



Individualism, Humanism and High Ambition: A Victorian Approach in *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

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ABSTRACT:- The Protagonist of *Great Expectations* explores high ambition and self-improvement to gain fame and wealth which turn offer the true reflection of the Renaissance Spirit. His great expectations are inextricably connected with individualism and gentility. In love he longs to become a member of his beloved social class and he entertains fantasies of becoming a gentleman. He develops critical mentality and desires to become more acceptable to Estella. He has also negative attitudes and traits which results of his unrealistic expectations are portrayed in ways other than his view of his past life. In early life, Pip becomes a harmless, innocent and caring boy. His mind is filled with regretful thoughts when he becomes more ambitious. He survives in the midst of the problem-filled world of experience. Pip is an idealist and he learns that social and educational improvements are irrelevant to one's real worth. At last Pip realizes affection, loyalty and consciousness are more important than social advancement, wealth and class. This paper scrutinizes Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* is an attempt to explore a humbling self-analysis that results in the wisdom that he needs to be more content with what he has.

Keywords:- Renaissance, fantasy, expectations, cruelty, unrealistic.

I. INTRODUCTION

Charles Dickens represents Pip as a Victorian man who has possessed all the qualities of the Renaissance spirit. He desires to become a gentleman of the higher class. He also has a deep desire to improve himself and attain any possible advancement whether educational, moral or social. In love with Estella he unfortunately experiences the bitterness of the cruel world. He develops unrealistic hopes and expectations after being introduced to Miss Havisham and Estella. In the beginning of his life as a blacksmith he enjoys more affection and mental peace. Day by day he becomes more ambitious and does not get satisfaction. When Pip finally learns that Abel Magwitch, not Miss Havisham, is the benefactor, his unrealistic expectations cease and his genuinely good nature begins to overcome the negative traits that he had developed. At last he realizes social and educational improvements are irrelevant to one's real worth.

II. EXPECTATIONS

In *Great Expectations* Pip is the representative of lower middle-class society who experiences the bitterness of the cruel world. His great expectations are inextricably connected with individualism and passion for education and gentility but his fantasies are connected with the unattainable Estella who has been tortured in cruelty by Miss Havisham. Pip observes the power of money and he desires to become a gentleman. By the end, he has been liberated from his false concept of gentility.

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III. RENAISSANCE SPIRIT

Passion for learning, a Renaissance aspect which is very much present in Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* and Christopher Marlow's *Doctor Faustus*. *Doctor Faustus* thought that he knew many things about worldly life but he wanted to know those things which he did not know. This kind of desire is Renaissance spirit. In *Great Expectations* Pip tries to become a gentleman with higher education and he contracts with the rich Estella. When he becomes rich he becomes more snobbish and perverted. The newly rich Pip forgets his old friends and well-wishers.

IV. INDIVIDUALISM

The Renaissance stretches on the idea of individualism. Self-achievement, self-development, self-emancipation are related to Renaissance and this is partial to human development. Pip desires moral self-improvement. He is extremely hard on himself when he acts immorally. He also desires social-improvement. In love with Estella, he longs to become a member of her social class. He also desires educational improvement. This desire is deeply connected to social ambition and longing to marry Estella. Pip's life as a gentleman is not satisfied because his previous life as a blacksmith he enjoys more mental peace. As long as he is an ignorant country boy, he has no hope of social advancement. At last Pip realizes that social and educational improvements are irrelevant to one's real worth. Conscience and affection are to be valued above education and social standing.

