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LOVE AND SOCIAL NORMS AS ILLUSTRATED IN
JANE AUSTEN'S PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

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Dedication

The present research work is dedicated:

- ✓ First of all, **God the Almighty**, for he is the rock on which I look and my main source of inspiration.
- ✓ Then, to my parent *El HadjMoudassirou Salami*, whose love and support has always been the fuel to my inner drive. He has been a full chapter in my life.
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INTRODUCTION

A novel is a story long enough to fill a complete book, in which the characters and events are usually imaginary. It is an account of all the social facts he/she witnessed in the society he/she lived in. This is true of many books written in that period of the 19th century-England by some writers to express their great concern about the different social problems in the industrial England. A great number of these writers, poets, novelists and critics condemned through their writings the social injustices of the period. The Romantic social novelist mainly Jane Austen, Sir Walter Scott, to mention just a few were mostly worried about the social conditions that were made for women. Jane Austen and her contemporaries present and depict the 19th century-England woman through her social conditions status and work set up and recognized by the English legal system. Indeed, women were voiceless in any great decision taking. They could not enjoy their lives as they wanted. A married woman could own no private properties. Her properties are her husband's. The latter, highly protected by the legal system, was allowed "sexual immorality" whereas her wife was not. Community life was endangered.

Harmony, order and stability in the society were threatened. Very conscious and anxious of the growing evils and the great injustice of the powerful over the weak people, namely women, and the murders that were frequent in that English society, numerous writers decided to break with silence and to uphold for the purpose of getting richer, but they were to cure the evil which the society, was undergoing. Among those writers is Jane Austen, one of the most prolific writers that England has ever produced.

Jane Austen's novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, the one we are going to deal with, was set out during that troublesome period in English society. Jane Austen's works critique the novels of sensibility of the second half of the 18th century and are part of the transition to 19th century realism. Her plots, though fundamentally comic, highlight the dependence of women on marriage to secure social standing and economic security. Austen brings to light the hardships women faced, who usually did not inherit money, could not work and where their only chance in life depended on the man they married. She reveals not only the difficulties women faced in her day, but also what was expected of men and of the careers they had to follow. This she does with wit and humour and with endings where all characters, good or bad, receive exactly what they deserve. Her work brought her little personal fame and only a few positive reviews during her lifetime, but the publication in 1869 of her nephew's *A Memoir of Jane Austen* introduced her to a wider public, and by the 1940s she had become accepted as a major writer. The second half of the 20th century saw a proliferation of Austen scholarship and the emergence of a Janeite fan culture.

Austen's works include *Pride and Prejudice* published in 1813, *Sense and Sensibility* published in 1811, *Mansfield Park*, *Persuasion* and *Emma*. Jane Austen was, not only revealing the way of life at her lifetime but also appealing to the nostalgia of her readers for a society, simple, and stable than theirs. Our concern, in this novel, is to see how 19th century-England women are depicted in order to carry out a critical study.

To reach this aim, I have focused my analysis on three main parts:

- The first part deals with Jane Austen's biography and background mainly her presentation and literary works.

- Then in the second part, I will deal with women in 19th century-England: love and social norms in 19th century-England and the characters presented in her novel: Mr. Bennet; Mrs. Bennet; Elizabeth Bennet; Charles Bingley; Mr. Darcy; Jane Bennet and their rules.
- In the third part finally, my attention will be focused on love affairs in *Pride and Prejudice*.

Chapter one: Literature review and Methodology

1-1- Literature review

The theme "love" has been tackled by many books of Jane Austen and researchers. Here are some of her books tackling the main theme of my topic "*love and social norms as illustrated in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*". A major structural device in Jane Austen's novels is the quest to promote, secure, or engender sibling ties. Moreover, the fates of siblings are often connected. For example, in *Pride and Prejudice* published in 1813 the relationship between Jane and Bingley and Elizabeth and Darcy dovetail, and the novel ends with a double marriage. *Sense and Sensibility* published in 1797 also ends with a double marriage, and Marianne's husband closely resembles Elinor in attitude and temperament. Even more important for Austen is the idea that conjugal love should be patterned after fraternal love, that the perfect marriage should be like the ideal sibling relationship with its mutual trust and understanding, love and esteem, respect and loyalty. Moreover, she often seems to suggest that the partners should not only come from the same class but also, if possible, from the same family.

If the sibling relationships dictate the dramatic structure of Austen's works, so too the structure reveals Austen's attitude toward the importance of the brotherly and sisterly relationship and her vision on the role of the family in society. In *Pride and Prejudice*, Elizabeth and Jane end up living in neighboring shires. In *Sense and Sensibility* published in 1797, Elinor and Marianne settle within sight of one another on the same estate. In *Northanger Abbey*, Catherine marries Henry Tilney and builds a strong relationship with his sister. It is possible that two brothers will marry two sisters at the conclusion. In *Mansfield Park* published in 1814, Fanny

marries Edmund, and the reformed brother Tom seems likely to marry Fanny's sister, Susan. In *Emma* published in 1816, two brothers, George and John knightly, marry two sisters Emma and Isabella. All of the Austen's novels conclude with a wedding, the heroine marries the hero, and they embark in life together. However, in many of the novels, the heroine forms the equality significant bond with a sister or future sister-in-law. That is to say, those sisters with strong bond, Elizabeth and Jane, Elinor and Marianne, Catherine and Eleanor, Fanny and Susan owe their moral, social and emotional education to their sisters in some ways even more than to their suitors or husbands. The crucial stage in the lives of these sisters and that of the initiation or apprenticeship to adulthood.

All of Austen's novels follow the pattern of the woman, and sisters often play a significant part in each other's spiritual and moral development. Elizabeth educates Jane, Elinor guides Marianne, Eleanor helps to shape Catherine's mind, and Fanny refines Susan's understanding the suitor contributes to the teaching of the heroine, but his instruction is always supplemented by the education sister provides. In short, the ties of marriage in *Pride and Prejudice*; *Sense and Sensibility* and *Northanger Abbey* are inextricably bound up with the ties between sisters.

1-2- Methodology

The study is achieved through readings of printed books and websites about "*Love and social norms as illustrated in JANE Austen's Pride and Prejudice*". But before starting the reading, I stick to my topic. During my research or readings, I discover all kinds of interesting facts about related topics. But I stick to my topic in writing, and avoid throwing in random factoids, regardless of how interesting they may seem. Otherwise, the essay becomes too long and disjointed. It can be frustrating to not use what seems to be a good bit of information, but unless I can work it into my topic well, I will have to learn to set such things aside. Now that I

have my topic and have selected a good set of sources, it's time to read and make note.

Some sources have only selected paragraphs, pages or chapters that fit my topic, so I manage my time by reading the relevant information first. If my personal interest in the topic leads me to read more lately, that is great, but getting my thesis ready on time is important. With printed books, I read many of them and their summaries. Next, I look for key items related to my topic, that is to say: *"Love and social norms as illustrated in **JANE Austen's** Pride and Prejudice"*.

As I read, I write the useful information I discover down (or type it if I am using a computer or websites) in my notes as completely as possible. For every note that I write from a book or a source, I remember to include where I found the information so I can quote it properly later. Because it's incredibly frustrating to be halfway through writing an essay, and want to make use of quotation I have noted, but I cannot because I didn't write down where I got it from. I either have to flip through all the sources looking for it, or I cannot use it to avoid to be accused of plagiarism. A good way to make life easier for keeping track of which note is from what source is to keep a separate sheet (or set of sheets) or computer, websites document for each source and write out the bibliography at the top of sheet or source.

Then, I include the page number beside each note. I also use quotation marks for quotations to distinguish them from my own ideas. While I am researching, reading and making notes, if a brilliant way to present something in my research work occurs to me, I write it down. For instance, I may suddenly think of a wonderful opening or closing sentence, or a great way to phrase a particular element. I put it down in the note immediately before I forget it. I can always choose not to it later. As the study is related to Literature, I use the qualitative approach to achieve it. There is no universal definition of qualitative approach.

The qualitative approach is a general way of thinking about conducting qualitative research. The qualitative research is data that is usually not in the form of numbers. It's typically interested in the way people experience, perceive, understand and interpret their lives and the nature, or reality of the world around them. Factors that influence or impacts upon people's lives are also important components of qualitative research, for example love, marriage, culture, tradition, class, wealth and social norms. The qualitative approach describes, either explicitly or implicitly, the purpose of the qualitative research, the role of the researchers, the stages of research, and the method of data analysis.

Chapter Two Background to the Study

2-1- Biography of Jane Austen (1775-1817)

Jane Austen was born on December 16, 1775, at Steventon rectory in Hampshire, England. Her father, Reverend George Austen (1731-1805) was the rector at Steventon and had married Cassandra Leigh Austen (1739-1827), a daughter of a patrician family, in 1764. Austen was the youngest daughter of the large, closely-knit family, with six brothers and one sister. Austen was particularly close to her sister, Cassandra, and her brother, Henry, who became his sister's literary agent. When Austen was eight years old, she and Cassandra were sent to Oxford and then Southampton to be educated. After an outbreak of typhus at the school, during which Jane nearly died, both girls returned home to continue their education. From 1785 to 1786, Austen and her sister attended the Reading Ladies Boarding School, where they studied French, spelling, needlework, music, and dancing.

Forced to return home for economic reasons, Austen continued to develop her literary mind under the guidance of her father, who maintained a large library and indulged his daughters with materials for writing and drawing. Beginning in her ten years, Austen wrote poems, stories, and comic pieces for the amusement of her family. She compiled several of the pieces written between 1787 and 1793 into three bound notebooks, which are now referred to as Austen's "*Juvenalia*." Austen was also exposed to drama and comedy; the younger children in the family often staged theatrical productions at home. As she continued her experiments in writing, Austen became adept at parodying the sentimental and Gothic style of eighteenth-century novels. Among her early works, one finds a novel with a deliberately misspelled title, "*Love and Friendships*," a satirical "*History of England*," and the epistolary work, "*Lady Susan*." During this time,

Austen also became to sketch out ideas for the novel that would later become "*Sense and Sensibility*."

In 1795, Austen met Tom Lefroy, the nephew of their neighbors at Steventon. According to her letters to Cassandra, Austen spent a great deal of time with Tom Lefroy and may have had romantic feelings for him. Unfortunately, a marriage between the two was impractical, and LeFroy's family soon sent him away. After her brief romance with Lefroy, Austen began work on a second novel called "*First Impressions*," which would later become "*Pride and Prejudice*." Austen then began a serious revision of her the initial sketches for "*Sense and Sensibility*," as well as working on a satire on the Gothic literary genre called "*Northanger Abbey*." The Austen family resided at Steventon until 1801, when Reverend Austen announced his retirement from the ministry and moved the family to Bath. Austen's mixed feelings about moving from her childhood home was clear by her sudden lack of productivity as a writer: during her time at Bath, she only made minimal revisions to the draft of "*Northanger Abbey*" and started (and abandoned) a fourth novel. While in Bath, Austen also received her only marriage proposal: from Harris Bigg-Wither, the younger brother of family friends and an Oxford graduate six years her junior.

