Be not silent from any mistaken pity and tenderness for him; for, believe me, Hester, though he were to step down from a high place, and stand there beside thee, on thy pedestal of shame, yet better were it so, than to hide a guilty heart through life." (p. 52)

But because of his position as a priest or as a saint, he gets difficulty to confess his sin in front of public.

It is very different with other people that may confess his sin to his pastor, not to public. His sin is concealed in his heart. Thus concealed, the sin rankles in his heart, causing him increasing torment of conscience. It is ironically, he as a minister who weekly calls upon his congregation to confess and openly repent of their sins, while he himself is incapable of doing so.

In every moment, he often hold his hand over his heart. This act reflects his consciousness of his sin. The guilty feeling influences him physically and spiritually. Hawthorne depicts the condition of Dimmesdale :

".....he was often observed, on any slight alarm or other sudden accident, to put his hand over his heart, with first a flush and then a paleness, indicative of pain." (p.88)

Ironically, as the minister's suffering becomes more painful and his body weaker, his popularity among the congregation grows stronger. His own suffering enables him to sympathize with the sin and suffering of others and lends a quiet eloquence to his sermons. The church member, not knowing of his sin, adore him as a "miracle of holiness". Such mistaken adoration further tortures Dimmesdale, and brings him often to the point of public confession. But such attempts always stop short of a specific admission of his sin; his vague assertions of

his own sinful nature are taken by his parishioners as further evidence of his holiness. However, as a Puritan who is faith, his conscience can not avoid the guilty feeling in his heart.

"He longed to speak out, from his own pulpit, at the full height of his voice, and tell the people what he was. "I, whom you behold in these black garments of the priesthood,-.....I, who have laid the hand of baptism upon your children,- I, who have breathed the parting prayer over your dying friends, to whom the Amen sounded faintly from a world which they had quitted,- I, your pastor, whom you so reverence and trust, am utterly a pollution and a lie!" (p. 104)

Because of his sin, Dimmesdale is incapable to seek his peace and salvation in his heart. Therefore he substitutes self - punishment, by often beating himself with a bloody scourge, by keeping frequent all night vigils during his mind in plagued by frightening visions. A bloody scourge is such extreme penitential practices occurred very seldom among the most ascetic Puritans. Hawthorne depicts Dimmesdale's faith of Puritanism so deeply. He feels so suffering in his life, no peace and no salvation in him.

"He kept vigils, likewise, night after night, sometimes in utter darkness; sometimes with a glimmering lamp; and sometimes, viewing his own face in a looking-glass,.....He thus typified the constant introspection where with he tortured, but could not purify, himself." (p. 105)

Dimmesdale's actions on the scaffold, where seven years ago Hester had stood, reflect his conscious mind

attempting to reason through the inner problem seriously of his concealed sin.

".....While standing on the scaffold, in this vain show of expiation, Mr. Dimmesdale was overcome with a great horror of mind, as if the universe were gazing at scarlet token on his naked breast, right over his heart." (p. 108)

During seven long years, Dimmesdale is tortured by his own conscience and by Chillingworth. Even he is worried with his faith to God, as he tells to Hester :

"Were I an atheist,- a man devoid of conscience,- a wretch with coarse and brutal instincts,- I might have found peace, long ere now.....But, as matters stand with my soul, whatever of good capacity there originally was in me, all of God's gift that were the choicest have become the ministers of spiritual torment." (p.137)

In chapter X of the novel, the author notes why Dimmesdale conceals his sin for seven years. Dimmesdale himself offers two possible explanation of someone conceals his sin. He speaks in general terms of any hypothetical persons guilty of concealed sin, but obviously thinking of his own case, he says :

"It may be that they kept silent by the very constitution of their nature. Or,- can we not suppose it?- Guilty as they may be, retaining, nevertheless, a zeal God's glory and man's welfare, they shrink from displaying themselves black and filthy in the view of men; because, thenceforward, no good can be achieved by them; no evil of the

past be redeemed by better service..."(p. 96-97)

The second suggestion, that he remains silent so that he can continue to do God's work as a minister. Certainly he is a devoted and affective servant of God, increasingly inspiring to his congregation during the seven years.

