

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

Silas Marner is a novel which is full of matter and delightful in moral values. The moral values derives naturally from the plot, characters and setting in the novel and by doing this, the author makes the story powerful.

The moral values in Silas Marner, as revealed through the plot, teach the reader a lesson that an evil deed will bring sooner or later its remorseless consequences. It can be seen from the contrasting fates of Silas and Godfrey which say those who live a vicious life are essentially discontented. The consequences of virtue and vice are the point in Silas Marner that remains to be stated.

The moral values in Silas Marner are not only revealed through the plot. The meaning of good and bad in relation to social conduct are connected most of all through the society in which the characters live. Silas Marner presents us a broad picture of Raveloe life generally, of its attitudes, custom, religion and of its



fundamental decency and order. It also gives us a brief picture of Lantern Yard with its industrialization which had bred a spirit of competitiveness and individualism. This is in opposition to the spirit of cooperation which characterized the rural community.

By contrasting the community of Raveloe and Lantern Yard, Silas Marner stresses the right and indeed, the necessity of man to enjoy this life. The final affirmation of this is revealed in the fate of Silas.

The good and evil which exists in the world are the outcome of good and bad actions done by generations of human beings, as the characters in the novel have shown. They are envisaged in their moral aspect. They are portraits of the inner man portraits, the principle of his conduct, his besetting sin and his presiding virtue.

In Godfrey, for example, we can spot a typical spoiled son who always puts his trust in the God of Chance and raised on too much fear and too little responsibility. He has also shown both a lack of humanity and a lack of sense of duty. Eppie demonstrates the depth of her affection, integrity and her fidelity to Silas. Silas Marner himself is person who is good by nature and incorruptible in the face of temptations. He is a "born victim". Unable to protect himself from the world for he is twice a victim of unscrupulous

men and each time suffering a spiritual crisis. He retreats into his shell again. Yet in him we also see the recuperative powers of human nature. Hard and resentful as he becomes after what he has been through, he is still able, when opportunity is offered, to come back into community life.

In ethical perspective, the moral evaluation of human conduct are included in the level of custom and the level of conscience. At the level of conscience, the conduct that appears right to the agent is that approved by his own individual judgment. For instance, when Eppie decides to reject Godfrey's offering to adopt her, she is considered to be on the level on conscience for it is her conscience which commands her to do so. On the other hand, at the level of custom, the authority in the moral life is outside the individual, he must do what is approved by his group. When Silas finally accepts the custom of Raveloe people, he is regarded to be on this level.

When we make the judgment that an action is good, we imply that the action has some value or that it is worth while doing as Silas, Eppie even Godfrey has shown. The difference between right and wrong was merely subjective, depending upon the attitude of the individual making the moral judgment. What is

subjectively right is what appears to be right to the person using the term. What is objectively right, that is right in the light of the objective moral standard.

BIBLIOGRAPHY