Although he was apparently unremarkable both physically and intellectually, his considerable fortune made him an attractive bachelor. Austen accepted initially, but changed her mind the following day and rescinded her promise. For Austen, turning down the marriage proposal was a significant decision, since marriage would have freed her from the embarrassing situation of being dependent on her family. The marriage would also have provided a home for Cassandra and could even have helped her brothers in their efforts to secure better careers.

2-2- **Bibliography**

After her father's death in 1805, Austen and her mother and sister were left in an unstable financial position and had to move in with her brother Francis. In 1809, they moved to a cottage at Chawton, where her wealthy brother Edward had an estate. Life in Chawton was much quieter than it had been in Bath, which gave Austen the opportunity to write more often. While living at Chawton, Austen also saw the anonymous publication of four of her novels: *"Sense and Sensibility"* in 1811, *"Pride and Prejudice"* in 1813, *"Mansfield Park"* in 1814, and *"Emma"* in 1815. In July 1816, Austen completed the first draft of her next novel, titled *"The Elliots,"* which would later be published as *"Persuasion."* In early 1816, Austen suffered an onset of illness that culminated in her death the following year. Most biographers believe that she suffered from Addison's disease. Despite her illness, Austen continued to work on her writing, revising the ending to *"The Elliots"* and starting work on *"Sandition."* She died on July 8, 1817, leaving *"Sandition"* unfinished, and was buried at the city's famous cathedral. The two novels *"Northanger Abbey"* and *"Persuasion"* were published posthumously as a set in 1817.

Austen's novel, focusing on courtship and marriage, remain well-known for their satiric depictions of English society and the manners of the era. Her insights into the lives of women during the late eighteenth century and the early nineteenth century Regency period –in addition to her ability to handle form, satire, and irony have made her one of the most studied and influential novelists of her time. In 1833, publisher Richard Bentley published the first collected edition of Austen's novels; since then, her works have been continually in print. As with many great authors, however, Austen's death preceded her renown. Although her novels were fashionable with prominent members of British society, including Princess Charlotte, the daughter of the Prince Regent, they were largely ignored by critics. In the twentieth century, Austen's novels began to attract attention from literary

scholars who approached the texts as serious academic studies. There have been more than 200 literary adaptations of Austen's works in the twentieth century, as well as numerous film versions.

2-3- Social norms in 19th-century in England

Pride and Prejudice was set in 1796 and was published in 1813. The England during this period was far more class conscious. The main characters in this novel come from a class called gentry; this is the class above the emerging professional class and below aristocracy. In this period of time women were not allowed to work. However they could become governesses. They could not inherit wealth from their father, and the Bennet sisters were no exception therefore Mr. Collins was their heir to Mr. Bennet's property. It takes a considerable leap of the imagination for a woman of the 21st century to realize what her life would have been like had she been born 150 years ago. We take for granted nowadays that almost any woman can have a career if she applies herself. We take for granted that woman can choose whether or not to marry, and whether or not to have children, and how many. Women of the 19th century had no such choice. Most lived in a state little better than slavery. They had little choice but to obey men, because in most cases men held all the resources and women had no independent means of subsistence. A wealthy widow or spinster was a lucky exception.

A woman announcing her intention to remain single would attract social disapproval and pity. She could not have children or cohabit with a man: the social penalties were simply too high. Nor could she follow a profession; since they were all closed to woman. Girls received less education than boys, were barred from universities, and could obtain only low-paid jobs. Women's sole

purpose was to marry and to reproduce. At mid-century women outnumbered men by 360,000 and thirty PercentOfWomen20Wereunmarried. Most women had little choice but to marry and upon doing so, everything they owned, inherited and earned automatically belonged to their husbands. This meant that if an offence or felony was committed against her, only her husband could prosecute. Furthermore, rights to the woman personally that is, access to her body-were his. Not only was this assured by law, but the woman herself agreed to it verbally: written into the marriage ceremony was a vow to obey her husband, which every woman had to swear before God as well as earthly witnesses.

Not until the late 20th century did women obtain the right to omit that promise from their wedding vows. In 1890, Florence Fenwick Miller (1854-1935), one of the first women to qualify in medicine, described woman's position succinctly: "under exclusively men-made laws women have been reduced to the most abject condition of legal slavery in which it's possible for human being to be held... under the arbitrary domination of another's will, and dependent for decent treatment exclusively on the goodness of heart of the individual master (from a speech to the National Liberal Club).

Every man had the right to force his wife into sex and childbirth. He could take her children without reason and send them to raise elsewhere. He could spend his wife's inheritance on a mistress or on prostitutes. Sometimes, somewhere, all these things-and a great many more-happened. To give but on example, Susannah Palmer escaped from her adulterous husband in 1869 after suffering many years of brutal beatings, and made a new life. She worked, saved, and created a new home for her children. Her husband found her, stripped her of all her possessions and left her destitute, with the blessing of the law. In a fury she stabbed him, and was immediately prosecuted. If a woman was unhappy with her

situation there was, almost without exception, nothing she could do about it. Except in extremely rare cases, a woman could not obtain a divorce and, until 1891, if she ran away from an intolerable marriage the police could capture and return her, and her husband could imprison her. All this was sanctioned by church, law, custom, history, and approved of by society in general. Nor was it the result of ancient, outdated laws: the new divorce act restated the moral inequality.

Mere adultery was not grounds for a woman to divorce a man; however, it was sufficient grounds for a man to divorce his wife. Signs of rebellion were swiftly crushed by fathers, husbands, even brothers. Judge William Blackstone had announced that husbands could administer moderate correction to disobedient wives. Among the rich, family wealth automatically passed down the male line; if a daughter got anything it was a small percentage. Only if she had no brothers, came from a very wealthy family, and remained unmarried, could a woman become independent. A very wealthy woman might make a premarital agreement for her wealth to be held in a trust fund, but in the majority of cases marriage stripped a woman of all her assets and handed them to her husband. Barred from all well-paid work women were forced into a very small range of occupations. Half were in domestic service and most of the rest were unskilled factory hands or agricultural laborers. Almost the only skilled work for women was in the bespoke clothing trade, but even that was ill-paid and low-status. Seamstresses became a cause célèbre in the 1840s.

Prostitution was rife in Victorian England; the majority being casual resorted to only when there was no alternative. Without the safety-net of a welfare system and with all wealth in the hands of men, it was to individual men that women were forced to turn and to sell themselves when desperate for

subsistence. Women's clothing symbolized their constricted lives. Tight lacing into corsets and cumbersome multiple layers of skirts which dragged on the ground impeded women's freedom of movement. During the early to mid-nineteenth century the social order was being challenged and a new philosophy was emerging, imbued with ideals of liberty, personal freedom, and legal reform. Black slavery was been abolished, and middle class men demanded that the right to vote be given to them and not just to a new thousand landed gentry. It was in the climate that women like Barbara Leigh Smith began to think that women, too, deserved to be emancipated from their enslaved status.

Chapter Three: Pride and Prejudice as social satire and love story

3-1- Characterization

Elizabeth Bennet

The protagonist of the novel and the second oldest of five sisters, Elizabeth is lively, quick-witted, sharp-tongued, bold and intelligent. Elizabeth is good-looking, and is especially distinguished by her fine eyes. The importance of her eyes may be symbolic of her abilities of perception. She has pride in her abilities to perceive the truth of situations and of people's characters. However, her perceptive abilities fail her frequently because she is influenced by vanity and judges people rashly. By the end of the novel she overcomes her prejudice through her dealings with Darcy. Elizabeth is concerned with propriety, good-manners, and virtue, but is not impressed by mere wealth or titles.

Mr. Darcy

An extremely wealthy aristocrat, Darcy is proud, haughty and extremely conscious of class differences at the beginning of the novel. He does, however, have a strong sense of honor and virtue. Elizabeth's rebukes after his first proposal to her help him to recognize his faults of pride and social prejudice. It is, in fact, precisely because Elizabeth is not so awed by his high social status as to be afraid to criticize his character that he is attracted to her. The self-knowledge acquired from Elizabeth's rebukes and the desire to win Elizabeth's love spur him to change and judge people more by their character than by their social class.

Jane Bennet

Jane is the oldest in the family. Beautiful, good-tempered, sweet, amiable, humble and selfless, Jane is universally well-liked. She refuses to judge anyone badly, always making excuses for people when Elizabeth brings their faults to her

attention. Her tendency to give people the benefit of the doubt leads her to be hurt by insincere friends such as Caroline Bingley, although in the end her judgments seem to be more accurate than Elizabeth's overall and to do her much less harm. Jane is a static character as she is basically a model of virtue from the beginning, there is no room for her to develop in the novel.

Charles Bingley

Mr. Bingley, much like Jane, is an amiable and good-tempered person. He is not overly concerned with class differences, and Jane's poor family connections are not a serious deterrent to his attachment to her. Bingley is very modest and easily swayed by the advice of his friends, as seen in his decision not to propose to Jane as a result of Darcy's belief that Jane is not really attached to him. Also like Jane, Bingley lacks serious character faults and is thus static throughout the novel. His character and his love for Jane remain constant; the only thing that changes is the advice of Darcy, which leads him not to propose to Jane in the beginning of the novel but to propose to her in the end.

Mr. Wickham

An officer in the regiment stationed at Meryton, Wickham is quickly judged to be a perfectly good and amiable man because of his friendliness and the ease of his manners. He initially shows a preference for Elizabeth, and she is pleased by his attentions and inclined to believe his story about Darcy. Yet while Wickham has the appearance of goodness and virtue, this appearance is deceptive. His true nature begins to show itself through his attachment to Miss King for purely mercenary purposes and then through Darcy's exposition of his past and through his elopement with Lydia, deceiving her to believe that he intends to marry her.

Mrs. Bennet

Mrs. Bennet is a foolish and frivolous woman. She lacks all sense of propriety and virtue and has no concern for the moral or intellectual education of her daughters. From the beginning of the novel her sole obsession is to marry off her daughters. She is perfectly happy with Lydia's marriage, and never once censures her daughter for her shameful conduct or for the worry she has caused her family. Her impropriety is a constant source of mortification for the Elizabeth, and the inane nature of her conversation makes her society so difficult to bear that even Jane and Bingley decide to move out of the neighborhood a year after they are married.

Mr. Bennet

An intelligent man with good sense, Mr. Bennet made the mistake of marrying a foolish woman. He takes refuge in his books and seems to want nothing more than to be bothered as little as possible by his family. His indolence leads to the neglect of the education of daughters. Even when Elizabeth warns him not to allow Lydia to go to Brighton because of the moral danger of the situation, he does not listen to her because he does not want to be bothered with Lydia's complaints.

Lydia Bennet

The youngest of the Bennet sisters, Lydia is foolish and flirtatious, given up to indolence and the gratification of every whim. She is the favorite of Mrs. Bennet,

because the two have such similar characters. Lydia is constantly obsessed with the officers in the regiment, and sees no purpose to life beyond entertainment and diversion. She lacks any sense of virtue, propriety or good-judgment, as seen in her elopement with Wickham and her complete lack of remorse afterward.

Catherine (Kitty) Bennet

Kitty seems to have little personality of her own, but simply to act as a shadow to Lydia, following Lydia's lead in whatever she does. The end of the novel provides hope that Lydia's character will improve by being removed from the society of Lydia and her mother and being taken care of primarily by Jane and Elizabeth.