V. UNLIMITED AMBITION

Human has unlimited ambition. This is also a part of Renaissance spirit. This is to do something to go beyond the limited. *Doctor Faustus* was gaining all the branches of learning. He is scholar on medicine, law, physics and theology but he failed to fulfill his knowledge by these, so he rejects these medieval authorities and took necromancy as his new subject to fulfill his curiosity. This rejection proves him as a medieval reaction. *Faustus* believes are generally unstable and shifting. His self-realization is –

Oh God, whom *Faustus* hath abjured? On God, whom *Faustus* hath blasphemed? O my God, I would weep, but the devil draws in my tears. Grush forth blood instead of tears, yea, life and soul. O, he stays my tongue! I would lift up my hands, but see; they hold 'em, they hold 'em." (P-240-241)

Faustus searches too much for knowledge, even he wants to know where the hell is. He sells his soul to Lucifer to enjoy the happiness of the world. He also rejects God by rejecting God's order.

In *Great Expectations* Pip has also unlimited ambition. In the beginning of the novel, Pip becomes a harmless, innocent, caring boy. Pip develops unrealistic hopes and expectations for his life, these positive characteristics are replaced by undesirable ones. He develops critical mentality after being introduced to Miss Havisham and Estella. He develops a desire to become more acceptable to Estella. His mind is filled with regretful thoughts such as "I had seen, and deeply revolving that I was a common laboring-boy; that my hands were coarse, that my boots were thick; that I had fallen into a despicable habit of calling knaves Jacks; that I was much more ignorant than I had considered myself last night, and generally that I was in a low-lived bad way." (P-74) Pip realizes that his personality and outlook on his life is changing as he states that was a memorable day to him, for it made great changes in him. He becomes even more deeply ashamed of his position in society because he believes that it will ruin his hopes of Estella loving him. He constantly worries that Estella will see him at the "unlucky hour" when he is at his "grimiest and commonest", but he endures his shame with an irrational hope, "that perhaps Miss Havisham was going to make my fortune on a grand scale". He begins to believe that Miss Havisham has destined him to be married to Estella. Almost immediately, Pip's ego grows tremendously, and he becomes arrogant. For example, in a private conversation with Biddy, Pip tells his good friend that Joe is rather backward in some things for instance in his learning and his manners. In addition, when Pip is finally ready to depart for London, he tells Joe that he "wished to walk away all alone" because he privately fears the "contrast there would be between me and Joe".

Pip's misconception:

As the arrogant and ungrateful Pip continues to believe that Miss Havisham has chosen him to be the recipient of her money and, hopeful, of Estella's hand in marriage, he also continues to be ashamed of and look down on his past life. On one occasion, Pip receives word that Joe will be visiting London and would like to see him. However, Pip is not at all overjoyed to receive this news. In fact, he looks forward to Joe's visit "with considerable disturbance, some mortification, and a keen sense of incongruity," and he states that he "certainly would have paid money" in order to keep Joe away. Pip is distraught over the prospect of others, especially Bentley Drummle, seeing him with the common blacksmith. After Joe's departure, Pip decides that he should return to the forge, but the next day, he resolves to stay at the Blue Boar Inn, rather than at his old home. His snobbish reasoning is simple, he should be an inconvenience at Joe's; he was not expected, and his bed would not

be ready. Then, Pip is so concerned with gaining Estella's favor that he visits Miss Havisham's home and returns to London while never stopping at the forge.

Unrealistic Expectations:

The negative attitudes and traits that Pip develops as a result of his unrealistic expectations are portrayed in ways other than his view of his past life. In London, while living as a "gentleman," Pip has trouble managing his new way of life. Both he and Herbert "As we got more and more into debt, breakfast became a hollow and hollow form, and being on one occasion at breakfast-time threatened (by letter) with legal proceedings, "not unwholly unconnected," as my local paper might put it, "with jewellery", I went so far as to seize the Avenger by his blue collar and shake him off his feet- so that he was actually in the air, like a booted Cupid-for presuming to suppose that we wanted a roll"(P-316)Also, during a dinner with other gentlemen, Pip has an irrational confrontation with his nemesis, Drummle. After Drummle proposes a toast to Estella, who has allowed "the Spider" to attach himself to her, Pip loses control of his emotions and accuses him of lying. Drummle is then able to provide proof that he has danced with Estella on several occasions, and Pip is focused to apologize for his outrageous actions. However, he and Drummle sit "snorting at one another for an hour because Pip can "not endure the thought of her stooping to that hound". For many years, Pip had believed that he and Estella were destined to be married, but now his hopes and expectations are just beginning to fade. When Pip finally learns that Abel Magwitch, not Miss Havisham, is his benefactor, his unrealistic expectations cease and his genuinely good nature begins to overcome the negative traits that he had developed. He also realizes that he was at fault for his nonrealistic hopes. During a visit to the Satis House, Pip is able to hold no harsh feelings toward Miss Havisham for the misfortune of his life. He refuses her offer to financially compensate him for his unhappy life, and instead, he requests that she provide aid to Herbert's business.

