

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer will analyze plot, character and setting that can explain the situation of the 18th century's Victorian society as reflected in Adam Bede.

3.1 An Analysis of the Plot

The Plot of Adam Bede is designed in Aristotalian form of plot, which consists of three parts : the beginning, the middle and the end. The quotation below is Aristotle's opinion about a plot :

The order of a unified plot, Aristotle pointed out, is a continuous sequence of beginning, middle and end. The beginning initiates the main action in a way which makes us look forward to something more; the middle presumes what has gone before and requires something to follow; and the end follows from what has gone before but requires nothing more. (Abrams, 1981:100).

The plot of Adam Bede is very simple. The story is a common place one of the seduction of a farm girl, Hetty Sorrel, by Arthur Donnitorne, the son of the local

Squire, and the birth of their child out of wedlock. But this action is complicated and enriched by additional elements.

At the beginning part of the novel, the main interest is focused on the social setting : the characters, the inhabitants, social condition and prevailing belief. In Adam Bede the characters are all in a state of welfare in the beginning of the novel. There is no sign of any great distresses experienced by the characters. Adam Bede, one of the characters, for example, is engaged in his daily work as carpenter among his fellow workers. Arthur Donnithorne, with his prosperity, lives peacefully in the small society of Hayslope. These give the impression of order and peace in the decade.

At the beginning part of the novel, the conflict also arise owing to the love affairs experienced by the main charaters. Yet, there are deep gulfs between the two sides that prevent them from legal marriage. Their secret relationship can no longer be kept secret because the woman gets pregnant. It seems that the man is suffering from severe inner conflicts as his reputation in society is at stake.

The novel reaches as the climax when the male sinner confessed his sin. Arthur Donnithorne's decision to leave Hayslope with all his treasure after Hetty's scandal.

Exactly after having the climax, Adam Bede reach the denouement, that is at the end part of the novel, indicated, by the disappearance of certain characters who are considered taking share in the fornication. Arthur Donnithorne at last leaves Hayslope. Meanwhile, Hetty's baby as the child who has been born out of wedlock, doesn't exist anymore. These is indicated by the death of Hetty's baby for being killed by her mother.

III.2 An Analysis of Setting

III.2.1 Religious Belief

The story of Adam Bede is set in 1799. At that time, the land-owners were still the monopoly of power as one may see that the land-owner social system had been in office from 1783 until 1830 under the Tory party. In this part of the 18th century, the highest social position was given to the land owners with their riches of the possession of lands.

In Adam Bede, there is no description of the strictness of people in holding the Puritan concept in life. Although the Puritanism is no more dominant, the Godly spirit still can be seen clearly :

I know a man must have the love o'god in his soul, and the Bible's God's word. ...And

this is my way o' looking at it : There's the spirit o' God in all things and all times - weekday sa well as Sunday and i' the great works and inventions, and i' the figuring and the mechanics, (Eliot, p. 23).

In Victorian society, there is also such an agreement to take life seriously, to look for high purpose in living and to be 'good'. The quotation taken from Dinah Morris' preaching in Adam Bede which can show the religious situation in the Victorian age :

To be sure, we can't help knowing something about God, even if we've never heard the Gospel the good news that our Saviour brought us. ... We didn't bring our selves alive while we're sleeping... And he gave us our souls. and put love between parents and children, and husband and wife. But is that as much as great and mighty and can do what he will : waters, when we try to think of him. (Eliot, p.36).

The spiritual movement at this time was under Evangelical control. Evangelical in short, is a movement with identical view of life and religious spirit with that of other Protestant sects out of the Church of

England. Evangelical, which advocated a strict Puritan code of morality and which often identified with Puritanism was a formidable force until the early part of the 19th century. It can be said, therefore, that Puritanical values had not completely disappeared. (The Literature of England, 3rd edition).

III.2.2 The Class System of Society

The society structure in Adam Bede is hierarchical. In this case, everyone has a traditional place in rank. It is caused by the class system of society which is held by the Victorian society. The highest ranking are the gentry, such as Squire Donnithorne, his daughter Lydia and his grandson Arthur, who are living in the mansion at the Chase. And also Mr. Irwine, representative of the established Church, is included of the high social class. Later on the school teacher, Bartley Massey, the shopkeeper in the village such as Mr. Casson, the landlord of the inn, the Donnithorne Arms. Slightly below them are the yeoman such as the Poysers, who lease and work in the Squire's land.