Mary Bennet

The third oldest of the Bennet sisters, Mary is strangely solemn and pedantic. She dislikes going out into society, and prefers to spend her time studying. In conversation, Mary is constantly moralizing or trying to make profound observations about human nature and life in general.

Mr. Collins

A clergyman and an extremely comical character because of his mix of obsequiousness and pride, Mr. Collins is fond of making long and silly speeches and stating formalities which have absolutely no meaning in themselves. For Mr. Collins, speech is not a means to communicate truth but a means to say what he thinks the people around him want to hear or what will make the people around him think well of him. He is in line to inherit Longbourn once Mr. Bennet dies, and wants to marry one of the Miss Bennets to lessen the burden of the entailment. When Elizabeth refuses him, he considers his duty discharged and transfers his affections to Charlotte Lucas.

Charlotte Lucas

Charlotte acts as a foil to Elizabeth by embodying the opposite view of marriage. Charlotte makes no attempt to find a husband whom she loves and esteems, but simply gives in to the necessity of acquiring financial security through marriage. She deals as well with Mr. Collins as is possible, but Elizabeth doubts their long-term happiness.

Sir William Lucas

A pleasant but not overly deep or intellectual man, he is a friend of the Bennet family. He is civil but his conversation is basically limited to empty observations and descriptions of his presentation and knighthood. Elizabeth accompanies him and his younger daughter Maria to visit Charlotte.

Mrs. Gardiner

An intelligent, caring and sensible woman, Mrs. Gardiner acts as mother to Elizabeth and Jane, filling in for the inadequacy of Mrs. Bennet. She brings Jane to London with her in order to help cheer her up when she is heartbroken because of Bingley's failure to return to Netherfield, and she advises Elizabeth to avoid encouraging Wickham's affections. She attempts to help Lydia see why her elopement with Wickham was wrong, but Lydia is completely inattentive.

Mr. Gardiner

Mr. Gardiner is a merchant, and is an upright and intelligent man. The fact that he earns his money by working puts him in a lower social class than those who simply live off the interest of their land. Like his wife, Mr. Gardiner is one of those people whom Austen portrays as a natural aristocrat, and whom Darcy comes to like after overcoming his class prejudice.

Caroline Bingley

Miss Bingley is a superficial and selfish. She has all of Darcy's class prejudice but none of his honor and virtue. Throughout the novel she panders to Darcy in an attempt to win his affections, but to no avail. She pretends to be a genuine friend to Jane but is extremely rude to her when she comes to London. She also tries to prevent the marriage of Jane and Bingley and to prevent Darcy's attachment to Elizabeth by constantly ridiculing the poor manners of Elizabeth's mother and younger sisters.

Mrs. Hurst

Bingley's other sister, Mrs. Hurst's character basically matches that of her sister Caroline. She seems to have no real affection or esteem for her husband.

Mr. Hurst

An indolent man, he does almost nothing but eat and entertain himself by playing cards. He never says an intelligent word in the entire novel, and seems to be concerned only with the quality of the food.

Georgiana Darcy

Georgiana is Darcy's sister and is ten years his junior. She is quiet and shy but amiable and good-natured. She has great reverence and affection for her brother. She and Elizabeth get along well and become good friends after Elizabeth's marriage to Darcy. Bingley's sisters had hoped that Bingley would marry Georgiana, thus uniting the fortunes of the two families.

Lady Catherine de Bourgh

Lady Catherine is extremely wealthy and likes to let others know of their inferiority to her. She loves to give people advice about how to conduct their lives down to the minutest details, loves to hear flattery from others and hates to be contradicted. Extremely conscious of class differences, she attempts to prevent Darcy from marrying Elizabeth but actually unwittingly gives him the courage to propose a second time.

Colonel Fitzwilliam

A cousin of Mr. Darcy and a pleasant and amiable gentleman, he is a companion to Elizabeth during her stay with the Collinses. Colonel Fitzwilliam tells Elizabeth that he must marry someone with a large fortune because he is the second son, the first case in the novel where a man's marriage choices are constrained by financial need.

3-2- Love and Social norms in Pride and Prejudice

3-2-1- Prejudice

Pride and prejudice are intimately related in the novel. As critic A. Walton Litz comments, in *Pride and Prejudice* one cannot equate Darcy with Pride, or Elizabeth with Prejudice; Darcy's pride of place is founded on social prejudice, while Elizabeth's initial prejudice against him is rooted in pride of her own quick perceptions. Darcy, having been brought up in such a way that he began to scorn all those outside his own social circle, must overcome his prejudice in order to see that Elizabeth would be a good wife for him and to win Elizabeth's heart. The overcoming of his prejudice is demonstrated when he treats the Gardiners with great civility. The Gardiners are a much lower class than Darcy, because Mr. Darcy is a lawyer and must practice a trade to earn a living, rather than living off of the interest of an estate as gentlemen do. From the beginning of the novel Elizabeth prides herself on her keen ability for perception. Yet this supposed ability is often lacking, as in Elizabeth's judgments of Darcy and Wickham.

3-2-2- Pride

As said in the words of Mary at the beginning of the novel, "*human nature is particularly prone to pride*". In the novel, pride prevents the characters from seeing the truth of a situation and from achieving happiness in life. Pride is one of the main barriers that create an obstacle to Elizabeth and Darcy's marriage. Darcy's pride in his position in society leads him initially to scorn anyone outside of his own social circle. Elizabeth's vanity clouds her judgment, making her prone to

think ill of Darcy and to think well of Wickham. In the end, Elizabeth's rebukes of Darcy help him to realize his fault and to change accordingly, as demonstrated in his genuinely friendly treatment of the Gardiners, whom he previously would have scorned because of their low social class. Darcy's letter shows Elizabeth that her judgments were wrong and she realizes that they were based on vanity, not on reason.

3-3- Culture and Tradition in Pride and Prejudice

3-3-1- Culture

We see that Miss Bingley, representing the society as a whole, is very upset with the way Elizabeth broke tradition to visit a sick sister at Miss Bingley's residence. I believe Miss Bingley is more upset that Elizabeth walked the whole way, than the actual visit. Even though, Jane Austen tries to break social traditions within the story for the sake of women's freedom to express themselves, she at the end fumble and surrender. She fought a good fight, but she did not have the confidence within herself and with her writing gifts to challenge social norms. At the end, we see Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy married. We hope they married for love, but still money was the main factor for their union. Without money, do you think Mrs. Bennet would approve of their union? I think not. Like I stated before, Mrs. Bennet's main purpose is marry her daughters off to the highest bidder. Love does not come into play, when social status is most important in everyone's minds. Considerations of class are omnipresent in the novel. The novel does not put forth an egalitarian ideology or call for the leveling of all social classes, yet it

does criticize an over-emphasis on class. Darcy's inordinate pride is based on his extreme class-consciousness.

Yet eventually he sees that factors other than wealth determine who truly belongs in the aristocracy. While those such as Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst, who are born into the aristocracy, are idle, mean-spirited and annoying, Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner are not members of the aristocracy in terms of wealth or birth but are natural aristocrats by virtue of their intelligence, good-breeding and virtue. The comic formality of Mr. Collins and his obsequious relationship with Lady Catherine serve as a satire class consciousness and social formalities. In the end, the verdict on class differences is moderate. As critic Samuel Klinger notes, It the conclusion of the novel makes it clear that Elizabeth accepts class relationships as valid, it becomes equally clear that Darcy, through Elizabeth's genius for treating all people with respect for their natural dignity, is reminded that institutions are not an end in themselves but are intended to serve the end of human happiness.

The novel portrays a world in which society takes an interest in the private virtue of its members. When Lydia elopes with Wickham, therefore, it is scandal to the whole society and an injury to entire Bennet family. Darcy considers his failure to expose the wickedness of Wickham's character to be a breach of his social duty because if Wickham's true character had been known others would not have been so easily deceived by him. While Austen is critical of society's ability to judge properly, as demonstrated especially in their judgments of Wickham and Darcy, she does believe that society has a crucial role in promoting virtue. Austen has a profound sense that individuals are social beings and that their happiness is found through relationships with others. According to critic Richard Simpson, Austen has a thorough consciousness that man is a social being, and that apart from society there is not even the individual.

3-3-2-Tradition

In *Pride and Prejudice*, for example, we see that Jane Austen tries to denounce the importance in following social traditions for women. *"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife"* . From this quote, I get the sense, that Jane Austen personally detests the social importance to marry into wealth instead of love. She uses characters like Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth as combatants in the story, as well as, in real life, against social limitations for personal pursuit of happiness within the society. I believe characters like Charlotte and Mrs. Bennet are the social voices in the story, because it reminds women their proper place within the society. Quoted by Charlotte to Elizabeth: *"Happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance... Jane should therefore make . . . When she is secure of him, there will be leisure for falling in love as much as she chooses."* Charlotte's quote echoes the social views of society about marriage for women. In Jane Austen's time, women were considered property to be bought and sold to the highest bidder. When it comes to proposal of marriage, women did not have the luxury to marry for love.

Stated by Mrs. Bennet: *"The business of her life was to get her daughters married...A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!"*, We see, that Mrs. Bennet has no motherly concerns for her daughter's feelings, when she is contemplating marrying her daughters into wealth. She believes that money is the only answer for ensuring her daughter's happiness. Even though Mr. Darcy is responding to Miss Bingley's statement, I believe he is voicing Jane Austen's resentment toward the role for women when it comes to marriage. According to Mr. Darcy: *"...A lady's imagination is very rapid; it jumps from admiration to love, from love to matrimony in a moment"*

In a way, she is astonished how women's minds work when simple emotions are misunderstood for love when it comes to [relationships](#) or marriage. Besides marriage, Jane Austen uses Elizabeth to combat the women views on social status. According to Miss Bingley: "*To walk three miles, or four miles, or five miles, or whatever it is, above her ankles in dirt, and alone, quite alone! What could she mean by it? It seems to me to, a most country town indifference to decorum*". We see that Miss Bingley, representing the society as a whole, is very upset with the way Elizabeth broke tradition to visit a sick sister at Miss Bingley's residence. I believe Miss Bingley is more upset that Elizabeth walked the whole way, then the actual visit.

Chapter Four: Love affairs in *Pride and Prejudice*

4-1- Love

Pride and Prejudice contains one of the most cherished love stories in English literature: the courtship between Darcy and Elizabeth. As in any good love story, the lovers must elude and overcome numerous stumbling blocks, beginning with the tensions caused by the lovers' own personal qualities. Elizabeth's pride makes her misjudge Darcy on the basis of a poor first impression, while Darcy's prejudice against Elizabeth's poor social standing blinds him, for a time, to her many virtues. (Of course, one could also say that Elizabeth is guilty of prejudice and Darcy of pride. The title cuts both ways.) Austen, meanwhile, poses countless smaller obstacles to the realization of the love between Elizabeth and Darcy, including Lady Catherine's attempt to control her nephew, Miss Bingley's snobbery, Mrs. Bennet's idiocy, and Wickham's deceit. In each case, anxieties about social connections, or the desire for better social connections, interfere with the workings of love. Darcy and Elizabeth's realization of a mutual and tender love seems to imply that Austen views love as something independent of these social forces, as something that can be captured if only an individual is able to escape the warping effects of hierarchical society.

