

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

Florentino Ariza is such a unique character in the story of *Love in the Time of Cholera*. The uniqueness exhibited by Florentino is apparent from the way he keeps the distinctive manner of dress and the chronic constipation he bears. Regarding his distinctive dress manner, Florentino loves to wear the kind of suit once occupied by his father which is always dominated in black colour. Florentino's chronic constipation becomes such an unusual thing since he has to bear it in the middle of the cholera epidemic.

Based on Florentino's uniqueness that is represented through his appearance and disease, these two ideas are regarded as the symbols which may refer to grandeur meaning rather than its literal meaning. Considering Florentino's distinctive manner of dress, a relation may be drawn from the many similarities shared by Florentino and his father, Don Pius V Loayza. The preoccupation on the father's dress manner may imply a notion that Florentino is actually adopting some of Don Pius' beliefs about life, particularly about love. From Don Pius Florentino presumably learns that it is permissive to demonstrate a sort of falsehood, or infidelity in the middle of one's love relationship as long as its truth remains unnoticed.

Furthermore, Florentino's chronic constipation seems to be a symbol of Florentino's eager demand of love. This interpretation is gained through the information saying that Florentino is an illegitimate son who never grabs a full

attention from his father. Even Don Pius is apparently an illegitimate who is never recognized by his father. Thus, both Florentino and Don Pius have somehow similar family background with the lack affection from the father. The perception that Florentino's chronic constipation is a representation of his eager demand about love is in corresponding with Don Pius' colic. Both of these diseases devastate the *gastrointestinal* tract, therefore occur in the inner part of one's body, or the condition of one's heart.

Talking about Florentino's chronic constipation, or his eager demand of love, requires another idea of fulfilment, in this sense there is another term which may symbolize this, i.e. Florentino's treatment with enemas. The treatment with enemas has to happen throughout Florentino's life. Though, according to the medical point of view, most of constipation cases may be best treated with ensuring the high fibre diet rather than have a great dependency on laxative. This understanding may be sufficiently applied to Florentino's case that it is likely that Florentino does not fulfil his demand of love properly. Florentino's love fulfilment happens in two ways, from his first love with Fermina and the 622 cases of liaisons. The reason why Florentino's love fulfilment seems to be maintained in an improper way since he exhibits the falsehood over Fermina. In their later reunion, Florentino conceal his true nature by saying to Fermina that he has kept his vow of eternal fidelity and everlasting love, furthermore he has remained a virgin for her.

Florentino's reunion with Fermina apparently brings a change towards his dress manner. Thus, Florentino alters the previous all-black clothes with the all-

whites. The alteration may be explained through the condition of his age, that both Florentino and Fermina Daza are in the middle of their seventies. Florentino's notion about love has presumably changed since he has never experienced a sort of sexual intercourse with a seventy-two-year old woman, except with Fermina. Nevertheless, the change in dress manner does not give a significant impact over his chronic constipation. From this point, it may be ample to interpret that Florentino is still unable to figure out the essence of love, moreover to fulfil his demand over it. Hence, Florentino seems to be helpless to conquer his own passion. The possibility that Florentino will demonstrate his act of infidelity will always be open unless he understands the true values of loving and being loved. Similarly, Florentino may be able to get recovered from his chronic constipation if he is willing to treat its underlying cause, i.e. by taking high fibre diet or other natural treatments instead of taking a shortcut with enemas.

## **WORKS CITED**