One of the main reason he can not properly respond to the crisis he faces is that he has never gone through an experience calculated to lead him beyond the scope of generally recieved laws. If he had revealed his sin at the beginning of the book, the church would have lost a good minister. But clearly Dimmesdale is rationalizing, or trying to excuse his behavior, when he suggests that his effective career may be justification for concealing a sin. He can not even concive himself that it is the real reason. He struggles desperately to confess, punishing himself physically, and frequently coming right to the brink of confession in his sermons. And his sense of guilt increases by seeing Hester suffer alone for the sin which he committed with her. The minister, who has repressed all visible symptone of his part in the sin, is more deeply mastered by the Puritan discourse.

His good works, during his life, could not help Dimmesdale to get comfort in his life. In this case, the

author takes Puritanism doctrine that good works won't save someone, only God's grace will do that. It is reflected by Dimmesdale's answer to Hester's question in the forest:

"Your sin is left behind you, in the days long past....Is there no reality in the penitence thus sealed and witnessed by good works? And wherefore should it not bring you peace?"

"No, Hester, no! replied the Clergyman. "There is no substance in it! It is cold and dead, and can do nothing for me! Of penance I have had enough!" (p. 138)

In those quotations, Hawthorne states clearly that a Puritan can do nothing in getting a peace if he feels guilt . It depends on God's grace only.

When Hester advices to escape abroad together, it's difficult for Dimmesdale. For Hester, a woman of independent mind and strong passions, who has never been a puritan and who for seven years has not even been a member of society; the decision to leave Boston is not a difficult one. But for Dimmesdale, a minister whose entire life (except for his one sinful act of uncontrolled passion) has been governed by the Puritan code, it is a difficult matter. Arthur Dimmesdale, unlike Hester Prynne, did sin blindly through passion, committing an act which he felt to be wrong. And because he sinned against his own morality, he felt himself

unable to grasp the freedom which Hester argued. If, on the contrary, he had conscientiously been able to flee with her to a new life on the Western frontier, there would have been no tragedy, But :

"It can not be!" answered the minister, listening as if he were called upon to realize a dream. "I am powerless to go wretched and sinful as I am. I have had no other thought than to drag on my earthly existence where Providence hath placed me." (p.142).

Dimmesdale realizes that God's presdination has determined him. He won't be able to escape from the place has been determined for him by the God. And he also realizes that one day he will confess in front of public, as his answer to Pearl :

"But wilt thou promise," asked Pearl, "to take my hand and mother's hand, tomorrow noontide?"
 "Not then, Pearl," said the minister, "but another time." " And what other time? " persisted the child. "At the Great Judgment Day," whispered the minister. (p. 111).

The author depicts the characterization of Dimmesdale reflecting the Puritanism sense more than enough. Love, in Dimmesdale's mind, is transvalued into religious exaltation. "Do I feel joy again?" Dimmesdale cries out ecstatically.

"Methought the germ of it was dead in me! O Hester, thou art my better angel! I seem to have flung myself. Sick, Sin, stained, and sorrow

-blackened-down upon these forest leaves, and to have risen up all made a new, and new powers to glorify Him that hath been merciful! This is already the better life! Why did we not find it sooner?" (p.144-145)

In many ways The Scarlet Letter is Dimmesdale's story. He is as central struggle of the book. Whereas the other characters occupy relatively fixed positions, the minister must in one dramatic decision reverse his actions of seven years. All of these are caused by his faith to Puritanism in his mind and in his heart. Dimmesdale has, as Hawthorne notes, been trammeled by Puritan society, by its regulations, its principles, and even its prejudices.

"At the head of the social system, as the clergyman of that daystood, he was only the more trammeled by its regulations, its principles, and even its prjudies. As a priest, the framework of his order inevitably hemmed him in." (p.143).