The effects of Victorian period:

The Victorian period was a time of change. England was expanding worldwide and becoming a wealthy world power. The economy was changing from a mainly agricultural one to an industrial and trade-based one. With increasing technological changes came clashes with religion, and increasing social problems. Machines were making factories more productive, terrible conditions as slums lined the banks of the Thames. Children as young as five were being forced to work twelve and thirteen hours a day at a poverty wage. Dickens's childhood experiences were similar to depict in *Great Expectations* and *David Copperfield*. His father was imprisoned for debt and Dickens was sent to work at the age of twelve. His memories were to haunt him until his death. For thousands of years, families put their children to work on their farms or in whatever labor was necessary for survival-only children of the wealthy and powerful escaped this fate. Until the last one hundred years or so, children were considered by most of the societies to be the property of their protection from governments who viewed children as having no human or civil rights outside of their parents' wishes, and *Great Expectations* brings some of these conditions light.

The Industrial Revolution in early nineteenth-century England made things worse. Laborers were in greater demand than ever. Mines, factories, and shops needed help, and not enough men or women could fill their needs. Children were cheap, plentiful, and easy to control. Orphanages-and even parents-would give their children to the owners of cotton mills and other operations in exchange for the cost of maintaining them.

The condition of children in Victorian Age:

At that time, the government didn't establish a minimum age, wage, or working hours. Children were forced to work thirteen to sixteen hours a day for slave wages and barely any food. The Sadler Committee, investigating textile factory conditions for Parliament in 1832, discovered children working from six in the morning to nine at night with no breakfast, one hour for lunch and two-mile walk home. Children late for work were often beaten, and if they worked too slowly or fell asleep at the machines, they were hit with a strap, sometimes severely. There was no family time and some of them did not get supper because they were too tired to wait for it. Children who were "bound" to companies often tried to run away. If they were caught, they were whipped. Aside from being underfed, exhausted, sick, or injured, children spending so many hours a day over factory machines often had bowed legs and poorly developed limbs and muscles.

While the world became more democratic, so, too, did literature. Unlike the romantic literature that preceded it- literature that focused on the glories of the upper classes- Victorian literature focused on the masses. The people wanted characters, relationships, and social concerns that mattered to them, and they had the economic power to demand it.

The Victorian society exhibits cruelty, callousness and child ill-treatment. The sufferings of children are portrayed in *Great Expectations*, *Dombey and Son* and *The Old Curiosity Shop*. Dickens purpose was to focus attention on the various evils of his time. The Industrial Revolution reflects hypocrisy, ignorance and tyranny of the poor people. Pip experiences violence, brutality and bullying in his childhood. He is brought up in

a hostile circumstance which offers him nothing but a sense of insecurity, helplessness and became isolate from the normal family life. He is a boy who has nothing in his life only his dreams and imagination.