Beside that, the Class System of society can be seen when Adam Bede has been invited by Squire Arthur Donnithorne to eat. There is some discussion about the seating arrangements. Those who seated at the head of

the table should be the most important of the group, and the tenants cannot decide who that is, for instance Martin Poyser, the one with the most land or the one with the worst kept land. Finally, the Schoolmaster Bartle Massey settles the dispute by suggesting the biggest tenants should sit at the head of the table.

Who's to sit at the top o' the table, Mr. Massey? "Why, the boardest man," said Bartle; and the next broadest must sit at bottom. (Eliot, p. 253).

According to Victorian society, rank and position is one thing which has to be respected. Owing to this arrangement, Adam, of course, sit at the bottom of the table which reflects his social status.

Because of this condition, we can also see the social attitude towards fornication. Though in the Victorian age the Puritanical rules are no longer held rigidly, adultery is still considered as shameful deed. This is shown by the Poyser's decision to leave Hayslope after Hetty Sorrel's scandal, for they can't stand enduring society's mockery. When the folk at the Hall Farm learn about Hetty's crime, they are profoundly disturbed for they are proud people with a deep sense of honor. By Hetty's conduct, in their minds, has perma-

nently stained. The quotation below shows about Poyser's feeling :

The sense of family dishonour was too keen even in the kind-hearted Martin Poyser the younger to leave room for any compassion towards Hetty. He and his father were simple-minded farmers, proud of their untarnished character, proud that they came of family which had held up its head and paid its way as far back as its name was in the parish register; and Hetty had brought disgrace on them all - disgrace that could never be wiped out. (Eliot, p. 393).

And because of overwhelmed with shame, they plan to leave the district.

III.3 An Analysis of the Character

In this part, the writer will analyze the character of the main characters: who have a close relation each other i.e. Arthur Donnithorne, Hetty Sorrel and Adam Bede. By analyzing those three men, the readers can easily understand the course of the novel.

III.3.1 Arthur Donnithorne

Arthur Donnithorne is an important man in his social environment. He is the young handsome squire. That's the reason why people respected him and never give up watching his conduct. This condition can be easily understood because by the time of 1799, the period drawn in this novel, England was not yet very industrialized.

Arthur Donnithorne is idolized in accordance with his enormous wealth, that give him many chances to help people in material difficulties.

He couldn't bear to see any one uncomfortable; he would have been sorry even in his angriest moods for any harm to happen to his grandfather. (Eliot, p. 127).

Actually, Arthur Donnithorne admires Hetty's physical beauty; but there is a suggestion from Mr. Irwine, the reverend, that Arthur should not pay too much attention to Hetty Sorrel. The statement below shows about Arthur's admiration on Hetty :

I went to look at the pretty butter-maker, Hetty Sorrel. She's a perfect Hebe, and if I were an artist, I would paint her. (Eliot, p. 106).

And Mr. Irwine tries to remind Arthur that Hetty is not proper enough standing beside him, because she is coming from the lower class. As Mr. Irwine said in the quotation below :

I have no objection to your contemplating Hetty in an artistic light, but I must not have you feeding her vanity and filling her little noddle with the notion that she's a great beauty, attractive to fine gentleman, or you will spoil her for a poor man's wife. (Eliot, p. 107).

Arthur Donnithorne was a good fellow. It was not possible for Arthur to do anything mean, dastardly or cruel. But he has an agreeable confidence which can make himself into troubles. As he said :

"No ! I'm devil of a fellow for getting myself into a hobble, but I always take care the load shall fall on my own shoulders".(Eliot, p. 127).

But Arthur Donnithorne is also portrayed as a man who has complacent self-satisfaction. It means that Arthur wants his pleasures, but not their consequences. He amuses himself with making a serious affair with Hetty Sorrel and thinking as if it were of any consequences. Arthur feels that it was all Irwine's fault.

