

Wuthering Heights

- Emily Bronte

classmate

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Degree-II (English Hons)

Paper - IV (Fiction)

Unit - 03

Topic - Wuthering Heights

Lecture -

Wuthering Heights: A Spiritual Tragedy

or

The theme of Wuthering Heights

Winifred Gerin, commenting on the nature of Wuthering Heights; remarks, concerned with eternal principles of life, death, love and immortality it has a timeless quality that puts it far nearer to such a work as the Fairy Queen than to any contemporary Victorian novel. It is the naturalness in Wuthering Heights that heightens its dream like quality and that makes it 'SPIRITUAL'.

The novel, according to Gerin, is said to have no relation to social questions concerning this world but is found only to eternal principles. And this is corroborated the way the novel ends. It has, in fact, a peculiar end. Unlike the Victorian novels which normally end with the marriage of hero and heroine, Wuthering Heights ends on a tragic note that is to say, the lover and the beloved are not united.

in this world. But, according to Emily Bronte, human existence does not end with death, it continues in spiritual form even after physical death. Heathcliff's love for Catherine retains all its intensity even after her death. Not only that, he is certain that though she is dead, he will be united to her in some way. For in his opinion, his beloved's death is not the end of her existence. That is why when Mr. Lockwood informs him that he saw Catherine's ghost in his dream, he exclaims with extreme weirdness.

"Come in! come in! Cathy, do come, oh do - once more! Oh! my heart's darling hear me this time. Catherine, at last!" Heathcliff visits the grave of Catherine every night in the hope of meeting her spectre, for he believes that the dead exists in spectral form after their death. At last he meets his beloved's spectre and starves himself to death, so that he may be united to her.

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