Dickens represents the psychological development of children:

The hero develops from childhood to maturity with struggle and ambition has a great deal in common with *David Copperfield* and *Great Expectations*. In *David Copperfield* Dickens has endeavored to awaken the conscience which was insensible to the poorer children ill-treatment. He represents the social reform in this novel by his humor. He also shows the education policy of the Victorian Age. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" seemed to be the motto of the Victorian age. This age was encountered the complexity of social forces. As A.C Ward remarks: "It was an Age of Faith and an Age of Doubt; an Age of Morality and of Hypocrisy, of Prosperity and Splendor and Squalor. It was a solemn age, yet it produced more humorous writers than any other single period-it was advanced in intellect yet immature in emotion." Dickens has focused that the Industrial Revolution dramatically changed the aspect of human life and lifestyle. The prisoners were treated brutally and the prison laws were very severe and cruel.

Dickens faces sorrows and sufferings in his childhood. He shows the misfortunes of the child Oliver in *Oliver Twist*. He is the victim of the ill-treatment by the workhouse officials. In *Great Expectations* Pip experiences material success in London at the very early age. The Industrial Revolution of the late eighteen and early nineteenth centuries had transformed the capitalism, manufacturing and social landscape. Pip becomes the victim of this circumstance.

The aristocracy of the Victorian Age was proud of its blue blood. The Capitalistic attitude has focused upon the poor. In *David Copperfield*, Mr.Mell was dismissed from school because he quarreled with the member of an aristocratic family. Hence due to social snobbery, the rich were indifferent to the poor. The rich felt that the poor are thick-skinned and cannot be easily wounded. The poor suffered and they did not feel it. Dickens felt the sufferings were due to religious hypocrisy, affectation and snobbishness. His novels reflect hypocrisy, ignorance and tyranny of the poor people.

An additional feature of *Great Expectations* is its autobiographical nature. H.M. Daleski, in his book on Dickens, notes that *Great Expectations* is "one of Dickens" most personal novels... it bears the marks of his own cravings to an unusual degree." In *David Copperfield*, Dickens focused on his own self-pity for his humble beginnings and his pride in rising above the shoe-polish factory to fame and wealth. *Great Expectations* has a more mature analysis of life. Pip and Dickens undergo a humbling self-analysis that results in the wisdom that fortune does not equal personal happiness.

The class conflict in Great Expectations:

Dickens represents in *Great Expectations*, a person's social class determined the amount of education they had. It is important to perceive this relationship between education and social class to clearly understand the importance of social class. A person like Joe who was a common blacksmith had no education at all. Pip, in the early days when he was low class, had a poor education at a small school. The school was not the best of schools, but it is all that the lower class had. The teacher spent more time sleeping than teaching and Pip had learned more from Bidley than from the actual teacher. Even though he had an education when he was lower class, his education as a gentleman with Mr. Pocket was much greater. Another example of how social class affects education is the difference of education between the two convicts. Magwitch, born poor and low class had no education at all while Compeyson, born rich and high class and was a gentleman with an education. Education is a factor in showing how social class greatly determined people's lives.

Even though social class determined many things, it did not establish a person's true inner character. Realizing this will play a part in providing that social class did matter in most but not all cases. For example, the lowest class people were Joe, Bidley, Magwitch, and Orlick. Joe and Bidley were very poor but had very good hearts. Joe was always there for Pip and Bidley had moved in to help Mrs. Joe. Magwitch was a dirty convict of the lowest class, but he turned out to be a very caring and generous man. Orlick was low class and his character also turned out to be very low because he was a murderer. The fact that there are both good and cold hearted people in the lower class shows that class has no connection with how people really are. Another example is the richer class. This includes Ms. Havisham, Estella, Herbert, Jaggers, and Wemmick. Ms. Havisham and Estella were both very wealthy but they had no heart and their intentions were to bring hell to all men. While Herbert was the opposite, he was a true friend to Pip and always stayed by his side. Jaggers and Wemmick also in the higher class had supported Pip through his gentleman years. Being aware that not all of the high classes were necessarily good people states the fact that class does not determine character. Even though class mattered in most things, this is an example it did not take part in.