Austen does sound some more realist (or, one could say, cynical) notes about love, using the character of Charlotte Lucas, who marries the buffoon Mr. Collins for his money, to demonstrate that the heart does not always dictate marriage. Yet with her central characters, Austen suggests that true love is a force separate from society and one that can conquer even the most difficult of circumstances. "It has been coming on so gradually, that I hardly know when it began, but I believe I must date it from my first seeing his beautiful grounds at Pemberly." the

above lines occur in *Pride and Prejudice* written by Jane Austen in 1812-13. Reflective of Elizabeth's perception of her attraction and affections towards Mr. Darcy, the dialogue is said by her. As David Spring analyses in his essay, the Bennets belong to the class of landed gentry whereas Mr. Darcy belonged to the aristocratic landowners. It would perhaps be unfair to judge Elizabeth harshly due to this statement of hers because she believed in a "marriage of true affection". When she reached Pemberly, she realized that Mr. Darcy was not the "*most disagreeable man*"

She earlier thought him to be, she regretted the fact that she could have been the mistress of that place but soon her regret turned into normalcy when she counter opined that perhaps her favorite relatives (the Gardiners) could not have visited her frequently if that had been the case. The Elizabeth-Darcy liaison in the novel is a perfect example of coming together of complementary personalities and forming a union built on the solid foundations of trust, respect and gratitude. Richard Simpson comments "*Austen exhibits no ideal characters, no perfect virtue, no perfect vice.*" and this is exemplified by the protagonists here. According to Marilyn Butler, Elizabeth and Darcy are presented as polar opposites; his hauteur seems as different as possible from Elizabeth's informality. But the story cannot be shunned just as the meeting and attraction of opposites, the relationship is a complex one per se. It all began when Darcy accompanied his friend, Mr. Bingley to Netherfields and presented himself to be a "*cold, proud and fastidious*" man, wounded Elizabeth's pride and led her to form a strong prejudice against him. The subsequent meetings continued in the same manner till Darcy realized his ardent love for her, proposed to her and was rejected.

Austen's narrative does not represent the stereotypical romances toying with the ideas of "*eyes meeting, sparks flying*", love at first sight or chance encounters. What

she portrays is actually 'hate at first sight' points' butler, but it is essentially the same. the first proposal that Mr. Darcy makes is drab and decorated with a sense of pride and condescension, though it is not rehearsed in the front of the mirror (like Mr. Collins), nor does it unnecessarily pressurize her to give an affirmation. It is not clearly depictive of his feelings towards her and how and what about her did he love. What pride and prejudice offers in its conclusion is a 'bilateral disarmament' between the two analyses Susan Fraiman, Elizabeth gives up her prejudice and Darcy relinquishes his pride. Darcy woos away not Elizabeth's prejudice but her judgment entire. The intricacies woven in this association are understandable as they spell out the underlying theme in the novel that "*first impressions can be deceptive*". It takes them the entire length of the novel to understand each other's disposition and realize their love for each other.

As Elizabeth clearly points out the reasons for Darcy's interest held captive by her as her behavior to him being always uncivil, her impertinence and liveliness of character. Since Mr. Darcy was sick of seeing civility, officiousness and deference in all the women of his rank. He was attracted to her by the sharpness of thought, free and opinionated assertions and sensibility which she exuded in her judgments. In this sense, she can rightfully be compared to Maria Edge in "*The Life and Options of Tristram Shandy*" written by Lawrence Sterne whereas Elizabeth on the other hand admired Darcy as a person filtered through the opinion of Mrs. Reynolds towards and her own observations of him, the analysis of his nature. More than sense and sensibility, pride and prejudice move from an initial condition of potential social fragmentation to a resolution in which the grounds of society are reconstituted as the principal characters come together in marriage, comments Alistair Duckworth. The match comes as a shock to the parents. Mr. and Mrs. Bennet as well as to Jane. The father, in concern for his 'favorite child'

remarks upon the prime parameter for her to be happy, to respect her partner and engage with him in a 'marriage of true minds'.

The mother who hates him at first sight (fallible impressions) immediately changes her stand when she realizes his grandeur and wealth which made her pleased that she got 'distracted' not knowing how to handle her pleasure. Jane was doubtful as well as she knew the extent of her sisters dislike towards him to which Elizabeth answered, "*perhaps I did not always love him so well as I do now*", a tangible explanation to quieted her mind. The major opposition to this association was Lady Catherine de Bourgh who specially came down to Longbourn to give Elizabeth a piece of her mind. She thought of Darcy as a potential groom for her own daughter and did everything she could to dissuade Elizabeth from setting her heart on him. But Elizabeth replied in her own frankness and impropriety of tone which was an important triggering point in this match. Mr. Bingley, Darcy's closest friend expressed that 'nothing to give him more delight' but it was something he talked of as impossible. This was a popular notion about the couple which was harbored by people in their close connections as well as earlier in their minds as well. There existed a sort 'gulf impassable' between them and traversing it was not an easy thing for either of them.

Elizabeth's mind moved from feelings scarcely to be defined to feelings yet more acutely painful and finally to a perturbed state of mind comments Susan Morgan. Understanding settled gradually with depth of feeling. For Mr. Darcy, it is to give up his 'masculinity complex' (a term coined by Susan Fraiman) and move from feelings clouding his mind for a while, all the realization and finally to consideration of them and acknowledgement of them as his own, true sentiments. The couple, per se, can be contrasted with Jane Bingley, as they are showcased as being mirror images of one another whose love has been

"romantically arranged for", can be called at first meeting and who share genuine likeness for each other but are separated due to human and natural constraints of time and space. Also Lydia and Wickham whose marriage is just one of convenience and who do not have affection but their relationship is built on passion and intense feelings of one another, a kind of immature and inefficient match. The true heroes of the story Elizabeth and Darcy whose love surpasses familial authority, societal restraint and conventions of the time emerges a typical 'fairy-tale' ending.

Austen admits that her text gives partial truths both in terms of being absolute and that in character but life is bordered around the 'virtue of happiness'. the happiness which is sought by all her heroines who finally 'unite' which is sought by all her heroines who finally 'unite' which is sought by all her heroines who finally 'unite' with the prince charming after having chosen him and end decided the course of her future. To summarize, Susan Fraiman comments on this affair, "the novels wishful and aesthetically satisfying romantic conclusion fudges the ideological contradictions uncovered earlier between the individualistic perspective inherent in the bourgeois value system and the authoritarian hierarchy retained from the traditional, paternalistic society. Then she talks about the aspect of marriage present in *Pride and Prejudice*. There are lots of aspects of marriages in the novel. There are marriage of love, convenience, physical attraction and mercenary. The marriage between Mr. Wickham and Lydia is partly due to physical attraction and mercenary, the marriage between Elizabeth and Darcy and Jane and Mr. Bingley are due to love, the marriage between Mr. Collins and Charlotte Lucas is based on convenience and the marriage between Mr. and Mrs. Bennet is also due to physical attraction.

The marriage between Mr. and Mrs. Bennet was based on physical attraction. We can see that they do not understand each other. There is a contrast between both of their characters. Mr. Bennet is intellectual and likes to spend time reading in the library while Mrs. Bennet is loud, hasty and likes to spend her time gossiping and trying to find husbands for her daughters. Mr. Bennet enjoys mocking his wife. *"you are mistaken, my dear. I have a high respect for your nerves. They are my old friends. I have been listening to news of them for the last 20 years"*. They also have different opinions and ideas of their daughter's future. *"An unhappy choice is before you, Elizabeth. From this day you will be a stranger to one of your parents. Your mother will never see you again if you do not marry Mr. Collins, and I will never see you again if you do"*. We can tell that this marriage was based on physical attraction because Mr. Bennet advised his daughter not to make the same mistake that he did by marrying Mrs. Bennet. He is in a way hinting that he cannot respect his wife. Mrs. Bennet is unaware of this as she does not know her husband very well. Her character is very similar to the character of Lydia. Both like officers and both act loud and hastily.

Relationship between Lydia and Mr. Wickham is partly based on physical attraction and partly mercenary. Mr. Wickham's character is very manipulative and scheming. Lydia's character is very loud, silly and childish. Mr. Wickham's aim is to gain money. He had planned to run away with Miss Darcy in order to get her money. The only reason that he agreed to marry Lydia was because Mr. Darcy agreed to pay all of his debt and pay him thousands of pounds. We can see that Mr. Wickham has no feelings for Lydia. *"Wickham's love for Lydia was just what Elizabeth had expected it to be no equal to Lydia for him"*¹. We could see that they were not very compatible. Lydia married Wickham because she was attracted to him.

¹Jane Austen. *Pride and Prejudice*. Pearson Education Ltd: P. 102

She wanted to marry an officer and be the first one married out of her sisters. "Ah, Jane, I take your place now and you must go lower, because I am a married woman". She is also trying to imply to her sisters that her status in the family is higher as she is the first one to be married. The marriage between Mr. Collins and Charlotte Lucas's is based on convenience. Mr. Collins's character is very arrogant and pompous. He is obsessed with Lydia Catherine de Bourgh. He never tires of praising her. Charlotte Lucas's character is very plain.

Lady Catherine de Bourgh is one of reasons of this marriage. Lady Catherine de Bourgh had advised him to get married. Mr. Collins has initially intended to marry one of his cousins however he was refused and married Charlotte instead. The reason why Charlotte married him was for convenience. However we see the hostility between them. Charlotte is sometimes embarrassed by Mr. Collins. We can see that the marriage is not due to attraction as Charlotte encourages Mr. Collins to work in the garden in the hope that he would lose weight and stay away from her.

The marriage between Jane and Mr. Bingley was based on love. Mr. Bingley character was friendly and gentleman like Jane's character was also friendly and forgiving. Both of them were very similar and very compatible. From the beginning of the novel we can see the attraction and love between them. Jane describes Mr. Bingley. There was an instant connection as in the ball Mr. Bingley danced with her and described her as "... The most beautiful creature that I ever saw."² We could see that they cared each other, when Jane was ill Mr. Bingley repeatedly checked how she was and tried to make her feel better. The marriage between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy also is based on love. Elizabeth's character is very intellectual, she has a bit of pride and she is very witty.

²Jane Austen. *Pride and Prejudice*. Pearson Education Ltd: P.7

"..... *he is a gentleman, and I am a gentleman's daughter...*". Mr. Darcy's character is very reserved; he does not like to socialize with people and also had a strong sense of pride. At first Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy did not like each other. Elizabeth thought of Darcy as rude and arrogant and Darcy thought of her as tolerable. However you could start to see Mr. Darcy slowly to fall in love with Elizabeth. Mr. Darcy also defended her from abuse Mss. Bingley and Mrs. Hurst when Elizabeth through the mud to see Jane. Mr. Darcy is prepared to give up in status and his reputation to marry Elizabeth. Elizabeth has far connections and has an uncle living in Cheapside (London) who works for a living. He is prepared to put all of his reputation at risk for his love.

