

**Degree – ii (English Honours)**

**Paper – iv**

**Book – Wuthering Heights**

**Lecture – 3 ( Final )**

### ***Storm and Calm in Wuthering Heights***

The extraordinary power of this novel derives at least in part from Emily Bronte's attempt to do justice to the conflict between her head and her heart. The author's most powerful emotions lie with Heathcliff or with storm or with earth in its harsher aspects. But Heathcliff is ultimately a dark and troubling image. Therefore, it seems that the second-generation story results from a firm effort to supersede Heathcliff and everything identified with the harsher or more destructive aspects of storm.

The direction in which the second-generation story moves, but of course there is no permanent solution of the conflict. Feeling finally cannot be defeated by will in the service of a regional judgement. The claims of feelings are protected in the novel, because Heathcliff, who is defeated in one way, triumphs in another way. Even though he can no longer prevent the happiness of Hareton Earnshaw and the younger Catherine, he retains the Earnshaw property that he has usurped, and in a sense inhabits Wuthering Heights and the bare moorland with the elder Catherine.

At the end of the novel, a certain equilibrium has been achieved. But it is not an inevitable harmony following Heathcliff's posthumous union with the elder Catherine, nor the re-establishment of the balance of the forces at the beginning of the story when the Lintons and Earnshaws existed harmoniously but in separation. It is, in fact, a harmony resulting from a new combination of the Earnshaws and Lintons, with the Earnshaw energy modified by the Linton calm. Heathcliff's obsessions are excluded. Moreover, in order to achieve the new harmonious alliance, the Earnshaws at last abandon their old house. After three hundred years the Earnshaws withdraw from Wuthering Heights and go down to Thrushcross Grange, bringing to the valley some of their own energy but also in their turn being modified by the values it represents. The situation at the end of the novel, therefore is vastly different from the situation at its beginning. Perhaps the novel makes the clear assertion that for the purpose of ordinary life the Lintons are better for the Earnshaws than Heathcliff is. To that extent, the novel makes a moral judgement.

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