After exploring how class was associated with the way people were treated, how much education they had, but not with their true character, these facts have become easy to discern. With these points proved, the fact

that social class mattered in most but not all things had no doubt become clear in the mind. It is strange how different social class had been back in Pip's days and now.

Pip's self-realization:

Pip's positive characteristics are also evident in his treatment of his benefactor, the convict Magwitch. Initially after the revelation, Pip's reaction had been one of shock, disbelief, and even repugnance. However, he realizes somewhat appreciates that Magwitch had tried to greatly repay him for the practically insignificant favor that Pip had provided for the convict as a child. Pip's hard feelings toward his benefactor fade and at one point he confesses that Magwitch "Sometimes he was almost, or quite, unable to speak; then, he would answer me with slight pressures, on my hand, and I grew to understand his meaning very well" (P.528). As he had done while saving Miss Havisham, Pip puts himself through great personal risks and inconveniences to save Magwitch. He is unsuccessful in feeling the country with Magwitch, but his caring and devotion for the kind convict are unwavering, even though he will not receive any money after Magwitch's death. Every day, Pip visits him in the infirmary in efforts to comfort Magwitch and to make the prisoner's last days as peaceful as possible. During one visit, Pip notices, "As the days went on, I noticed more and more that, he would lie placidly looking at the white ceiling, with an absence of light in his face, until some word of mine brightened it for an instant, and then it would subside again"(P.528). Pip believes that his visits are somewhat cheering to Magwitch, and he goes to the infirmary every day until the convict's tranquil death which is almost a blessing. Just as Pip's feelings toward Magwitch soften, so does his attitude toward his old life after the burden of his expectations is lifted. Soon after Magwitch dies, Pip becomes seriously ill. When he recovers, he learns that Joe had traveled to London to care for him. He continues to nurse Pip back to good health, Joe remains formal and awkward around Pip, as he had acted while visiting Pip in London several years earlier. On the other hand, Pip begins to feel as if he had never left the forge. He realizes and appreciates that "there was no change whatever in Joe. Exactly what he had been in my eyes then, he was in my eyes still; just as simply right" (P-538). When Joe unexpectedly leaves London to return to the forge, Pip follows him as soon as he is physically able. At the forge, Pip no longer shows any feelings of shame or arrogance because he is now content and cheerful in his old surroundings. In fact, he even requests, "Now let me go up and look at my old room, and then when I have eaten and drunk with you, go with me as far as the finger post, dear Joe and Biddy, before we say good-bye" (P.552). Throughout the novel Pip's character and personality goes through some transformations. He is somewhat similar at the beginning and end, but very different while growing up. He is influenced by many characters, but two in particular: Estella and Magwitch. Some things that cause strength or growth in a person are responsibility, discipline, and surrounding oneself around people who are challenging and inspiring.

At the start of the novel, Pip is uneducated and unaware of his social class because he does not know of any "better" lifestyle. As life goes on, he meets new people from both higher and lower social classes and his content turns to greed and shame, as he immediately longs to be better educated. He is suddenly ashamed of his family and origins. Pip learns as he grows older that having money and power and being of a higher social class is not necessarily better than having true friends that care about him.

When Pip is young and living in the marshes, he comes across a convict who forces Pip to steal food from his sister. When Pip is older and living in London, it is revealed that the convict's name is Magwitch and that he has been secretly supplying money for Pip for a number of years. However, giving Pip enough money to live a gentleman's lifestyle is only the physical influence Magwitch has on Pip. He also greatly influences Pip's character.

A guilty conscience of Pip:

Although Magwitch caused Pip to have a guilty conscience from stealing food at the start of the novel, he comes back and proves himself a noble character. When Pip realizes that his true benefactor was a convict, he was disappointed, partly because the source of his money was a lower class than himself. As Pip gets to know Magwitch better, he begins to understand that even those of a lower social class can be great and friendly people. When Pip says, "For now my repugnance to him had all melted away, and in the hunted, wounded, shackled creature who had meant to be my benefactor, and who felt affectionately, gratefully, and generously, towards me with great constancy through a series of years. I only saw in him a much better man than I had been to Joe" (P-513). It is obvious that he was very influenced by Magwitch. His pride of being a gentleman was humbled by this lower-class character, as it is commanded in the Bible to be humble.