Elizabeth's attitude towards Mr. Darcy also starts to change when she finds out about the truth of Mr. Wickham. She also start to admire him when she finds out more about his personal life and she starts to find out about the other side to him "*He is a good brother*". She starts to see Mr. Darcy's love when he tracks down Lydia and Wickham and makes him marry her. In *Sense and Sensibility*, there is a dual plot and dual heroines. Elinor and Marianne each pursues her romance according to her temperament and beliefs. Each has an unhappy love affair at the start. The parallel plot, illustrating the dual theme, are one of the weaknesses of the novel, for their occur too conveniently and are therefore not convincing.

The theme of sensibility is illustrated in love affair between Marianne and Willoughby. The theme of sense begins with the relationship of Elinor and Edward. The two plots are carefully interwoven. Marianne romance is ideal until Willoughby deserts her. Elinor is threatened from the start. Marianne's reactions are always impassioned and uncontrolled; Elinor is always sensible and retrained. Sense is finally justified and sensibility shown to be a weakness.

Ironically, Marianne marries a prosaic older man, and for both it is a second love, something Marianne vowed she could never tolerate. Elinor's fate is more romantic, she marries her first and only love and is quite happy to settle down at the wife of a country parson. Austen is expostulating this theme, is sitting up in the process what she believes to be a fitting standard of behavior. But the issues are no clear cut. The proponents of sensibility actually emerge as much more favorable characters than do those that stress the tenets of sense. In fact, they are the most important parts of it. Thus Marianne and her mother while immature and overly romantic are, on the whole, good people. Sir John is much more pleasing than his wife, and Mrs. Palmer is preferable to Mr. Palmer for just those qualities of feeling that he adores. Willoughby, John and Fanny Dashwood, and Mrs. Ferrars, the villains of this novel, all lack the necessary human sentiments, only Elinor and Colonel Brandon remain unscathed, and both have ample portions of both *Sense and Sensibility*.

In *Romeo and Juliette*, While *Romeo and Juliet* is about a poignant love affair, it's not as romantic as it may seem on the surface. All of the characters find themselves guided by raging love, sadness, hate, and anger, with the latter two especially dividing human society. Mercutio probably comes the closest to reason in that he perceives the corruption and unreason on both sides, but he cannot escape the spirit of the times either; his own fury gets him killed. But this is not a story about a few screwed-up people. Fate steers their courses and our own, and none of us unfortunate souls can control it.

For this reason, I avoid the "romantic" interpretation of events. Even though the two main characters falling in love is the most obvious event in the story, it goes far beyond that. And at the end of the day, I'm more likely to grow wings and fly to Hawaii than take relationship advice from a thirteen-year-old. Romeo is the

product of seclusion. He prefers to be alone and read romantic poems and stories, which has limited his conception of love to celebrating beauty and speaking in poetic verse. Having no practical experience in the world of relationships, he projects his desire to love onto whatever beautiful woman he meets. As Friar Laurence tells him, *"young men's love then lies Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes."*

In the beginning of the story we find him spending his days depressed, *"adding to clouds more clouds with his deep sighs"* because Rosaline didn't return his "love." In other words, his life doesn't compare to the storybook romances that he tries to emulate. That his relatives and friends mock him for this seems to just drive him deeper into his fantasy land. It is both comic and tragic. Enter Juliet. While Romeo can roam Verona all night, leap fences onto other people's property and engage in street duels against his family's rivals, Juliet mostly sits at home at home all day. She also has the added stress of marriage in her near future. Though her father first says he will give her some say in choosing a husband, she's aware that in the end she'll likely spend the rest of her life with a man her parents choose. With the dull, sheltered life she leads, it's no wonder she expresses herself with the metaphor of a caged bird in the famous balcony scene. *"'Tis almost morning; I would have thee gone: And yet no further than a wanton's bird; Who lets it hop a little from her hand, Like a poor prisoner in his twisted gyves, And with a silk thread plucks it back again, So loving-jealous of his liberty."*

That is the existence that she knows and understands, and the only one she can see in her future. With this in mind, it's no surprise that Romeo's passion completely overwhelms her. One taste of danger and excitement and her reason flies out the window. For example, though we first see her saying that marriage is *"an honour that I dream not of,"* she sure is quick to ask Romeo to marry her. The Dreamer has come out of the closet. It should be no surprise that both of our

tragic characters lack a reasonable role model. The two main adults in their lives, the nurse and Friar Laurence briefly warn them about their rash actions, but in the end are their accomplices. The Nurse cannot be Juliet's voice of reason because she gets caught up in the excitement, first with Romeo and then with Paris, even telling her to break her vows with Romeo and commit bigamy to be with the latter. Meanwhile, Friar Laurence is using the couple to fulfill his own fantasies about the world, thinking that their love will reunite their families and Christian love will rule Verona afterward. In other words, neither of these characters have much grounding in reality.

Throughout the story, then, their relationship evolves from being an refuge from what is a precarious world for Romeo and a powerless world for Juliet into something that makes them grow as people. Juliet is especially transformed by their relationship because it gives her something to independently live or die for and she begins making decisions on her own. Romeo, on the other hand, is forced to come out of his bubble and live in reality after Mercutio and Tybalt die. The lesson is driven home with his subsequent exile from Verona.

In the context of Romeo and Juliet, it would seem that we have a choice to live in reality and be denied blissful ignorance, or live in a beautiful and poignant fantasy that will eventually crash around you at much expense. We witness most of our characters taking the tragic second path. Romeo and Juliet's relationship is purer than anything else they've ever experienced, but this does not make it rational. I think for this reason Shakespeare continually makes the analogy of their love to religion with comments such as the following: Romeo tells Juliet "If I profane with my unworhiest hand This holy shrine...My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss." In turn, Juliet calls him the "*god of my idolatry.*"

Thus, not only does it take first place in their life but they develop an “*us-against-the-world*” mentality, shown by Juliet’s decision to exclude her nurse in the future. In fact, the only other person allowed on “the inside” is none other than a friar. In other words, they’ve left the world around them and, like Icarus with his wax wings flying toward the sun, they enter their romance. Mercutio’s Queen Mab speech illustrates the tragic path. Though our dreams are supposed to be a refuge from life, releasing us from our limitations, Queen Mab instead makes them a confrontation of reality. She brings your life to a hyperbole, taking the root of being a lawyer, a soldier, a lover, etc., and brings the dark side to the surface. For example, Mercutio says that it’s Queen Mab that teaches virgins how to have sex, but it’s inevitable that childhood must end childhood’s innocence is mostly a fantasy in any case.

What this means is that our happy couple can pretend that things such as family loyalty and names aren’t a tangible reality, and perhaps they are not, but that doesn’t mean they won’t have to face repercussions from those who take them as real, just like Icarus saw his wax wings melting as he approached the sun. We even saw Romeo saying that the nature of love was like “still-waking sleep.” Clearly, then, he’s a dreamer that will be visited by Queen Mab. One special case of human delusion is division. We see this in other of Shakespeare’s plays: King Lear Hamlet = family divided; Julius Caesar Coriolanus = Rome divided; Romeo and Juliet = Lovers divided by their feuding families. In all cases, the division is unnatural, and in Romeo and Juliet, even makes “civil hands unclean.” Its unnatural that war should enter into the civil arena.

It’s to this end that the servants are included in the play. They have even less reason to hate the rival family than their masters and never engage in a rational discourse about why they love or hate certain people. They just do in an their

human irrationality. It's also why Shakespeare includes such domestic scenes as old man Capulet gregariously greeting his guests at their party, and the Montagues worrying about their son. They are fundamentally the same and are only falsely divided by a grudge so old that nobody remembers how it started. To state the obvious, the idea is that Romeo and Juliet should have been allowed to marry for the strength of their love. The marriage would have even been strategic since they were both sole heirs to a massive fortune. Instead, their families' hatred led to their suicides at such a young age, as well as other of their family members dying. Further, though their feelings for each other transcend such divides, they don't change the world until it's far too late. For example, the scene in which Romeo refuses to fight Tybalt because he's now family is honorable, yet Tybalt has no context for understanding his words. It comes off like Romeo is even mocking him, and, in fact, Mercutio interprets it as cowardice. And so, their relationship is beautiful in all its humanity.

They were stupid, young, and naive, but Shakespeare seems to be saying: look at the two extremes that humans can reach! Something pure as snow, but also something as dreadful as your family members being killed off over an irrational hate. The duality of life. The squirrel can run both up and down the tree. For this reason we have numerous passages talking about paradox and opposites. Romeo says of love: "*O brawling love, O loving hate... O heavy lightness, serious vanity... Feathers of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health, Still-waking sleep.*" In the same vein, upon finding out that Romeo was vanished and Tybalt is dead, she proclaims of Romeo: "*O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face! Did ever dragon keep so fair a cave? Beautiful tyrant! Fiend angelical! Dove-feather'd raven! Wolvish-ravens lamb!*" And of course, in our most poignant and salient example of this theme, the families' hate is turned to love and reconciliation at the end, as was Friar Laurence's wish. As he had said in the play: "*Virtue turns itself vice, being misapplied; And vice sometimes by action*

dignified. Perhaps this is part of the root of the characters' irrationality. We're driven by forces we don't understand, and are powerless to control the world around us; there are many things we simply must accept.

Capulet, Montague, and Tybalt, then, simply hate because they're supposed to hate and have never questioned the reality of the divide. It's not so different to how you have your own preferences. Why do you prefer one style of clothing over another? Why do you like one soda over another, one tourist destination, one university? The reality is that your tastes have been formed by an advertising industry and popular culture in the way that Verona's culture formed our characters' prejudices. We can't escape this process to any large degree. In this sense we're like Prometheus bound to his rock, and here we stay while society eats our liver.

In any case, Romeo and Juliet had their own fates, having been born into feudal families and falling deeply in love (however irrationally) with a member of their rival family. They are both just children, enjoying the innocent purity of their love for each other, but kept apart by falsities. Though fated to kill themselves to bring peace to Verona (and intuitively feeling the portents) they still undertake the relationship. They were living in the moment, and did what they felt was, if not right, at least lofty. It's was not a mature decision in the way that Cordelia refuses to flatter her father in *Lear*, or how Coriolanus refuses to flatter the plebs, or like Brutus undertakes to kill his father in *Julius Caesar*, but they acted courageously in their own way. Because in the end all we can do is our best and fate will determine the effects on the rest of the world.

Interestingly, what T-Pain succeeds at is illustrating how unlikeable Romeo must have been to everybody but Juliet and his family. Let's face it, like Edward, he's a moody, immature, and focuses entirely on inappropriately young girls. Juliet is

thirteen-years-old and falls in love with Romeo after a few minutes (big surprise), but at least Romeo is only a few years older. Edward, smug pedophile that is, is around 100 years older than Bella. Apparently, underage girls are his "*own personal brand of heroin*" and he repeats high school year after year in order to be around them (yes I know he has a "reasonable explanation," but don't they all). I'll leave it for the reader to decide which one is creepier.