"If Irwine had said nothing, I shouldn't have thought half so much of Hetty as of Meg's lameness". (Eliot, p. 131).

In Adam Bede, after Athur Donnithorne's visit to the Hall Farm, where he first meets Hetty Sorrel, there is a strange feeling in his heart. This make him restless. The desire to see her again rushes back like an ill-stemmed current. The quotation below shows his restlessness :

There was but one resource. He would go and tell Mr. Irwin - tell him everything. The mere act of telling it would make it seems trivial; the temptation would vanish, as the charm of fond word vanishes when one repeat them to the indifferent (Eliot, p. 23).

Arthur Donnithorne doesn't tell the truth to Adam Bede that he actually loves Hetty Sorrel. He tells Adam Bede that he just flirts her. He did such a thing because he doesn't want his reputation ruined by his scandal with a tenant's niece. Becoming a person of high social rank is something of important to him. In the effort to save his position, he becomes a coward.

Arthur Donnithorne and Hetty Sorrel do their love relationship secretly. The reason is that Arthur does-

not want to jeopardize his social status only for the relationship with a woman from the lower class. As a landlord, he should enter into a bond of love relation with a woman from the equal position. "no gentleman, out of ballad could marry a farmer's niece" (p. 264).

Arthur Donnithorne, after being caught by Adam Bede in forest when he is making love with Hetty Sorrel, confesses to Adam that he has love relationship with Hetty Sorrel. To have his reputation, Arthur Donnithorne tries to wipe his hands clean from this scandal. However, his inner soul is always haunted by his sin. That is the reason why, when Hetty Sorrel is sentenced to death as being a child murderer, Arthur Donnithorne tries hard to save her from the scaffold but only succeeds in bringing the petition of mercy which lessen the punishment. Hetty, then, is exiled. After this terrible event, he decides to leave Hayslope with all his treasure. One may say that Arthur Donnithorne manages to do ill-deed because of his richness but he has to pay his ill-deed by offering all his treasure.

III.3.2 Hetty Sorrel

The woman with whom Arthur Donnithorne is involved affair is Hetty Sorrel. She is a beautiful young woman that causes man to make fools of himself in various

style. Her beauty is a beauty of innocence with the dark eyes, pouting mouth, long-curled-dark hair and dimples on her cheeks.

There are various order of beauty, causing men to make fools of themselves in various style, from the desperate to the sheepish; ...Hetty's cheek was like a rose petal, that dimples palyed about her pouting lips, ... her large dark eyes, ... her curly hair (Eliot, p.90)

Hetty Sorrel was brought up by Mr. and Mrs. Poyser, her uncle and aunt, because she has no mother to live with. She is an ordinary people who has to work hard everyday in her aunt's dairy as a butter maker.

She has a natural beauty that causes men 'to make fools of themselves' in order to see her. Her 'village' beauty is parallel with her shyness and timidity. She is shallow minded girl. She sees the world from the outer beauty than the inner one. Because of that reason, she always day dreams of elevating her rank in the society by marrying Arthur Donnithorne, grandson and heir to the Squire. This leads her to undesirable events later such as her contemplating suicide and her leaving her baby in the wood.

Hetty who is indeed beautiful, doesn't realize that her outer beauty is one of the causes of her failure. Her beauty seems to be mask of her lack of faith.

"It is generally a feminine eye that first detects the moral deficiencies hidden under the 'dear deceit' of beauty" (Eliot, p. 156).

According to Clyde M. Narramore, a psychologist (1977: 146) one of several causes of lack of faith is feeling of pride. A person who is puffed with a sense of his own importance may be reluctant to admit his real condition. This condition also happens to Hetty Sorrel. She is proud of herself and everybody in the village seems to admire her. She is even prouder when she understands that Arthur Donnithorne, a noble man, pays attention to her. She is from a farmer class who would never be able to marry Arthur who comes from a higher class. So, she herself doesn't realize that she has wrong illusion about this until Dinah warns her, but Hetty's response is unexpected. She misunderstands Dinah and even considers her as the one who makes her scared.

"Don't talk to me so, Dinah. Why do you come to frighten me ? I've never done anything to you, why can't you let me be ?" (Eliot, p. 161).