Pip, half-way through the novel grows up ashamed of his lower to middle class family, but at the end he becomes best of friends with a lower-class family, but at the end he becomes best of friends with a lower-class convict. His character grows incredibly. By the end of the novel, Pip is much more "down-to-earth" and less prideful as he was growing up. Through Estella a poor influence- a person who spits out insults; and through Magwitch a positive influence- a person who is thankful, kind, and generous. As Pip spends more time with Estella, her character shows in him and he becomes ashamed of himself and his family, and as he spends

time with Magwitch, his character shows in Pip and he is much better toward his family. It is clear that Pip's character grew more Christ-like when around Magwitch, and not Estella.

Dickens portrays of characters:

In *Great Expectations*, the principal character, Pip, undergoes a tremendous change in character. Some major incidents of his childhood contribute to his change from an innocent child to someone consumed by false values and snobbery.

Estella is the main incident in Pip's life that ultimately leads to his obnoxious and contemptible behavior in the future. She confuses him; when he fights with the young Herbert Pocket he is permitted to kiss the beautiful young girl, but then she slaps him, knocking him back and shocking him. The relationship between Pip and Estella is very complex and ironic. It gives entertainment with the humor of sophisticated children. A major irony of situation occurs when Estella kisses Pip after insulting and degrading him.

Dickens portrays Miss Havisham in a very unique way. There is a dramatic irony between Miss Havisham and Pip. It is ironic how she wanted to watch him become miserable, just because he is of the male gender, and ironically she grew to like him. She even paid for part of Pip's expenses for the partnership. Yet what is more ironic is that Miss Havisham does not praise herself for the good deed. In the beginning of the novel, Miss Havisham displayed a harsh, cold attitude toward Pip. This is displayed in her deceptive act when she says, "Well, you can break his heart?" As the novel ends Miss Havisham's attitude completely changes. She realizes the pain she has caused Pip and apologizes to him because of her positive change.

A heartbroken, man-hating, miserable woman and an emotional cripple help from Pip's *Great Expectations*. This certainly must be one of the major influences on the impressionable young boy. Each encounter that Pip endures with these women contributes to his change; each time Pip visits Miss Havisham and Estella he is belittled, treated as inferior and constantly looked down upon.

The incident, at which the changes Pip has foregone become the most evident, is when Joe visits Miss Havisham and is referred to as an embarrassment by Pip. At this point in the novel, Pip loses a lot, if not all, of the sympathy of us has for him. Pip, at this point is no longer an innocent child, and he is well on his way to becoming the character consumed by false values and snobbery that we come to know as the adult Pip, whom is disliked by us and by himself at a later date.

If Pip never met Miss Havisham and Estella, and Magwitch still became his benefactor, he might not have been quite so consumed by snobbery. Probably he would have been innocent as it was Magwitch who led to Pip's loss of innocence when he forced the boy to steal for him. Yet without a doubt the major incidents that lead to the formation of the "gentleman" that Pip becomes took place at Miss Havisham's house in the company of Estella.

Joe is a little twist in the novel. It is ironic in that he is Pip's father figure, yet Pip and Joe act more like friends or brothers. When Pip says, "I suppose Joe Gargery and I was both brought up 'by hand'", it seems Pip is talking about a child and not a grown adult. This is a humorous irony that keeps the audience entertained, because it is unusual.