Further, both of our main characters are insomniacs. Edward doesn't sleep at night because he's composing melancholy piano songs about not only wanting to be with teenage girls, but also having the urges to kill them. Alternatively, he's drinking squirrel blood. Romeo's up all night because he's writing poetry about unrequited love. Somehow I think had Edward been the central character of Romeo and Juliet, the tragedy would have been that Romeo didn't kill himself soon enough. Another interesting parallel is that when Romeo and Juliet first meet, Romeo is so enraptured by her beauty that he goes into a rhyming monologue. When Edward meets (smells) Bella for the first time, he runs away and spends the weekend killing small animals to drown his sorrow, and then acts like nothing happened. Oh wait...not so similar after all. Bella, in all her emotional health, declares that she doesn't care if Edward has killed dozens of people and constantly thinks of doing the same to her. She simply explains to him that she grew up without a father figure and a childish mother who is not capable of nurturing her, I mean, she explains that she just trusts him. But hey, at least vampire are sterile so there's no need to worry about teenage pregnancy.

Oh wait, my memory returns to me. Sperm can live for hundreds of years even in your dead body (or something) so make sure you use protection. It's also been theorized by fine minds that vampire sperm have tiny fangs that tear through the latex into your uterus. Either way, good luck. Meanwhile, it's also dangerous for

Juliet to be with Romeo because she may be disowned by her parents, yet she's a highly articulate girl who can spout of poetry for the ages, while Bella can basically say "h-h-hi." Bella also hates everybody around her, because presumably she will accept nothing less in a relationship than 1) codependency 2) a sadomasochistic dynamic 3) fear of death.

In conclusion, I think that the real message of Twilight is that more teenagers should seek out a good therapist, not romance, but to avoid further insulting my favorite author, I'll stop the comparison here and urge you to do the same.

4-2- Jane and Mr. Bingley

Bingley's and Jane's marriage is based on love and rational respect.

Mutual Attraction between Mr. Bingley and Jane

Mr. Bingley and Miss Jane Bennet happen to meet each other at an assembly which is held near the town of Meryton in Hertfordshire after Mr. Bingley has settled down at Netherfield Park. Mr. Bingley attends this assembly in the company of his friend Mr. Darcy and his sisters, Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst. Mr. Bingley is greatly struck by the beauty of Jane who is the prettiest of all the girls who are attending the assembly. Mr. Bingley tells his friend Mr. Darcy that Jane is the most beautiful creature he has ever beheld. Mr. Bingley dances with Jane twice; and this fact is observed with great interest by everybody present.

Not only does Jane herself feel much gratified by the honour which Mr. Bingley has done to her by dancing twice with her, but Jane's mother, Mrs. Bennet, also feels immensely pleased. On returning home, Mrs. Bennet reports to her husband that she felt delighted to have met Mr. Bingley, and that Mr. Bingley had thought Jane to be quite beautiful and had therefore danced with her twice. At home, Jane tells her sister Elizabeth that Mr. Bingley is just what a young man

should be. She says that Mr. Bingley is sensible, good-humoured, and lively, and that she had never before seen such happy manners, so much ease, and such perfect good breeding in any man. Thus the attraction between Jane and Mr. Bingley is mutual.

Jane's Illness and her Week-Long Stay at Netherfield Park

After a few days, Jane receives an invitation from Miss Bingley's sisters to come to Netherfield Park and dine with them. The Bennet family regards this invitation as a great honour. Jane duly goes to Netherfield Park and has to spend the night there because it has been raining and because she cannot return home. In fact, Jane has to stay on at Netherfield Park for about a week because she has caught a cold and developed a fever, and is advised by the doctor to take complete rest. During this period, when Elizabeth also joins her at Netherfield Park, Jane is nursed by Mr. Bingley's sisters with great care and affection. In this way the intimacy between Jane and Mr. Bingley's two sisters develops into friendship. Mr. Bingley too now becomes much more interested in Jane than he was before.

Mr. Bingley, Expected to Propose Marriage to Jane

The next stage in the development of the relationship between Jane and Mr. Bingley is a ball which Mr. Bingley holds at Netherfield Park and to which Jane, among others, has been invited. Everybody now begins to think that Mr. Bingley would propose marriage to Jane and that she would surely accept him. Mrs. Bennet begins to talk freely about the prospect of Mr. Bingley marrying Jane. In fact, Mrs. Bennet talks so copiously on this subject that Elizabeth feels rather upset by her mother's indiscreet and undignified manner of talking on this subject. However, there is little doubt even in Elizabeth's mind that Mr. Bingley would soon propose marriage to Jane.

A Setback to Jane's Hope

Contrary to the expectations, the Bingley-Jane affair now receives a setback. Mr. Bingley goes to London on some business, and he is then followed by all the other inmates of Netherfield Park. Miss Bingley writes a letter to Jane from London, informing her of the sudden departure of the whole family, and informing her further that the family would not return to Netherfield Park throughout the coming winter. This letter from Miss Bingley comes as a big shock to Jane who had been hoping that Mr. Bingley would soon propose marriage to her. Elizabeth had been sharing this hope of Jane's, and Mrs. Bennet had been feeling certain in this respect. Miss Bingley's letter contains also a hint that Mr. Bingley might in due course marry Mr. Darcy's sister, Georgiana. However, Elizabeth thinks that it is Miss Bingley, supported by her sister Mrs. Hurst, who wants Mr. Bingley to marry Mr. Darcy's sister, Georgiana. In other words, Elizabeth is of the view that, left to himself, Mr. Bingley would certainly propose marriage to Jane but that Mr. Bingley's two sisters would do their utmost to press Mr. Bingley to propose marriage to Mr. Darcy's sister. In any case, Jane no longer entertains any hope that Mr. Bingley would marry her. She tries to adjust herself to the changed situation.

The Suspense and Anxiety of the Bennet Family

Days pass without bringing any further news of Mr. Bingley to the Bennet family. Now even Elizabeth begins to fear that Mr. Bingley's sisters would prove successful in keeping Mr. Bingley away from Netherfield Park. As for Jane, her anxiety, in this state of suspense, is most painful to her. Mrs. Bennet feels most wretched at the turn which events have taken. Jane tries her utmost to subdue her feelings of disappointment and dismay. She assures Elizabeth that she would get over this disappointment. She says that Mr. Bingley would always remain in

her memory as the most amiable man of her acquaintance but that she would no longer entertain any hope of getting married to him.

Jane in London; No Meeting with Mr. Bingley

Jane now goes to London to stay with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner, who are living in Gracechurch Street. It is in London that Mr. Bingley and his sisters are staying at this time. They live in Grosvenor Street. Miss Bingley calls on Jane; and Jane in return calls on Miss Bingley. But there is no meeting between Jane and Mr. Bingley. Nor does Jane have any hope that she would be able to meet Mr. Bingley. And yet Elizabeth hopes against hope that Miss Bingley would not ultimately succeed in keeping her brother away from Jane. In spite of the fact that Mr. Bingley is in London at this time, no meeting between him and Jane takes place. In fact, as we learn later in the novel, Mr. Bingley does not even know that Jane is at this time staying in London with her uncle and aunt.

Jane's Despondency

When Elizabeth, on her way from Longbourn to Hunsford, stops with Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner in London for a night, she learns from Mrs. Gardiner that Jane has been struggling to keep herself cheerful but that there have been periods of dejection for her. Of course, the reason for Jane's fits of dejection is that she has not been able to meet Mr. Bingley, and that even Miss Bingley has not shown much enthusiasm for her. Later, when Elizabeth happens to meet Mr. Darcy at Hunsford, she asks him if he had met Jane, who had been staying in London for the last three months or so; and he replies, in a confused way, that he had not been so fortunate as to meet Miss Bennet (that is, Jane).

Mr. Bingley, Prevented By Mr. Darcy from Marrying Jane

We now learn the true reason why Mr. Bingley had made no efforts to meet Jane after leaving Netherfield Park. The reason was that his friend Mr. Darcy had begun to feel that Jane would not suit Mr. Bingley as his wife. Mr. Darcy had formed an impression that Jane was not as much in love with Mr. Bingley as Mr. Bingley was in love with her. Therefore, he, supported by both Mr. Bingley's sisters, had prevailed upon Mr. Bingley to give up his intention to propose marriage to Jane. Thus it was the influence of Mr. Darcy upon Mr. Bingley, which had led to the termination of the relationship between Jane and Mr. Bingley. This is the information which Elizabeth gets from Colonel Fitzwilliam's casual talk at Hunsford.

Mr. Darcy's Negative Role, Admitted by Him

When Mr. Darcy proposes marriage to Elizabeth, Elizabeth bluntly rejects this proposal and tells him that one of her reasons for rejecting² E3 his proposal is that he had prevented his friend Mr. Bingley from marrying her sister Jane and had thus destroyed the happiness of a girl who was most noble-minded and kind-hearted. Mr. Darcy, in his letter to Elizabeth, admits the charge and explains why he had obstructed Mr. Bingley's marriage with Jane. He says that he had genuinely been under the impression that Jane was not really in love with Mr. Bingley, and that he had therefore urged Mr. Bingley to give up his intention to marry her. He regrets the negative role which he had played in this affair. Jane now returns to Longbourn from London where she has spent several months with Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner. Elizabeth too returns to Longbourn after her stay at Hunsford. However, Elizabeth does not tell Jane why Mr. Bingley had given up his intention to marry her (Jane).

A Renewal of Hope; and the Fulfilment of the Hope

Then a new development takes place. Mr. Bingley returns to Netherfield Park and pays a visit to the Bennet family in the company of Mr. Darcy, thus renewing his contact with this family. Mrs. Bennet does not attach much importance to this visit by Mr. Bingley because she has ceased to hope that Mr. Bingley would marry Jane. But Mr. Bingley, in paying this visit, has a specific purpose in his mind. Even Jane, who finds Mr. Bingley's talk very agreeable and pleasing, does not have any hope that he would propose marriage to her. But a few days later Mr. Bingley again calls at Longbourn, this time quite alone. He spends an hour or so with the Bennet family and seems to be enjoying his conversation with them. Mrs. Bennet invites him to dine at her house on the following day, and he gladly accepts this invitation. On the following day, he duly calls at Longbourn. Elizabeth gets the feeling that these visits by Mr. Bingley clearly show that he would soon be proposing marriage to Jane. And Elizabeth proves to be quite right in her conjecture. Mr. Bingley finds an opportunity to have a conversation with Jane alone; and, in the course of this conversation, Mr. Bingley does propose marriage to her. Jane's happiness knows no bound.

Immediately afterwards she informs Elizabeth of her having got engaged to Mr. Bingley. Elizabeth feels overjoyed to know that her hope had not proved to be false. Jane then hastens to go to her mother to inform her of the happy event. Elizabeth honestly and heartily expresses her delight to Mr. Bingley at his proposal of marriage to Jane, and she shakes hands with her would-be brother-in-law with great cordiality. On coming to know of this development, every member of the Bennet family feels delighted. In due course, Mr. Bingley gets married to Jane; and the marriage takes place on the same day on which Mr. Darcy marries Elizabeth. Mr. Bennet's happiness is also immense. He offers his congratulations to Jane, and says that she would really be happy in her married life. It becomes evident to us that Mr. Darcy must have spoken to Mr. Bingley and told him that

he had been mistaken in thinking that Jane was not as deeply in love with him (Mr. Bingley) as he (Mr. Bingley) had been in love with her. Thus Mr. Darcy plays a positive role just as previously he had played a negative role in the Bingley-Jane love-affair.