She is so enthusiastic to get married with Arthur that she can't accept Dinah's anxious Attention,

"As for Hetty, she was soon in the wood again her waking dreams being merged in a sleeping life scarcely more fragmentary and confused" (Eliot, p. 161).

The quotation above shows that Hetty's illusion is too high to illuminate. It is very different for her to face the reality that she would never be able to become a lady.

To Hetty, the meeting with Arthur Donnithorne brings her many dreams of him. That's why when Arthur proposes her date, she accepts it happily.

Due to her poverty, Hetty Sorrel grows to be a dreamer. What she dreams is something concerning with the luxuries. She wants to marry someone rich, who can keep her as a fine and idle lady. This quotation below shows Hetty's dreams :

And Hetty's dreams were all luxuries: to sit in a carpented parlour, and always wear white stockings; to have some large beautiful ear rings, such as were all the fashion ; to have Nottingham lace round the top of her gown, and something to make her handker-

chief smell nice, like Miss Lydia Donnithorne's..... ; not to be obliged to get up early or be scolded by anybody. (Eliot, p. 104-105).

From the quotation above, we can say that teenagers, as one knows, usually are much more interested in physical appearance rather than inward appearance. That is the reason why she gives her heart to Arthur Donnithorne easily, because being handsome, he has potency to fulfill her dreams.

Hetty Sorrel never tries to forget Donnithorne. She never thinks of any that will ruin her social position. However, Hetty is not brave in facing her problems as the result of the fornication. She finds that she is pregnant, she has no courage to confront the risk. She then, decides to look for Arthur Donnithorne to claim his responsibility. It is true that her idea to search Arthur is a high-risk decision for she is a merely country girl that has no experience in having a long journey. But, her courage due to her cornered position. At last, Hetty finds that Arthur has moved to Ireland with his regiment.

Since Hetty Sorrel is not innately brave and too young to be in that terrible situation, she can not stand hearing her baby's cry because she knows that the

baby has no legitimate father. In this terrible situation, she kills the baby. That's why Hetty is sentenced to death.

III.3.3 Adam Bede

Adam Bede, an energetic young poor carpenter, is the third person in the love affairs. He loves Hetty Sorrel and wants her to be his wife. However, his love is buried deep in his heart because he is not ready yet to marry her. That is the reason why he works hard everyday in order to make himself ready to marry Hetty Sorrel.

It was a busy day with Adam, who of late had done almost double work... But he had done the extra work cheerfully, for his hopes buoyant again about Hetty. (Eliot, p. 282).

Adam Bede is a little arrogant and unsympathetic towards those who do not meet his ideals. For instance, Adam was indignant at the way of his fellow workers 'watch the clock'. When his fellow workers heard the Church clock began to strike six, they prepared to go home in a hurry and set down their tools promptly at closing time. Adam alone had gone on his work as if nothing had happened. But when he observed at the way

of his fellow put their tools, he said in a tone of indignation :

"Look there, now! I can't abide to see men throw away their tools i' that way, the minute the clock begins to strike, as if they took no pleasure i' their work and was afraid o' doing a stroke too much". (Eliot, p.23).

Adam Bede has faults of bad tempered and harsh judgement. It is described by Adam Bede himself after his father's death :

"Ah! I was always too hard," Adam said to himself. It's a sore fault in me as I'm so hot and out o' patience with people when they do wrong, and my heart gets shut up against 'em, so as I cant't bring myself to forgive 'em. (Eliot, p.198).

Adam realizes that he was too quick to condemn his father that his father has no responsibility with his family. It is caused by his father's behaviour who is always drunk.

Adam Bede also falls in love with Hetty Sorrel. Unfortunately he always misinterprets with Hetty's behaviour. When they are chatting about Arthur

Donnithorne, Hetty looks like interest in his talk of Arthur as if Hetty likes with Adam because he has a friend as Arthur does.

"Poor Adam was led on to speak about Arthur because he thought Hetty would be pleased to know that the young squire was so ready to friend him: (Eliot, p.217)

Beside that, when Hetty has been angry with the restless young Totty who sit beside her but nevertheless looks charming to Adam.