Dimmesdale as the priest and a holy man has a big duty from the God to keep the God's law or Puritanism values in the society. And when he violates God's law, it's heavy for him to confess his sin to all of his congregations. His status makes him so difficult and more seriously problem in his heart, although he committed a sin once only. It is ambivalence for Dimmesdale, one side he can not avoid the gulty feeling in his heart,- as

reflection of his faith to the God-; on the other hand because of his status or his position in the Puritan society, he gets difficulty to confess his sin. He has become a popular idol or guide for Puritan society; his mortal has idolized him as a saint. Even when Dimmesdale says that he really ever did a sin in his life in front of his congregation, they exactly say :

"The Godly youth!" said they among themselves. "The saint on earth! Alas, if he discern such sinfulness in his own white soul, what horried spectacle would he behold in thine or mine!" (p.105).

The Puritanism doctrine recommends him that the sinner must confess his sin. But because of his duty in keeping the Puritanism doctrine, he has no capability to do confession. This situation is very complicated for him and makes him as a hypocrite. In this case, the author depicts that the community's insight in Dimmesdale as The Saint make him difficult to do confession to public. They too praise him anymore. Even when he delivers sermon in The Election Day, the society admire fully to him.

"The street and the market - place absolutely babbled, from side to side, with applauses of the minister. His hearers could not rest until they had told one another of what each knew better than he could tell or hear.....never had man spoken in so wise, so high, and so holy a spirit, as he that spake his day;" (p.175)

"Never, from the soil of New England, had gone up such a shout! Never, on New England soil, had stood

the man honored by his mortal brethren as the preacher!" (p. 177)

On the Election Day, that he calls as the great judgment day, Dimmesdale is struggling as much as possible to reveal his sin. In a bad condition of his health, he is still efforting to up on the scaffold supported by Hester. It proves his faith to Puritanism Doctrine. In facing his problem, he never complains his God; even he praises Him which he is able to do confession on the scaffold with Hester and pearl.

"In the name of Him, so terrible and so merciful, who gives me grace, at this last moment, to do what - for my own heavy sin and miserable agony- I withheld myself from doing seven years ago, " (p. 178-179).

After seven years of struggle, he accomplishes that victory in what could have been the moment of his greatest triumph as a minister, immediately after his Election Day Sermon. And his victory as well as his peace mark the climax of the book.

IV.2.2. Hester Prynne

Although, Hester Prynne is not Puritan enough than Arthur Dimmesdale, but it is important to analyze her character because there is relationship between Hester and Dimmesdale, namely both of them have committed the same sin. In this case, we can see two different

characterizations in facing in the same guilt. The basic differences are that Dimmesdale's guilt is secret or concealment, while Hester's is opened; and the level of their faith to the God.

Hawthorne introduces Hester as young, tall, and beautiful, with an elegant figure, abundant glossy dark hair, a rich complexion and deep-set black eyes.

"The young woman was tall, with a figure of perfect elegance on a large scale. She had dark and abundant hair, so glossy that it threw off the sunshine with a gleam, and a face which, besides being beautiful from regularity of feature and richness of complexion, had the impressiveness belonging to a marked brow and deep black eyes."
(P.42)

The author states Hester in the first chapter has committed adultery about a year before the story begin. There are two to note about Hester's sin: first, that her sin was a sin of the passions rather than of the intellect. It distinguishes her from Roger Chillingworth whom made sin by his intellectuality. And the second that her sin was openly acknowledged than concealed in her heart. It also distinguishes her from Arthur Dimmesdale. Her adultery can be known by everyone because there is her baby revealing her sin to public.

