



Lucy's Ambition for Stable, Content and Meaningful Life in Vilette

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ABSTRACT

As a revolting, unpleasant, disrupted and restricted novel; Charlotte Bronte's Vilette has contradictory responses. Vilette is related to the experiences of an English girl Lucy. Both peacefulness and disturbance are seen in her life.

As a teacher Lucy leads solitary life at Madam Beck's establishment in Vilette. Later she realises that she is one of the sufferers in the plan of God. Nobody avoids her dreamy and unpleasant mood. She accepts her condition rather than solution from others. In this way she wants herself to be done. She is a woman of self-reliant. She is good at her work. She has the life of thought and the life of reality. To overcome her grief she wants to bury a jar filled with letters at the root of a tree. As a companion of an old lady, a nursery governess and a school teacher she feels herself she is a rising character. After betrothing M. Paul Emanuel she has established her own school. She is waiting for M. Paul as he has left the country for a period of three years. After coming M. Paul she was able to lead joyful life for a while.

After seeing some differences in their life she wants to lead solitary life. It indicates the strength of will would overcome any kind of obstacle. The differences of social status prevent the possibility of the marriage between Lucy and Dr. John. Lucy's independence may be the reason for the death of M. Paul. Charlotte Bronte has succeeded in bringing out the conflicts between self-reliance and independence for women to transform into a conflict of religious ideology. There is neither M. Paul's domestic help nor Lucy's adjustment. Finally Lucy has decided to lead independent life which is stable and meaningful life to her.

KEYWORDS : revolting - disrupted - calm- storm- perishing – lamenting- natural- psychological-painful- exuberant- solitary- stoical- tempestuous- desolation- charmless- self-reliant -imbecile- symbolic- grief- encampment- stagnation- indolence- companion- governess-teacher- separation- perception- models- significant- invisible- speculate- social- steward-independence- conflicts- religious- ideology- acclamation- launch- confession- expanding-stability- meaningful- society

Charlotte Bronte's Vilette is revolting, unpleasant, disrupted and restricted novel. The work of Vilette consists of wonderful ability and desire. This novel has contradictory responses. Having kept plainness and outward ugliness both Lucy and Paul become aesthetic characters of the novel. They are surrounded by light and darkness, calm and storm. As Paul is perishing and Lucy is lamenting their future is unimaginable and they are seen amidst the disruption of natural elements. The portrayal of Lucy is painful but it is tearless, intense and lengthy one. As it is a psychological novel, painful intellects and exuberant emotions are checked. There is a similarity between the character of Lucy and that of Charlotte Bronte. Mainly Vilette is written on the experience of an English girl Lucy. Her life is sketched from the period when she goes to Vilette after leaving her grandmother's town, Bretton. Her journey is started with calm weather but ended with storm. Her throat and lungs are affected by briny waves and icy pressure respectively. There is neither sun nor stars for many days and nights. Having affected by a violent storm they lost their ship and the crew were destroyed.

Lucy led poor and solitary life at Madam Beck's establishment in Vilette. She feels that fate takes her to Madam Beck's establishment. She does not have plan, consideration and time. Recollecting the memories of childhood Lucy determined to face the future stoically as her past life was passive and her present life is to be stoical. She has got employment as a teacher in the establishment of Madame Beck. Lucy has led solitary life and got depression during the summer vacation. It comprises of five weeks which have different qualities. They are hot, fair, dry, tempestuous and wet. Her nervous system could hardly support what it had for many days and nights to undergo in the huge empty house. She feels that fate is her permanent foe. At the same time she realises that there are some sufferers in the plan of God. She is one among them.

Lucy explains to Dr Graham Bretton that a cruel sense of desolation pained her mind. So that she wants companionship, friendship and counsel. She could find none of them in her chamber. She decides to have them in church or confessional. She spends her day lonely in which she has some cheering time in the evenings. She has some task in the afternoons. Her dreamy mood is unpleasant one. She never likes bitters. She thinks that early pleasant death is better than late

and long charmless life. As she accepts her condition rather than depending on others for a solution, Lucy refuses help from M. Paul Emanuel. She wants herself to be alone.