And presently, when Totty was gone, she caught his eye, and her face broke into one its brightest smile, as she nodded to him. It was a bit of flirtation - she know Mary Burge was looking at them. But the smile was like wine to Adam. (Eliot, p.255)

He loves Hetty Sorrel and wants her to be his wife. Unluckily, Arthur Donnithorne has robbed his happiness and ruined his hope. On account of this bad luck, he takes a silent revenge by fighting and knocking on Arthur.

"I swear I won't go away without fighting you. Do you want provoking any more? Itell you you're a coward and a scoundrel, and I

despise you'" said Adam, with a convulsed voice. (Eliot, p.290)

Adam loses his temper and he jealous toward Arthur, because he knows that Arthur is making love with Hetty in the forest. His jealousy makes him angry without thinking that Arthur is a respectable man in the vil-lage.

Adam Bede gets mad hearing that Hetty will be brought to court for child murder. He knows that Arthur Donnithorne responsible for this. Adam Bede then goes to Stoniton where Hetty will be punished. Unluckily, he cannot save Hetty as there are witnesses that can prove Hetty's crime. This quotation below shows about Adam's anger :

" He taught her to deceive-he deceived me first. Let 'em put him on his trial-Let him stand in court beside her, and I'll tell 'em how he got hold of her heart and 'ticed her t' evil, and then lied to me. (Eliot, p.390).

III.4 Self Deception of Arthur Donnithorne

The story of Arthur Donnithorne develops when there is love relation between Hetty Sorrel, tenant's niece, and Arthur Donnithorne, the young squire. It is Hetty's

beauty that makes Arthur Donnithorne like to see her and fall in love with her. To Hetty, Arthur Donnithorne's richness is the main reason why she easily falls in love with him. Owing to her poverty, Hetty grows to be money-making. Her thirst for luxuries makes her become a dreamer. Arthur Donnithorne, in her mind, has potency to fulfill her dream.

Their love affair goes on secretly. As a squire, it is shameful for Arthur to marry a tenant's niece. In one of their secret meetings in the Hermitage in the forest, they are caught red handed by Adam Bede. Adam Bede is a young poor carpenter, who also falls in love with Hetty.

Knowing that Hetty making love with Arthur Donnithorne, Adam Bede gets mad. His jealousy makes him angry with Arthur Donnithorne without thinking that Arthur is respectable man in the village.

In experiencing this shameful event, Arthur Donnithorne becomes a coward. To save his respectable prestige, he tells Adam Bede that his love relationship with Hetty is not serious. He just wants to flirt with Hetty. Here, Arthur Donnithorne becomes a double-faced man. On the one hand he does not his reputation to be spoiled by this love affair.

In fact, Arthur Donnithorne is always tortured by

his sin on account of the fornication he has done. He is torn between two hideous things. First, society at that time demanded marriages of equal couples, and guilt for his conduct in hurting Adam. The discovery that Adam loved Hetty makes Arthur shocked. The quotation below shows Arthur's inner conflict when Adam Bede exclaimed with anger that Arthur promised not to see Hetty again :

Adam uttering this alternative, stood like a terrible fate before Arthur, who had moved forward a step of two, and now stopped, faint, shaken, sick in mind and body. (Eliot, p. 298)..pm10

Arthur was very shocked when he knows that he had already made Adam Bede hurt. He also realize that he can make no amends to Adam.

Arthur, as we know, was a loving nature. Deed of kindness were so easy to him than a bad habit. He likes to help some one else.

He didn't like to witness pain, and he liked to have grateful eyes beaming on him as the giver of pleasure. (Eliot, p. 299).
Because of those condition, Arthur mislead Adam Bede about his relation with Hetty Sorrel and how far -

matters had gone describing his relation with Hetty as a 'flirtation' in order to make Adam Bede glad.

Adam Bede, seeing that Arthur Donnithorne has robbed his happiness, forces him to write Hetty a letter before his departure to Winsdor and to tell her that she should not think of the love affair anymore. By doing such a thing, in Adam's mind, Hetty will forget Arthur Donnithorne and it means he regains his opportunity to propose her a marriage.

