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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

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Study materials provided to CLASS: 4TH SEM DATE: 11/08/2024

Topic of Discussion: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

- **PSYCHOANALYSIS OF FRANKENSTEIN**
- **MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN BY FREUD'S IDEAS**
- **REPRESSION IN FRANKENSTEIN**
- **AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ELEMENTS**
- **PSYCHOANALYSIS OF VICTOR'S CHARACTER**

MARKS-10/SEM-4/CC-9

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* has been analyzed with a purpose of projecting the repressed emotions.

Freud claims that we repress our primitive desires just for entering into a civilized society. More clearly we repress our perversion side which based on our sexual desires or traumatic events that causing the abnormal behavior to occur. We project our desires with our books, movies, music and even by our dreams which are in unconscious side of our mind.

For Freudian psychoanalysis, Mary Shelley is our patient who projects most of her repressed secrets in her novel *Frankenstein*. Mary Shelley wrote **Frankenstein** after dream:

“I saw – with shut eyes, but acute mental vision... the hideous phantasm of a man stretched out...”

Shelley projects us the eighteenth century life. One of them is the women’s place. She writes about women may be unconsciously like her mother Mary Wollstonecraft just as Freud stated that we project our feelings by our behaviors. In *Frankenstein* the monster is not something resembles to a ‘male’ but maybe a female. It is not perfect because it is not a man. The monster asks for a mate and Victor thinks it is right it needs a mate.

Id is the dark side of our personality that seeks pleasure. Superego is the opposite of id, it has discipline and control. Likewise Victor tries to find the best solution. By thinking to make another fiend as a mate for the monster Victor listens his id side. After creating it, he knows he will create one more. But then after thinking more deeply, he says:

“I had resolved in my own mind that to create another like the fiend I had first made would be an act of the basest and most atrocious selfishness.”

We see that Victor’s decisions are affected by the superego.

Likewise Victor is a narcissist person. Extreme pride is the key of catastrophe and Victor is a victim of his excessive pride. He thinks he creates Adam but in fact he creates the fallen angel which is a threat for him.

Victor loves his mother so strongly that he decides to make a new kind of immortal species after his mother's death. Victor identifies himself with his mother by his desire of being a mother, becoming pregnant and giving birth so that he can create a baby like his mother.

Freud claims that every child wants to be close to his opposite sex parent and he / she wants to spend time with the mother / father more than the same sex parent.

In regard to Oedipal complex, Victor's feelings towards his father is pertinent: **"I communicated my discovery to my father. My father ...said, 'ah! ... My dear Victor, do not waste your time upon this; it's sad trash!'"**

Although the father wants his child to be more successful and sends him to a better school, Victor is not happy and he blames his father as wanting Victor to be far from the family. We see a strong enemy attitude towards the father but at the same we see a lovely attitude towards the mother. At the same time the boy hates the father and wants the father to be away just to spend more time with the mother.

After the miserable death of his beloved mother, Victor becomes desperate. He resists to marriage and escapes to find the science's secrets in order to recreate his mother by finding the mystery of feminine body and by the attempt of being the mother herself.

Victor has pervert sexual desire to which he cannot hide; all the feminine bodies mean his mother's body for him. Elizabeth is the woman to whom he is going to marry; he dreams Elizabeth in a sexual desire but then Elizabeth transforms into his mother. This shows us how he is in love with his mother even in a sexual desire.

Another significant point is the monster's attitude towards Victor's marriage. Victor is the creator of the monster which means he is the mother of the monster. The dad model is Elizabeth. Elizabeth is the enemy of the monster because she is going to marry Victor. **"It is well. I go; but remember, I shall be**

with you on your wedding night.” Why on his wedding night? It is another clue for *Oedipus Rex*. The monster selects the wedding night, the symbol of the sexual desires in order to take revenge.

At the end Elizabeth is murdered by the monster on the wedding night. The symbol of the father is killed by the son in order to be with the mother, creator Victor.