Although she is clearly not a Puritan enough and it is doubtful that her respect for the Puritan code ever

truly overcome her independent passions, Hester did fully acknowledge her guilt and boldly display it to the world. The elaborateness with which she embroiders her symbol of shame and guilt, her dressing Pearl in scarlet as a second such symbol, her wearing the A long after she could have removed it. All of them show that she is trying to hide nothing, and she does not refuse the puritan punishment to her. Her salvation thus lies in truth. When apologizing for having concealed Chillingworth's identity, she tells Dimmesdale :

"In all thing else, I have striven to be true! Truth was the one virtue which I might have held fast, and did hold fast, through all extremity A lie is never good, even though death threaten on the other side!" (p.139)

Hester Prynne as representative one of a new world that struggles by herself in facing the harsh puritan World. She faces bravely the humiliation of the scaffold, and also defends courageously her child Pearl in her keeping constantly toward Governor Bellingham's and Minister John Wilson's decision. Her character is very different with other Puritan woman. The colour of her dresses are bright; these traditions are very different with other women in Puritan community. Hester Prynne has no remorse for her sin committed. Hester Prynne never planned a sin nor did she willfully do injury to others. That she

deeply loves Dimmesdale is obvious throughout the book. Her guilt is that her passions and her love are stronger than her respect for the moral code of Puritanism, as she says to Dimmesdale :

"What we did had a consecration of its own. We felt it so! We said so to each other !" (p.140).

When Hester feels happy with her decision to escape to abroad with Dimmesdale and Pearl, she removes and throws away her scarlet, which land on her near bank of the brook. Then, removing her cape, she lets her rich dark fall about her shoulders. These facts show her against to the Puritanical law.

However, Hester learns from her sin, and grows strong as a result of accepting her punishment. She would accept all things patiently and optimisly. Although the world has condemned her but she does not cease to love, no matter how cowardly her lover, Arthur Dimmesdale behaves. From beginning to the last story, Hester Prynne shows love only. In this case, she is more as a representative of Romanticism world than Puritanism one. On the other hand, the scarlet letter has a possitive meaning for Hester in enduring her rest of life. Hawthorne tells :

"The scarlet letter was her pasport into regions where other women dared not tread. Shame. Despair,

Solitude!. These had been her teachers -stern and wild ones- and they had made her strong, but taught her much amiss." (p. 143)

The richly embroidered A has been called by one of her modern admirers "the red badge of courage". She is ended courageous and strong. She does not care for her society's opinion about her, about her sin. The sign letter A gives different effect between Hester and Dimmesdale. Her conflict is external, while Dimmesdale's is internal one. She is integrated within herself, and she sets solidly united self resolutely against the intolerant community. The fight like this can be inspiring, it is fortifying; it builds one up. Actually the existence of the scarlet letter and her child give the advantage for Hester in making strong in her. The sign letter A for Hester has changed the meaning from "Adultery" into "Able" as stated by the author :

"The letter was the symbol of her calling. Such helpfulness was found in her, -so much power to do, and power to sympathize,- that many people refused to interpret the scarlet A by its original signification. They said that it meant Able; so strong was Hester Prynne, with a woman's strength." (p.117)

Through those statement, Hawthorne depicts the existence of the displacement among of Puritan community toward Puritanism.

From the first it is plain that Hester does not consider her act of adultery as a sin against God or any law of her own nature. Nor does she feel that she has sinned against the community. If she considers that her deed has been wrong and that, somehow, the result for Hester can not be good, like Hawthorne says :

"God as direct consequence of the sin which man thus punished, had given her lovely child...Yet these thought affected Hester Prynne less with hope than apprehension ...; She could have no faith, therefore, that its result would be good."(p. 66)

Although Hester never feels in making adultery sin and has no faith, but in the end of the story, the author describes Hester's impression about New England.

"But there was a more real life for Hester Prynne, here, in New England, than in that unknown region where Pearl had found a home. Here had been her sin; here her sorrow, and here was yet to be her penitence". (p.185)

In this case we can see how the punishment and the letter A have given a good learning to Hester in her rest of life. She remembers where she has got punishment, her sorrow, her confession and all of things about her life in New England. Beside through the characterization of Hester, Hawthorne describes the new perception of Puritan toward the existence of adultery punishment in Puritanism concept.