I'm not speaking for myself, but for her. I ask you t' undeceive her before you go away. Y' aren't going away for ever before you leave her behind with a nation in her head o' your feeling about her the same as she feels about you, she'll be hankering after you and the mischief may get worse. It'll save her pain i' th' end. I ask you to write a letter. (Eliot, p. 297).

Adam's suggestion is a difficult choice for Arthur. Arthur has said to Adam that his relation with Hetty is not a serious one, he can not object to writing the letter, if he refuses to write it, he is then virtually confessing that he has been lying. As Adam said to Arthur :

you won't see her again, Adam exclaimed with a flash of recurring anger and suspicion,...

"Either tell me she can never be my wife - tell me you've been lying - or else promise me what I've said. (Eliot, p. 297).

At the first moment, Arthur had felt pure distress and self-reproach at discovering that Adam's happiness was involved in his relation to Hetty. And in this case, Arthur tries to put the most favourable interpretations on past, present and future. He speculates that the truth of his relation with Hetty will never be made public, that Hetty will forget him and marry Adam, that the best thing to do is to make the way open between Adam and Hetty. Those condition seems that Arthur has brought himself into such a dilemma. The quotation below shows about Arthur's inner conflict :

A letter would be a dreadfully abrupt way of awakening her! Yet there was truth in what Adam said - that it would save her from a lengthened delusion,... At all events, he couldn't help what would come now : all he could do was to take what seemed the best course at the present moment. And he persuaded himself that course was to make the way open between Adam and Hetty. ...But what could a man do in such a dilemma ?... Well, the letter must be written: it was the only

means that promised a solution of the difficulty. The tears came into Arthur's eyes as he thought of Hetty reading it: but it would be almost as hard for him to write it. (Eliot, p.303-304).

Unfortunately, this condition makes Hetty Sorrel frustrated for she is now pregnant as a result of the fornication. In this difficult position, she arranges a risky plan. By pretending to love Adam Bede, Hetty can obtain the permission from her uncle and aunt to go away as if she wants to buy something in preparation for the wedding and fetch Dinah Morris. In this way, she will find Arthur Donnithorne to claim his responsibility.

The folk at the Hall Farm had been told she was going to visit Dinah Morris in Snowfield, so at first they were not disturbed by her absence. Arriving at Windsor, Hetty found that Arthur had gone with his regiment to Ireland. She turns back, attempting to go to Dinah, but on the way her child was born in a house where she has been given lodging. In this terrible situation, she once again does a sinful deed, she kills the baby.

Adam Bede loses his temper hearing that Hetty will be brought to court for the murder. He knows that Arthur Donnithorne has to be responsible for this. As Adam said below :

"It's his doing," he said; "if there's been any crime, it's at his door, not at hers".
(Eliot, p. 390).

Arthur, who has returned from Ireland on his grandfather's death and learned of her situation, feels guilty when he knows the condition of Hetty Sorrel. Finally, Hetty's punishment is lightened to an excommunication, because Arthur Donnithorne, the male sinner, has confessed his sin. As the quotation below :

The Sheriff knows him: it is Arthur Donnithorne, carrying in his hand a hard-won release from death.(Eliot, p. 438).

Beside that he also confesses confidentially to Adam Bede.

Haven't I loved her too? Didn't I see her yesterday? Shan't I carry the thought of her about with me as much as you will? And don't you think you would suffer more if you'd been in fault?"(Eliot, p. 444).

Arthur Donnithorne tells the truth to Adam Bede about his feeling eight month ago, beside that he tells of his plan to go away to the army, and hoping that Adam will persuade the Poyser to stay on at the farm. The quotation below shows about Arthur's feeling :

How did she seem when you left her, sir?
"Don't ask me, Adam I should go mad with thinking of her looks and what she said to me, and then, that I couldn't get a full pardon that I couldn't save her from that wretched fate of being transported - that I can do nothing for her all those years; (Eliot, p. 445).

Arthur Donnithorne realizes that he actually should also serve Hetty's punishment. Then, he punishes by deciding to leave Hayslope with all his treasure. Arthur Donnithorne exile himself on the Continent in an army career.

Arthur said, "I am going away, Adam; I'm going into the army". (Eliot, p. 441).

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION