

Degree – 2 (English Honours)

Paper – 4

Book – Wuthering Heights

Lecture – 2

Storm and Calm in Wuthering Heights

This coupled with the conflict induced in her by her own violation of her nature is too much for Cathy; and she dies. Heathcliff, furthered maddened by the loss of his life's object, becomes yet more destructive and proceeds to wreck his vengeance on the next generation, Hareton, Catherine (the younger), and Linton (son of Heathcliff and Isabella). These – for Hindley like Heathcliff and Cathy, had married a child of calm; cannot be divided as their parents were, into children of calm and storm; they are the offspring of both and partake of both natures. But there is a difference between them. Hareton and Catherine are the children of love and so combine the positive good qualities for their respective parents.

The kindness and constancy of calm and the strength and the courage of storm. Linton on the other hand, is a child of hate, and combines the negative bad qualities of his two parents—the cowardice and weakness of calm, and the cruelty of ruthlessness of storm. Heathcliff acquires power over all the three children. Catherine is married to her natural antipathy.

Linton so that her own nature, diverted from its purpose, grows antagonistic to her natural affinity, Hareton. The natural order is thus the time being wholly destroyed and the destructive principle reigns supreme.

The whole structure of this novel suggests a deeper and more compulsive concern with the elements of storm than the above recognises. Emily Bronte extends her themes into the story of a second generation of Earnshaw's and Linton's. What is most remarkable about the second-generation story is the effort it makes modify the storm -calm opposition in such way as to eliminate the most violent and troubling elements that gibe to the first generating story its peculiar intensity. Emily Bronte takes great pains in the second part of her novel to re-introduce her earlier relationship-patterns and to show them with a new kind of emphasis.

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