4-1-2-Elisabeth and Mr. Darcy

Just as Jane and Bingley, Elizabeth and Darcy also first meet at the Meryton Assembly, they don't feel attracted to each other initially and their relationship does not start as smoothly as theirs. Darcy offends Elizabeth. Bingley suggests that Darcy dances with Elizabeth but Darcy thinks she is so tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt him. Furthermore, he is not going to dance with women that have been slighted by other men. He says: "*she is fairly pretty, but not good-looking enough*"³. Elizabeth other hears this and is not left with many cordial feelings towards him. This makes Elizabeth prejudiced against Darcy. Later on Darcy starts to feel attracted to her. He admires the beautiful expression of her eyes, her figure and above all the playfulness of her character.

The stay in Netherfield, when she gets sick, shows that Darcy is attracted to Elizabeth and beginning to feel the danger of paying too much attention to her. He says: "*Do you not feel a great desire, Miss Bennet, to seize such an opportunity for a dance*". Elizabeth is still prejudiced, but she seems to enjoy the challenge of talking to him "*'Oh' she said 'I heard you before, but I could not decide immediately on what to say in reply. I have, therefore, made up my mind to tell you that I do not want to dance; and now, think badly of me if you dare*"⁴.

³Jane Austen.*Pride and Prejudice*. Pearson Education Ltd: P.7

⁴Jane Austen.*Pride and Prejudice*. Pearson Education Ltd: P. 102

Wickham's story that Darcy refused to keep his father's promise after his death affects her opinion on Darcy. At the Netherfield ball, Darcy Elizabeth to dance. They talk about their respective characters. They meet again in Kent when Elizabeth goes to visit Charlotte and are sometimes invited to dinner to Rosings.

Mr. Darcy is there, along with colonel Fitzwilliam, to visit their aunt. Here their relationship develops and Darcy starts to feel attracted to Elizabeth. He enjoys Elizabeth's company and does not get annoyed when she teases him. He thinks they share a similarity. We neither of us performs to stranger. Darcy visits the personage when Elizabeth is alone and he makes to see her in the Rosings Park when she goes for walks. Colonel Fitzwilliam tells Elizabeth the Darcy had stopped Bingley from a most imprudent marriage. Elizabeth is very angry indeed with Darcy and blames him for causing her sister great unhappiness.

That same day Darcy proposes to her. He says that he has tried to suppress his feeling but cannot. In vain have I struggled? What made him try to stamp out his love was the inferiority of her family and it would be degradation for him to marry her. Elizabeth is first astonished then flattered but most of all angry at his proposal. She refused the proposal. Darcy a back by her refusal. His countenance expressed real security. He wasn't expecting that. He thought Elizabeth would accept because of his rank and money. She explains that she refuses because he has insulted her by saying her family is inferior, because he is responsible for the unhappiness of her sister when Darcy says *"it is a matter which Darcy, of course, could not wish to be generally known, because if it were to reach the lady's family it would be an unpleasant thing"*¹¹, because he had behaved very badly towards Wickham, because Wickham said to Elizabeth that: *"His behavior to me has been shameful. I could have forgiven him anything, though, except for his disappointing the hope of his father and bringing shame on his memor"*⁵,

⁵Jane Austen. *Pride and Prejudice*. Pearson Education Ltd: P.25

and because Darcy's conduct had been ungentle man-like.

The next morning Darcy waits for Elizabeth in the park and gives her a letter.

The letter explains why he interfered in the relationship between Bingley and Jane, and the real story about Wickham. He also reveals that Wickham had tried to elope with Darcy's sister, Georgiana. When she re-reads the letter it is Wickham's story which starts to make Elizabeth doubt. She then comes to the realization that Darcy is saying the truth and then she has been mistaken, she had been blind, partial, prejudice, unreasonable. From now on Elizabeth's attitude to Darcy starts to change. She now feels gratitude and respect for Darcy but does not love him or like him. When Elizabeth goes with Gardiners to Derbyshire they visit Pemberley, Darcy's house. The house impresses her. To Elizabeth acute embarrassment Darcy arrives while they are leaving. He is polite towards her.

Elizabeth does not know what to think, her feeling to her are changing rapidly. Elizabeth admits to herself that she no longer hates him, that she is grateful to him and respects him. When Elizabeth receives the news about Lydia's elopement, she is very upset ".... *An urgent message from colonel Forster came at twelve last night, just as we had all gone to bed, to inform us that she had gone off to Scotland with one of his officers, to tell the truth, with Wickham*". Coincidentally Darcy arrives immediately after he is concerned for her and is protective. After Lydia and Wickham had finally got married, and they return to Longbourn before going to Newcastle, Lydia reveals that Darcy had been present at her wedding. It was supposed to have been a secret. "*Oh, yes! He came there with Wickham, you know. But heavens! I quite forgot! I promised not to mention it. It was a secret*". Elizabeth writes to her aunt, Mrs. Gardiners to find out about Darcy's involvement Mrs. Gardiner's letter confirms Darcy's involvement in getting Lydia and Wickham married.

He found them bribed Wickham into marrying Lydia, and convinced Mr. Gardiner to allow him to take care of all the financial arrangements. Mr. Darcy told the

Gardiners he was doing this because he felt responsible, because of his mistaken pride he had not let anybody know about Wickham's real character. Elizabeth feels very grateful. She now acknowledges that she loves him and is very proud of the way he has acted. She feels now that he will never marry her because he could not stand having Wickham for a brother-in-law. Every kind of pride must revolt from the connection.

Shortly after Lydia and Wickham's departure Mr. Bingley arrives in Netherfield, and so visits the Bennets accompanied by Mr. Darcy. Mr. Darcy behavior is more reserved. They are invited to dine at Longbourn and Elizabeth is puzzled by Darcy behavior, as he is polite but quite and distant. When Mr. Darcy returns to London Elizabeth hopes falls he will not propose again. After Bingley's engagement to Jane, Lady Catherine visits the Bennets unexpectedly. She walks in uninvited and is very rude. She asks to speak to Elizabeth in private and they walk out to a copse in the park to talk. Lady Catherine says she has come because she had heard rumors that Elizabeth is to be engaged to Mr. Darcy and is alarmed. She had travelled from Kent to Hertfordshire to stop it. She says Darcy is to marry her daughter because she and the late Mrs. Darcy arranged it so, and because that arrangement would be in accordance with the honor of the family. That Elizabeth is of inferior birth, has low connections and is not good enough of Darcy. Even worse her sister Lydia has just been involved in a scandal. Elizabeth picks up the weakness in Lady Catherine's arguments.

If you believe it impossible to be true I wonder you took the trouble of coming so far. She refuses to be intimidated and defends her right to privacy and to make her own decisions. You may ask questions which I may not choose to answer. She declares herself equal to Darcy, He is a gentleman; I am a gentleman's daughter; so far we are equal. She refuses to give Catherine an open promise about what she is going to do in the future. She said: "*I will make no promise of any kind*". When

Lady Catherine insults her by saying she will pollute the shades of Pemberley. *"But what is your mother? Who are your uncles and aunts? Do you imagine that I am without knowledge of their condition?"*. Elizabeth firmly but politely terminates the conversation how Elizabeth wonders what influence will Lady Catherine have on Darcy's decision. When Darcy visits Longbourn, they go out on a walk and he and Elizabeth get to be on their own. Elizabeth thanks Darcy for saving Lydia. Darcy tells Elizabeth he did it all for her sake. But your family owes me nothing. Much I respect them, I thought only of you. This leads to the proposal. This second proposal is different to the first one. Darcy is less sure of himself, humble whereas before he was proud.

He is considerate towards Elizabeth, anxious not to hurt her feelings. The shows how Darcy has changed, improved, and shed his improper pride. Elizabeth accepts. Both of them are ashamed of their behavior in Kent when Darcy first proposed. Lady Catherine's interference had the reverse effect what she had intended. They talk why Darcy wrote the letter and how it affected Elizabeth. Darcy says that Elizabeth completed his education, you taught me a lesson, hard indeed at first, but most advantageous. By you I was properly humbled. He said: *"..... For though your charges were mistaken, my behavior to you then was unpardonable. I have been selfish all my life. You showed me how small were all my claims to please a woman who deserved to be pleased"*. After the news of their engagement is broken to their families, Elizabeth and Darcy discuss their relationship. He admits I was in the middle before I knew that I had began when they marry, they go to live in Pemberly. It is also a happy marriage. We can learn from the example of Elizabeth and Darcy what a happy marriage is and a wife can speak to husband, as an equal. On the contrary to Jane and Bingley's relationship, Elizabeth and Darcy's relationship is complicated by themselves. They have a complex relationship, they complement each other. They both have enough independence of mind not to

follow all social conventions but to have high moral values. They both are intelligent, honest and value the proper behavior. Bingley's and Jane's marriage is based on love and rational respect. Jane is the handsomest of the Bennet's daughters, who is why she is the daughter Mrs. Bennet had the highest hopes for, she is humble and unassuming. She always sees well in other people I never heard you speak ill of a woman being in life. In a partner, she looks for sensibility, good humors and liveness. Bingley is rather impassive. He has a pleasant countenance and easy affected manner. He is easy going and much influenced by his best friend Mr. Darcy. This shows when he proposes to Jane, he does this after Darcy gives his consent. They both are kind, nice, and optimistic people. They always see the bright side of things. Mr. Bennet thinks the couple is so nice and easy that people may take the advantage of them. We later see that the Wickhams do take advantage.

They spend long periods of time in their house and Lydia often writes to Jane asked for money. The first meet at the Meryton Assembly, Mr. Bingley is a young man of large fortune, from the North England, who is going to rent Netherfield Park. He goes to the Meryton Assembly to meet the people of town. The Bennets attend Mr. Bingley shows a lively interest in Jane and dances with her twice. Jane also likes Mr. Bingley, but does not show it much. This makes Darcy think that Jane is indifferent to Bingley, and is only interested in his fortune. He makes Bingley go away on a business trip and when Jane goes to stay with her aunt and uncle, the Gardiners, she goes and visits the Bingleys, she only sees the Bingley sisters, who never tell Mr. Bingley about her being in London, so she doesn't have any news from Bingley. After a long time the Bingleys, along with Darcy, return to Netherfield. They visit the Bennets and Mr. Bingley still seems to be interested in Jane. Finally he proposes and is accepted. They live in Netherfield at first but after a year they want to get away from Mrs. Bennet and other relations. So Bingley

buys an estate in Derbyshire near Pemberley. We can say that it is a happy marriage. But they have a happy and uncomplicated marriage, though sometimes complicated by the other people.

In conclusion, Bingley's and Jane's marriage is based on love and rational respect. Jane is the handsomest of the Bennet's daughters, who is why she is the daughter Mrs. Bennet had the highest hopes for, she is humble and unassuming. She always sees well in other people I never heard you speak ill of a woman being in life. In a partner, she looks for sensibility, good humors and liveness. Bingley is rather impassive. He has a pleasant countenance and easy affected manner. He is easy going and much influenced by his best friend Mr. Darcy. This shows when he proposes to Jane, he does this after Darcy gives his consent. They both are kind, nice, and optimistic people. They always see the bright side of things. Mr. Bennet thinks the couple is so nice and easy that people may take the advantage of them. We later see that the Wickhams do take advantage. They spend long periods of time in their house and Lydia often writes to Jane asked for money. The first meet at the Meryton Assembly, Mr. Bingley is a young man of large fortune, from the North England, who is going to rent Netherfield Park. He goes to the Meryton Assembly to meet the people of town.