IV.3. Puritanism Reflected By The Setting

The place of The Scarlet Letter action, as Hawthorne tells us in the opening chapter, is Boston, the seat of government for the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The place of Boston is on a hill, that might become somehow the city of God itself. In the first chapter, Hawthorne describes Puritans standing before the jail, when they watch the execution of Hester's punishment. In the general comment to objective description, Hawthorne tells us that :

"The founders of a new colony, whatever utopia of human virtue and happiness they might originally project, have invariably recognized it among their earliest practical necessities to allot a portion of the firgin soil as a cemetry, and another as the site of a prison." (p. 38)

Hawthorne presents Isaac Johnson's lot in the novel which gives more deeply impression of Puritanism life. Johnson died in the year of the arrival with the first settlers of Boston (1630), his land provided the site for prison, graveyard, and church. They epitomize the Puritan drama of sin, death and salvation.

The author gives hints about the time of the story. The opening of chapter II of the story, indicates that the story begins "not less than centuries ago". Figuring from the date of Hawthorne's writing, that would make it at least as early as 1650. But the reference in chapter

XII of the novel to Governor Winthrop's death provides a more exact clue. Winthrop died in 1649; while Pearl is seven years old at the time of his death. Therefore the story must open in 1642 and end in 1649.

Relating to the above period, Boston was commended by Puritan government which performing Puritanism ideas, and the form of government was a theocracy. Hawthorne illustrates the situation of Boston clearly in his novel about the unity of prison, the scaffold of pillory, the market-place, and church.

"With almost a serene deportment therefore, Hester Prynne passed through this portion of her ordeal, and came a sort of scaffold, at the western extremity of the market-place. It stood nearly beneath the eaves of Boston's earliest church, and appeared to be a fixture there." (p. 44)

For Puritan society, the existence of scaffold is very useful and effective for arranging their life; as Hawthorne states :

"In fact, this scaffold constituted a portion of a penal machine, which now, for two or three generations past, has been merely historical and traditional among us, but was held, in the old time, to be effectual as agent in the promotion of good citizenship.....it was, in short, the platform of the pillory, and above it rose the framework of that instrument of discipline". (p. 44)

To uphold Puritanical law, the place of scaffold near with the market-place and the church is very

effective to build good citizenship. If there is execution of punishment for an offender, then everyone is at the market, so they will be able to watch it.

Hawthorne illustrates the setting of the Puritan society reflecting their way of life, and revealing Hawthorne's critical toward it. The cold, smug, holier-than-thou glee with which the goodwives condemn Hester and suggest more violent torture dramatizes what Hawthorne found objectionable in early American Puritanism. In a theocracy government, like Boston, both of the state and the church cooperate to serve God's will. In such government the political leaders are supposed to protect the church from harm. And the description of the prison, the scaffold of pillory, the church and the mansion of Governor Bellingham symbolize the unity of the state and the church in serving God's law. For Puritans, religion and law become almost identical and as their way of life as Hawthorne states :

".....as befitted a people amongs whom religion and law were identical, and in whose character both were so thoroughly interfused, that the mildest and the severest acts of public discipline were alike made venerable and awful." (p. 40)

It is more deeply, the faith of Boston people to their religion and law is described through their conversation occuring before the prison.

"Goodwives," said a hard - featured dame of fifty, " I'll tell ye a peace of my mind. It would be greatly for the public behoof, if we women, being of mature age and church-members in good repute, should have the handling of such malefactresses as this Hester Prynne." (P. 40-41)

This first scene shows us that Hester is led through the cold and unsympathetic crowd to the scaffold of the pillory. The function of the scaffold is to punish someone committing something shameful in the Puritanism context. Hawthorne explains the execution of a penalty in Puritan's life :

"On the other hand, a penalty which in our days, would infer a degree of mocking infamy and ridicule, might then be invested with almost as stern a dignity as the punishment of death itself." (p. 40)

Meanwhile, scaffold in Hawthorne's novel symbolizes the public place to confess for the sinner. In the first scene of the scaffold describes Puritan's treatment for a woman adulterer to stand on the scaffold, wearing an embroidered scarlet letter A on her breast, and carrying a three- months old infant in her arms. Hawthorne explains the reason why Hester's punishment is not death, because generally for adulterer in Puritanism law must be given death punishment.

"The penalty thereof is death. But, in their great mercy and tenderness of heart, they have doomed

Mistress Prynne to stand only a space of three hours on the platform of the pillory, and then and thereafter, for the remainder of her natural life, to wear a mark of shame upon her bosom." (p. 49)

The second of the scaffold describes Dimmesdale's action on the same scaffold with which Hester ever stood. On the scaffold on one night, Dimmesdale actually wants to confess his adultery sin to the public. And the third scene of the scaffold, as the climax of the book, shows us the tragic of Dimmesdale. After delivering his sermon on the Election Day, he ups on the scaffold to do confession to all people about his adultery sin.

The mounting tension in the mind and heart of the Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale cries for release, for revealing of his secret sin. The Election Day and The Election Sermon are used by the author to depict the time of Dimmesdale's confession of adultery sin. Because those events for Puritans were holiday, and they gathered at the market-place to watch these procession. Both of events were well-known and traditionally established in the early colony in the months of May or June. In this case, again the author describes the cooperation of the state and the church for the continuing of the government. Both of the leaders of the state and the church attend the Election Procession, as Hester tells to Pearl :

"They wait to see the procession pass." said

Hester. "For the Governor and the magistrates are to go by, and the ministers, and all the great people and good people, with the music and the soldiers marching before them."(p. 162-163)

On Election Day, the author shows us that only a good men, the saints and a great people attending the Election procession. Puritans feared that unless the saints held political power, the wrong person would get elected to office and divert the government from their mission. Election is one of the Puritanism doctrine to elect the good people to do the duty in the government, and in this procession there is a minister delivering his election sermons.

Hawthorne, besides, presents the scaffold, he also presents the forest scene in his novel. If the scaffold symbolizes the place of revealing the sin for the sinner or as the instrument of Puritanical law; while the forest symbolizes the place of moral error or natural law. In the forest, Hester can throw away her scarlet letter and let her hair. She frees from Puritanical law and doing what she wants. Forest for Puritans was the place of the Black Man, a witch.

"A story about the Black ManHow he haunts this forest, and carries a book with him, a big, heavy book, with iron clasps; and how this ugly Black Man offers his book and iron pen to every body that meets him here among the trees; they are to write their names with own blood." (p.133)

Black Man was very familiar to the Puritan settlers of New England.

In short, the setting of Puritan society in the seventeenth century in Boston, the scaffold, the church, the forest, the procession of The Election Day and The Election Sermon are the reflections of the Puritanism sense in the novel.

IV.4. Puritanism Reflected By The Theme

Intentionally the analysis of every element of the novel is to imply the theme of the work. All novels let us experience their theme through all elements that build up those novels although they implied. It is very important to use other elements - the plot, the character, and the setting- as supporting in analysing the theme of the novel, because they are suggested implying a theme of concerns about Puritanism. Wholly, in the thesis, the analysis is done through some steps that merely is related to the theme.

There are, actually, many ways to identify the theme of a novel. Beside from the elements of a work, it may be able to be touched from the parts of a work, the problems or the conflicts of a work, the attitude is taken to the problems, the title of a work and also the ideas in the beginning and in the ending of a work. The interpretation

of the plot, the character and characterization, and the setting of the novel, actually, have been analyzed in the preceding analysis. What has been suggested as the theme actually can be touched.

To get description more clearly, it must be better to use those elements in the preceding analysis for supporting the theme analysis. In this novel, the author takes guilt and its effect as the core issues on his novel. If we pay attention, from the first chapter of the story the readers have seen the impression of guilt from the description of the prison in Plymouth Bay Colony. Then, the author describes a adulterer woman standing on the scaffol, whom is being forced to reveal her partner in crime by the leaders of the state and the church. In this case, the author shows one of Puritanism doctrine that the sinner has to confess his or her sin. Because the sin of adultery has been regulated by the state and the church of Puritan, concequently the sinner must be punished.