As a self-reliant woman Lucy thanks God for having kept a truer sense of justice than to fall any imbecile extravagance of self-accusation she longed for better days. She thinks her gloomy and depression is perhaps a result of the loneliness of her childhood. She expects she will have better days. She thought she was capable of sitting twenty years teaching infants the hornbook, turning silk dresses and making children's frocks. It is seemed to hold two lives- the life of thought and that of reality. In her way to the historical quarter of the town she comes across a kind of broker's shop and purchases a thick glass of jar. Later she takes out some letters to keep in the jar and bury at the root of a tree, Methuselah. It is not only true but also significant for timber. There is a deep hollow near her root where Lucy buried a jar filled with letters. It is a symbolic change to overcome her grief.

There is an outlook of Lucy to face her life with single hand. She wants to break her winter quarters to leave an encampment where food and forage failed. Having kept God's blessings she was ready to fight with another battle. In this connection she seeks opportunities which road is to open and what plan is available. There is a significant change in her life. It is possible from a stage of stagnation and indolence. As once she was a companion of an old lady she feels herself she is a rising character. Then she was a nursery governess. Now she is a school teacher.

After betrothing M. Paul Emanuel Lucy established own school. But he wants to leave the country for a period of three years to look after the family estate of Madam Beck. During his absence Lucy takes full charge to develop the school. She has put her own money which comes to her as a wind fall. Besides developing the school she is waiting for M. Paul to provide the happiest periods of her life. Her house is ready in which she has made him a little library. She feels that her love on M. Paul has been increased. She has forgotten her past loneliness. Her concentration is on her future life. After M. Paul's return they have spent their joyful life for a while. They have some differences which led to their separation. At the museum Lucy observes the paintings of several women and judges their likeness to nature. M.

Paul is trying to determine Lucy's field of perceptions and her models of sexual identity. This kind of individuality of Lucy is seen in all the vicissitudes of life. She tells Paulina that she will share no man's or woman's life in this world. She thinks that she has one friend of his own i.e. loneliness. In the characterization of Lucy, Charlotte Bronte has stressed how the strength of will would overcome any obstacle. As a narrator Lucy's role is significant. Lucy's ambiguous position as a governess or teacher and her manner of dress and general behaviour keep her invisible around others. In this way she often overhears what others say and is able to speculate.

The question of marriage is counted. Due to the differences of social class and money there is no possibility of marriage between Lucy and Dr. John. But Lucy's affair with M. Paul shows certain interesting aspects. Perhaps Lucy's existence as a free subject is the reason for the death of M. Paul. As M. Paul's steward she has come forward to develop the school. On his return the job would end as Lucy will have to seriously compromise her independence. As he is dearly bound with a moral obligation to the memory of Justine Maria, M. Paul's relationship with Lucy is threatened. Charlotte Bronte succeeds in bringing out the conflicts between self-reliance and dependence for women transformed into a conflict of religious ideology. He must be altered when entering into marriage with Lucy. The tyrant master must be domesticated into a feminized and loving equal. She must be united with Paul and she has to convert with Catholicism. Having kept self-assertion Lucy could not adjust with M. Paul and it led to the dissolution of her marriage to M. Paul. These additional qualities of Lucy indicate her plan of independence. Here Lucy is more confident and conscious of what she is and continues to examine problems at a fundamental level. Lucy's inward beauty and elegance is seen in her character. Having kept the excellent in depth portrayal of Lucy, the novel, *Villette* received great acclamation.

Firstly Lucy decides to leave her godmother, Mrs. Bretton's home and launch on an adventure seeking her future. After facing so many troubles she lands at *Villette*. She gets employment in a school to lead her life. She does not know what to do at the declaration of school vacation. She finds herself at loose ends. Both depression and hopelessness affect her mind. She doesn't have help from the treatment of Dr. John or the confession to the priest. There is a vivid and painstaking description of the gloom and uncertainty of Lucy that surrounded the young Victorian woman of meagre means. The second half of Lucy's life is different one. After reopening the school she is engaged to M. Paul Emanuel.

Lucy has focused on two things in which one is to develop the school and another one is looking forward to the return of M. Paul Emanuel. She thinks that the coming three years are happy days to her. Charlotte Bronte gives importance to worldly qualities which contribute to lead meaningful life with the association of M. Paul Emanuel. Again she wants to lead independent life. As male character M. Paul is a typical Victorian, seeking success in expanding world. As different from other characters Lucy is looking for a condition of stability, which can be achieved without being overtly concerned with the necessity of a male partner for content and happy life. It throws light on the part of the many women characters in search of stability and meaningful life in the Victorian society.

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