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Netherfield at first but after a year they want to get away from Mrs. Bennet and other relations. So Bingley buys an estate in Derbyshire near Pemberley. We can say that it is a happy marriage. But they have a happy and uncomplicated marriage, though sometimes complicated by the other people. *"It has been coming on so gradually, that I hardly know when it began, but I believe I must date it from my first seeing his beautiful grounds at Pemberley."* Reflective of Elizabeth's perception of her attraction and affections towards Mr. Darcy, the dialogue is said by her. As David Spring analyses in his essay, the Bennets belong to the class of landed gentry where as Mr. Darcy belonged to the aristocratic landowners. It would perhaps be unfair to judge Elizabeth harshly due to this statement of hers because she believed in a "marriage of true affection". When she reached Pemberley, she realized that Mr. Darcy was not the *"most disagreeable man"* she earlier thought him to be, she regretted the fact that she could have been the mistress of that place but soon her regret turned into normalcy when she counter opined that perhaps her favorite relatives (the Gardiners) could not have visited her frequently if that had been the case.

The Elizabeth-Darcy liaison in the novel is a perfect example of coming together of complementary personalities and forming a union built on the solid foundations of trust, respect and gratitude. Richard Simpson comments *"Austen exhibits no ideal characters, no perfect virtue, no perfect vice."* and this is exemplified by the protagonists here. According to Marilyn Butler, Elizabeth and Darcy are presented as polar opposites; his hauteur seems as different as possible from Elizabeth's informality. But the story cannot be shunned just as the meeting and attraction of opposites, the relationship is a complex one per se. It all began when Darcy accompanied his friend, Mr. Bingley to Netherfields and presented himself to be a *"cold, proud and fastidious"* man, wounded Elizabeth's pride and led her to form a strong prejudice against him. The subsequent meetings continued in the same manner till Darcy

realized his ardent love for her, proposed to her and was rejected. Austen's narrative does not represent the stereotypical romances toying with the ideas of "eyes meeting, sparks flying", love at first sight or chance encounters. What she portrays is actually 'hate at first sight' points' butler, but it is essentially the same.

the first proposal that Mr. Darcy makes is drab and decorated with a sense of pride and condescension, though it is not rehearsed in the front of the mirror (like Mr. Collins), nor does it unnecessarily pressurize her to give an affirmation. It is not clearly depictive of his feelings towards her and how and what about her did he love. What pride and prejudice offers in its conclusion is a 'bilateral disarmament' between the two analyses Susan Fraiman, Elizabeth gives up her prejudice and Darcy relinquishes his pride. Darcy woos away not Elizabeth's prejudice but her judgment entire. The intricacies woven in this association are understandable as they spell out the underlying theme in the novel that "*first impressions can be deceptive*". It takes them the entire length of the novel to understand each other's disposition and realize their love for each other. As Elizabeth clearly points out the reasons for Darcy's interest held captive by her as her behavior to him being always uncivil, her impertinence and liveliness of character. Since Mr. Darcy was sick of seeing civility, officiousness and deference in all the women of his rank.

He was attracted to her by the sharpness of thought, free and opinionated assertions and sensibility which she exuded in her judgments. In this sense, she can rightfully be compared to Maria Edge in "The Life and Options of Tristram Shandy" written by Lawrence Sterne whereas Elizabeth on the other hand admired Darcy as a person filtered through the opinion of Mrs. Reynolds towards and her own observations of him, the analysis of his nature. More than sense and sensibility, pride and prejudice move from an initial condition of potential social

fragmentation to a resolution in which the grounds of society are reconstituted as the principal characters come together in marriage, comments Alistair Duckworth. The match comes as a shock to the parents. Mr. and Mrs. Bennet as well as to Jane. The father, in concern for his 'favorite child' remarks upon the prime parameter for her to be happy, to respect her partner and engage with him in a 'marriage of true minds'. The mother who hates him at first sight (fallible impressions) immediately changes her stand when she realizes his grandeur and wealth which made her pleased that she got 'distracted' not knowing how to handle her pleasure.

Jane was doubtful as well as she knew the extent of her sisters dislike towards him to which Elizabeth answered, "perhaps I did not always love him so well as I do now", a tangible explanation to quieted her mind. The major opposition to this association was Lady Catherine de Bourgh who specially came down to Longbourn to give Elizabeth a piece of her mind. She thought of Darcy as a potential groom for her own daughter and did everything she could to dissuade Elizabeth from setting her heart on him. But Elizabeth replied in her own frankness and impropriety of tone which was an important triggering point in this match. Mr. Bingley, Darcy's closest friend expressed that 'nothing to give him more delight' but it was something he talked of as impossible. This was a popular notion about the couple which was harbored by people in their close connections as well as earlier in their minds as well. There existed a sort 'gulf impassable' between them and traversing it was not an easy thing for either of them. Elizabeth's mind moved from feelings scarcely to be defined to feelings yet more acutely painful and finally to a perturbed state of mind comments Susan Morgan.

Understanding settled gradually with depth of feeling. For Mr. Darcy, it is to give up his 'masculinity complex' (a term coined by Susan Fraiman) and move from

feelings clouding his mind for a while, all the realization and finally to consideration of them and acknowledgement of them as his own, true sentiments. The couple, per se, can be contrasted with Jane Bingley, as they are showcased as being mirror images of one another whose love has been "romantically arranged for", can be called at first meeting and who share genuine likeness for each other but are separated due to human and natural constraints of time and space. Also Lydia and Wickham whose marriage is just one of convenience and who do not have affection but their relationship is built on passion and intense feelings of one another, a kind of immature and inefficient match. The true heroes of the story Elizabeth and Darcy whose love surpasses familial authority, societal restraint and conventions of the time emerges a typical 'fairy-tale' ending. Austen admits that her text gives partial truths both in terms of being absolute and that in character but life is bordered around the 'virtue of happiness'.

The happiness which is sought by all her heroines who finally 'unite' which is sought by all her heroines who finally 'unite' which is sought by all her heroines who finally 'unite' with the prince charming after having chosen him and end decided the course of her future. To summarize, Susan Fraiman comments on this affair, "the novels wishful and aesthetically satisfying romantic conclusion fudges the ideological contradictions uncovered earlier between the individualistic perspective inherent in the bourgeois value system and the authoritarian hierarchy retained from the traditional, paternalistic society.

Conclusion

Pride and Prejudice is a novel by Jane Austen, first published in 1813. The story follows the main character Elizabeth Bennet as she deals with issues of manners, upbringing, morality, education, and marriage in the society of the landed gentry of early 19th-century England. Elizabeth is the second of five daughters of a country gentleman living near the fictional town of Meryton in Hertfordshire, near London. Though the story is set at the turn of the 19th century, it retains a fascination for modern readers, continuing near the top of lists of "most loved books" such as The Big Read. It has become one of the most popular novels in English literature and receives considerable attention from literary scholars. Modern interest in the book has resulted in a number of dramatic adaptations and an abundance of novels and stories imitating Austen's memorable characters or themes. In reality, the novel deals with plenty of its own deep thoughts and serious subjects. At the turn of the century, the old debate between rationality and emotions was heating up again.

Pride and Prejudice may not be a dissertation about political independence or the relative merits of passion and reason; but it's definitely a reflection on what those ideas might mean for women's lives. The England during this period was far more class conscious. The main characters in this novel come from a class called gentry; this is the class above the emerging professional class and below aristocracy. In this period of time women were not allowed to work. However they could become governesses. They could not inherit wealth from their father, and the Bennet sisters were no exception therefore Mr. Collins was their heir to Mr. Bennet's property. Women of the 19th century had no such choice. Most lived in a state little better than slavery. They had little choice but to obey men, because in most cases men held all the resources and women had no independent means of subsistence. A wealthy widow or spinster was a lucky exception. A woman announcing her intention to remain single would attract social disapproval and

pity. She could not have children or cohabit with a man: the social penalties were simply too high.

Nor could she follow a profession; since they were all closed to woman. Girls received less education than boys, were barred from universities, and could obtain only low-paid jobs. Women's sole purpose was to marry and to reproduce. At mid-century women outnumbered men by 360,000 and thirty percent of women over 20 were unmarried. There are lots of aspects of marriages in the novel. There are marriage of love, convenience, physical attraction and mercenary. The marriage between Mr. Wickham and Lydia is partly due to physical attraction and mercenary, the marriage between Elizabeth and Darcy and Jane and Mr. Bingley are due to love, the marriage between Mr. Collins and Charlotte Lucas is based on convenience and the marriage between Mr. and Mrs. Bennet is also due to physical attraction.

Pride and Prejudice primarily focuses on Elizabeth and the progression of her relationship with Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy, a wealthy, proud man who snubs her after their introduction at a public dance. Her first impression of Darcy leads Elizabeth to form a negative opinion of him. This dislike is reinforced when she meets the handsome and attentive Mr. Wickham, a lieutenant in the nearby militia. Led on by Wickham's alluring personality, Elizabeth develops a regard for him that seems mutual. Wickham then leads the neighborhood to believe that he has been unfairly treated by Darcy. Elizabeth is persuaded that her prejudice against Darcy is well-founded upon the available evidence and what she considers her superior judgment of human character. Elizabeth is thus surprised when Darcy declares his love for her and proposes. But while expressing his ardent love he reminds her of the large gap in their social status, remarking that Elizabeth could hardly expect him to "rejoice" in her "inferior connections". Offended by his pride, Elizabeth

vehemently refuses him. She sharply details her main reasons for disliking him: his role in separating Jane and Mr. Bingley and his treatment of Mr. Wickham.

On Darcy's complaint of her apparent bitterness, she replies that the arrogant way by which he proposed to her prevented her from feeling concern for him she "*might have felt had you behaved in a more gentlemanlike manner*". Darcy departs in anger and mortification. He delivers a letter by hand to Elizabeth the following morning which tells her his motives behind separating Bingley and Jane, as well as the truth of Wickham's immoral behavior towards Darcy's younger sister Georgiana. After much thought, Elizabeth recollects inconsistencies in Wickham's story and realizes he is not as honorable as he states. She begins to recognize her own prejudices and her errors in judgment, and begins to change her opinion of Darcy. Darcy, under the influence of Elizabeth's criticism, also sincerely re-evaluates his own actions and general behavior towards others. Several months later Elizabeth is invited by her aunt and Uncle Gardiner to accompany them on a tour of Derbyshire. While there they visit Pemberley, Darcy's grand estate. Darcy returns home unexpectedly and runs into Elizabeth while she is walking on the grounds. She is mortified, but Darcy astonishes Elizabeth with his kindness and courtesy towards her and her relatives, whom he had previously considered socially inferior. Elizabeth is then introduced to Georgiana Darcy. Elizabeth observes that Georgiana's "proud" disposition is mere shyness and takes a liking to the younger woman.

After Darcy secretly intervenes in her familial crisis, Elizabeth realizes that she has fallen in love with him. He proposes for a second time and they are married in a double wedding with Jane and Bingley. The novel concludes with the hint that they lead the "happy marriage of the convention" at Pemberley with Georgiana.

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