As stated in Historical Background of Puritanism in chapter II, that the guilt of adultery were to sit an hour on the gollows, with ropes about their neck, be severely whipt not above 40 stripes; and forever after wear a capital A on her breast of her garment. Because of her guilt, Hester gets punishment from the state's and the church's leader and also from the society. Hester never

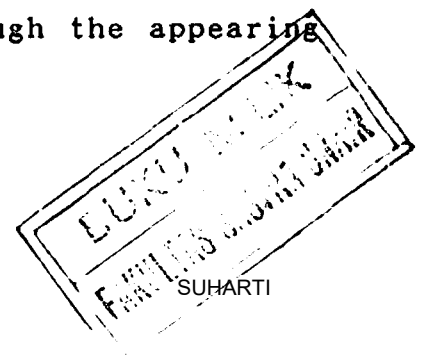
feels doing a sin to God and to Puritan society. But as a member of Puritan, she can not refuse the punishment of the state and the church. She has to stand up on the scaffold to reveal her crime partner, with her baby in her arm, wearing the scarlet A on her dress. Then, based on the Puritanical law for adulterer, having finished in the prison Hester has to wear the letter A, standing for adultery, in her rest of life; and she must be isolated from the social intercourse by Puritan community. The procession of her punishment and the revealing of her crime partner's name, reflect the Puritanism, namely Confession doctrine. The early punishment for Hester gives a good learning as well as a peace in her life. She does not feel suffering because of her adultery sin. If we pay attention, the source of Hester's problem is caused by her act that is incompatible with the Puritanism idea, namely the prohibition of adultery. Then, she must receive the Puritan's punishment, -based on the Puritanical law. In this case, the author presents the core issue and the way of life of Puritanism.

From the inner problems of Dimmesdale, Hawthorne also depicts a Puritan having a sin. Dimmesdale gets difficulty to confess his guilt to the public, because his position as the priest, the saint. However, the guilty feeling always appears in his mind and heart. His adultery sin effects his

soul heavily although nobody knows it, except Hester herself. His mind and heart has been socialized by puritanism discourse. That's way, he has a big guilty feeling, but on the other hand he has been idolized by his congregations, as The Saint. Because of those situations, Dimmesdale finds himself as a Hypocrite. As the Priest that should keep the God's law by doing confession, he exactly violate it. In this case the author describes the displacement of his faith to the Puritanism doctrine. Because of his adultery sin, he can not find salvation in his life, though he always does good works in his life. It is stated in his conversation with Hester in the forest :

"Your present life is not less holy, in very truth, than seems in people's eyes. Is there no reality in the penitence thus sealed and witnessed by good works? And therefore should it not bring you peace?" "No, Hester, no!" replied the clergyman. "There is substance in it ! It is could and dead, and can do nothing for me!" (p. 138)

Analysing about Hester's and Dimmesdale's sin, it has difference effects to both of them. Hester's sin is known by everyone, but Dimmesdale's is concealed in his heart. Actually, he has already endeavored to confess his sin implicitly in front of his congregation, but his confession makes his congregation idolize him more as The Saint. Hawthorne describes completely guilty feeling and no salvation in Dimmesdale's character. Through the appearing



of the scaffold three times in the story,- the place of punishment execution for the sinners- , the author depicts Dimmesdale exactly wants to confess his sin. The first time, when Hester was forced to reveal her crime partner, he actually wanted to reveal it. It is reflected from his speaking to Hester from the balcony :

"If, thou feelest it to be for thy soul's peace, and that thy earthly punishment will thereby be made more effectual to salvation, I charge thee to speak out the name of thy fellow-sinner and fellow-sufferer! Be not silent from any mistaken pity and tenderness for him; for, believe me, Hester though he were to step down from a high place, and stand there beside thee, on thy pedestal of shame, yet better were it so, than to hide a guilty heart through life." (p. 52)

The second time, he stands on the scaffold by himself while screaming about his sin on one night. He wants to overcome his sorrow of sin on this place.