Finally, there is the relationship between Mrs. Joe and Pip that consists of verbal irony. Pip says, "My sister, Mrs. Joe Gargery, was more than twenty years older than I, had established a great reputation with her and the neighbors because she brought me up 'by hand'. Having at that time to find out for myself what the expression meant, and knowing her to have a hard and heavy hand, and to be much in the habit of laying it upon her husband as well as upon me, I supposed that Joe Gargery and I were both brought up by hand"(P.8). This is ironic because Pip interprets it as if being brought up by hand meant that he was punished and disciplined with beatings. Mrs. Joe however, meant that she alone had to bring him up with no help. They both have totally opposite ideas of what the same thing means.

There are different ironies Dickens used to create suspense and conflict between Pip and the others give the novel flavor. There are many lessons learned through Dickens's use of irony. An example is the irony between Abel Magwitch and Pip, which teaches those good things, may come from bad and this strategy gives a chance to think or interpret it for him. This is what makes the novel great.

Many people strive for things that are out of their reach. In *Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens shows the themes of personal ambition and discontent with present conditions. The main character, Pip shows early in the story that he is unhappy with his current situation. Throughout the story he strives for the things that are beyond his reach, and is apathetic to the things that he can obtain. Pip demonstrates this by striving for Estella when he could have Biddy, and yearning to be a gentleman when he could be a blacksmith.

The first way that Pip demonstrates these themes is by reaching for things that are unattainable to him. For example, Pip is in love with Estella, but he can't have her because she doesn't like him. Miss Havisham's man-hating ways have brushed off on her, and she wants nothing to do with Pip. Another thing that Pip strives for is to become a gentleman. He cannot become a gentleman, however, because he is just a commoner. He is very smitten, for example, with "the beautiful young lady at Miss Havisham's and she is more

beautiful than anybody ever was and I admire her dreadfully than anybody ever was and I admire her dreadfully and I want to be a gentleman on her account". Thus, Pip wants to become a gentleman only for Estella.

Another way that Pip shows his discontent with his present life is by not wanting to be a blacksmith when it would be very practical for him. Pip's brother-in-law is a blacksmith which would make it easy for him to learn the trade. Miss Havisham agreed to pay for his apprenticeship, yet Pip insists that he is better than that and is upset by the fact that he is just a commoner. He states his dissatisfaction "with my home, my trade and with everything". Pip also turns away Biddy when she is something that is obtainable to him. Biddy is somebody in the story that really loves Pip, yet he turns her away and uses her to get what he wants. Pip also gives the impression that he is better than Biddy when he is no less a commoner than she is. Throughout this novel the same themes of discontent are present. As more of Pip's "great expectations" are recognized, he becomes unhappy with all the wonderful blessings that he has. Pip is constantly ashamed of his home and his family when really there is nothing to be ashamed of. Pip could have a good relationship with Biddy yet he chooses to love Estella, and get his heart broken.

VI. CONCLUSION

At the last of *Great Expectations* Pip's fate becomes acceptable and enjoyable. Earlier in his life, he had changed from an innocent, caring boy into an arrogant young man as a result of his nonrealistic hopes and expectations. However, when those expectations come to an end, so do these undesirable traits, as he is shown to be a truly good-natured person. His great expectations are inextricably connected with individualism and passion for education and gentility but his fantasies are connected with the unattainable Estella who has been tortured in cruelty by Miss Havisham. When Pip finally learns that Abel Magwitch, not Miss Havisham, is the benefactor, his unrealistic expectations cease and his genuinely good nature begins to overcome the negative traits that he had developed. He also realizes that he was a fault for his nonrealistic hopes. If Pip never met Miss Havisham and Estella, and Magwitch still became his benefactor, he might not have been quite so consumed by snobbery. Probably he would have been innocent as it was Magwitch who led to Pip's loss of innocence when he forced the boy to steal for him. The major incidents that lead to the formation of the "gentility" that Pip becomes took place at Miss Havisham's house in the company of Estella. Therefore, it is fitting that, in both of Dickens' final episodes; Pip is happy and content with his life. In conclusion, Pip learns the hard way that the grass isn't always greener on the other side and that he needs to be more content with what he has.

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