

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Marriage can be defined as a relationship between a man and a woman in an emotional, physical, moral, and spiritual union, exclusively and for life. The husband and wife take each other and forsake all others. Everybody dreams to live in a happy marriage eternally,

In her best novel *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, Anne Brontë's story subject is about a wife's effort to escape an abusive husband. Helen Graham is the main character of the book. Her miseries begin when, against the warnings of her Aunt, she marries Arthur Huntingdon, a very handsome, charming man with hardly-concealed moral failings. In her marriage life, her husband abuses her intolerably and she has to strive for her rights in order to live in a better life.

As an answer to the first thesis statement, the writer concludes that the abuse happens in the story is mental abuse. There is no physical abuse involved. Arthur Huntingdon, as antagonist, is depicted in a good way by the author. He is a kind of husband who is possessive, selfish and cruel to his wife. He can't be a good husband and he creates a miserable life for her in their marriage. Even though he never does physical violence to her, he abuses her mentally and his demeanours are getting worse and worse. He never appreciates or approves whatever Helen does. In truth, he continually makes her feel in a deep agony and anxiety. After marriage, Huntingdon shows his possessiveness toward his wife by

living in Grassdale Manor, a luxury place that is far away from families, groups, friends or nearest neighbours. He doesn't allow Helen to leave the house on her own. He makes sure that she depends her life only on him. The gentleman frequently leaves Helen in a matter of business and always disobeys his promises to come back soon, so that she feels extreme moodiness to think about his condition there. As all Huntingdon's jolly companions stay overnights in Grassdale Manor, he spends his time to drunk with them. He knows Helen hates to see him in such situation. The man also deceives her and his moody friend (Lord Lowborough) by secretly having an extramarital affair with Lady Lowborough. The worst thing from all Huntingdon's abuses is when Helen recognizes that her spouse has betrayed her love. After that event, Huntingdon doesn't want to ask an apology or fix his relationship with her, but blames her for every thing she does. The abuse escalates when he finds out that the spouse is going to run away from him with their son. Fiercely, he destroys all Helen's picture apparatus, takes the jewelry and discounts her monthly budget. One source of Helen's inconveniences is the condition of her son. Huntingdon tries to make his descendant grow as a sinner like him by teaching him to drink wine and speak bad words Whatever the form of abuse is, the effect of it must have bad influence and change the victim mentally and physically. Mentally, Helen feels suffer to live with such a cruel husband. Physically, Helen changes. She becomes thin with sunken cheeks and hollow eyes.

Related with the second thesis statement about how Helen defends her rights as a woman against her husbands abuses, the writer concludes that Helen is

a strong character. Mental abuse is hurtful. The worst effect of long-term mental abuse to the victim is withdrawal from life into an internet alternative reality. This will not happen to Helen. From the beginning, every time Huntingdon abuses her, she always confronts him in order to show him that his abuse is unsuccessful. She feels deep anxiety inside, but she seems strong with her arguments. As a worthy wife for Huntingdon, even though he abuses her, she continually tries to do her inclination that is to change his bad characters and save him from destruction. Calmly, she advises him to believe in God and to lose his habit in drunk. In facing her rival viz Lady Lowborough, Helen always tries to appear cheerful in front of her friends as if as she doesn't bothered by the closeness of her husband and the Lady. To anticipate that Little Arthur will not be a sinner like his father, Helen guards him from temptations to do vices and guides him to do virtues. As Huntingdon's abuses get worse and worse, she asks help from Frederick Lawrence (her brother) to make her escape planning easier. She lives in a gloomy mansion called Wildfell Hall. If she finally comes back to take care of her dying spouse, it doesn't mean that the woman is weak. But on the contrary, it shows that she is a wonderful person. To make sure Huntingdon will not treat her like a slave, like long time ago, she takes care of him with cold manner. Finally, although Huntingdon dies unrepentantly, Helen has already done her mission to save Huntingdon from sufferings.

Through this study, the researcher gets a valuable lesson. Helen is a brave woman. The researcher greatly admires the way Helen handles certain situations with Huntingdon. Helen's personality is the main thing that makes she

feel drawn toward Helen. There are two important things that the researcher get from Helen :

1. Women shall be able to stand up for themselves and speak their mind.
2. For women, in some situations, when their temper is bubbling up, shouting is not always the right answer, that they should think before they speak words that they will regret later.

Helen has given the researcher a kind of inner strength. Helen Huntingdon, although a fictional character, has changed her way of thinking and coping with life in general completely. She thinks Helen is a truly fantastic person, and she will never forget what a brilliant person Helen is. Although she is just created in Anne Bronte's mind, she has become real to her.

5.2 Suggestions

By studying The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, the researcher learns that Helen Huntingdon's experience with her matrimony can happen in this era. However, nobody wants to live in such a way. Therefore, she suggests that there are some tips for a woman on creating a happy marriage :

1. Be engaged for a long enough period of time to know that she loves her fiancée.
2. Marry her best friend. Dating and romance is great, but if that is all she has, it will not last more than a few months.
3. Never undermine or criticize her spouse in front of others. Never compete with her spouse, but rather support him and cheer him on in every good thing that he does.

4. Not be afraid to fight. Good fights will strengthen the marriage. When they do fight, do it respectfully. Stick to the issues, listen to the other person, compromise and negotiate. Learn to recognize that sometimes when her spouse argues about something with her, it maybe a deeper issue or concern that they need to discuss and hash out.
5. Respect his interests, views and values and not try to change him into her “ideal man” because men and women are different and communicate differently at times.
6. Develop meaningful relationships with other people and not expect her spouse to entertain her twenty-four hours a day.
7. Be her own, mature, and independent person. Not marry someone to make her happy. Be happy by herself and with herself first.
8. Communicate the thoughts and feelings with her partner. She needs to tell her husband that she is upset, angry, sad, worried, etc. about something in order to solve the problem or let him know how she feels.
9. Wait until they are both ready to have children. They need some time to get to know each other first before they should plan of having children.
10. Marriage takes work, it’s not always romance. Being the woman in the relationship means she might have to do more of the work in keeping the relationship together and keeping the lines of communication flowing. If the couple truly love one another and are best friends, they can make their marriage work if they work on it together.

The researcher also suggests that the students accustom themselves in reading novels, especially English classic novels. It is important because novels do not only give pleasure, but they can also get valuable lesson about life.

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