"While standing on the scaffold, in this vain show of expiation, Mr. Dimmesdale was overcome with a great horror of mind, as if the universe were gazing at a scarlet token on his naked breast, right over his heart." (p.108)

He shrieks aloud that all people will be able to know him ever doing adultery sin as he says, "It is done! The whole town will awake, and hurry forth, and find me here!" (p. 108). And the third scene of the scaffold, in chapter XXIII of the novel, is the climax of the story. Having finished in delivering Election Sermon in the meeting house,

Dimmesdale steps forward and climbs into the scaffold. He calls Hester and Pearl to help and join with him. Then, Dimmesdale reveals his sin before the Puritan crowd; he calls it as The Great Judgment Day. After revealing his sin, he feels a peace.

"In the name of Him, so terrible and so merciful, who gives me grace, at this last moment, to do what -for my own heavy sin and miserable agony- I withheld myself from doing seven years ago, come hither now..." (p. 178-179).

By doing confession, Dimmesdale can close his drama of guilt and sorrow in his life. In the last of his life, Dimmesdale can find salvation after revealing his sin. He thanks to The God for his courage in revealing his sin before the public.

"....we could meet hereafter, in an everlasting and pure reunion. God knows; and He is merciful! He hath proved his mercy, most of all, in my afflictions. By giving me this burning torture to bear upon my breast!" (p. 181)

From the character of Dimmesdale, the author takes Puritanism, namely Sin (guilty feeling), Fall of Man, Confession, and Salvation. According to the Puritanism, everyone has a possibility to do a sin in his life, and this case Hawthorne describes the fall of the Priest Mr. Arthur Dimmesdale. Sin doctrine requires Puritans to confess their sin in front of their Priest once a week.

Consequently, if they conceal their sin, they will feel guilt any more. And the guilty feeling will make suffering in their head and heart every time if they do not confession their sin to the Priest. They won't never find salvation in their life, because they have thought and felt in Puritanism discourse. They get difficulty to avoid guilty feeling, and Dimmesdale is the portrait of a puritan having a concealment sin. And in the end of the story, Hawthorne gives a description that Dimmesdale finds salvation soon after doing confession his adultery sin before the public. The author shows to the readers the good influence of confession for the sinner through Dimmesdale's case. The solution to solve Dimmesdale's problem, in this case, also uses the Puritanism way, that is Confession. It more clarifies that the concepts of Sin, confession and Salvation as the basic ideas of this work. The dramatic Confession by Arthur Dimmesdale makes Puritans give fulsympaty to the sinner. It includes the new movement in the Puritans's mind, because usually the adulterer should be punished in front of public, and never get sympaty like Dimmesdale.

The other way to identify the theme of a work, can be seen from the title of a work. From the title "The Scarlet Letter", the author has shown the popular symbol of adultery which had to be worn by a adulterer man in the

Puritan community in the 17th century. Furthermore, in his introductory of the novel itself, Hawthorne prefaced it with the notes of "Custom-House", talking about his background of writing. He stated, "that the main facts of that story are authorized and authenticated by the document of Mr. Surveyor Pue". (p.29). The Scarlet letter had to be worn by a adulterer as the punishment from the leader of the state and the church on that time. So from the title, the author has given a Puritanism sense to the readers.

Based on the above analysis, now it comes to the content or the theme of the story. The theme of this novel is "The Confession can make salvation for the sinner in the life". This theme appropriates with this story because the Puritan ideas of Sin (guilty feeling), Punishment, Confession, and Salvation become as the core issues of this novel. And also it is supported by the other elements of the novel, such as the setting and the plot. That's why they more sharpen the Puritanism in the story. From the early story to the end, the author depicts sequently the punishment for adulterer, the guilty feeling for man adulterer, the drama and the sorrow for the sinner, confession for the sinner, and the salvation after doing confession his sin before the public as the ending of the story. All of them are the ideas or doctrines of Puritan in New England.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION