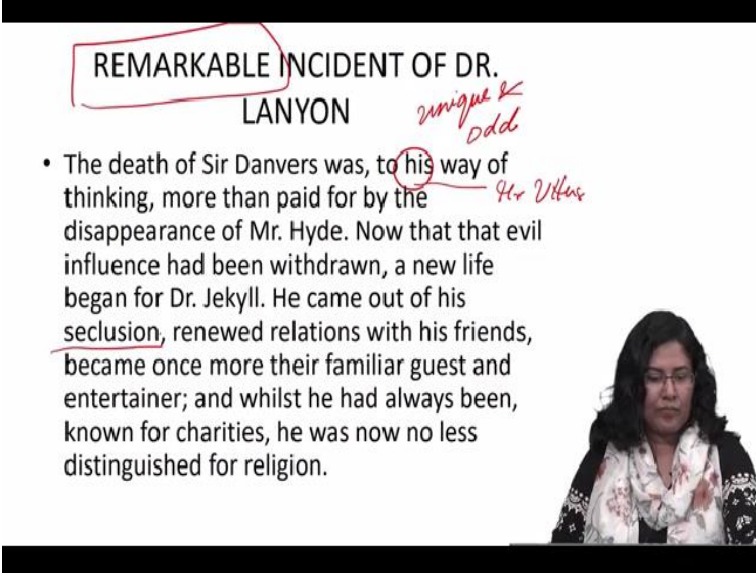


**The Nineteenth Century Novel**  
**Prof. Divya. A**  
**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
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**Lecture – 50**  
**The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Chapter 6**

Hello and welcome back to week 11's lectures. In today's session, we will be discussing in great detail Chapter Six of R. L. Stevenson's A Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. And we have come to a midpoint of this novella where we begin to see the things are starting to unravel, and we have the first of the major illnesses which will result in the death of the concerned person, and that is Dr. Lanyon. So why is he ill? What are the conditions that brought upon him this particular, you know, fate of illness?

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**REMARKABLE INCIDENT OF DR. LANYON**

- The death of Sir Danvers was, to his way of thinking, more than paid for by the disappearance of Mr. Hyde. Now that that evil influence had been withdrawn, a new life began for Dr. Jekyll. He came out of his seclusion, renewed relations with his friends, became once more their familiar guest and entertainer; and whilst he had always been, known for charities, he was now no less distinguished for religion.

*Handwritten notes: "unique & odd" next to "REMARKABLE"; "Mr Utterson" next to "his way of thinking"; "His illness" next to "disappearance of Mr. Hyde".*

*Video inset: A woman (Prof. Divya. A) speaking.*

These are some of the questions we will answer in this particular chapter, and as well as in the final chapter of this novella. Chapter Six is entitled, Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon. So something remarkable has happened, and this adjective is something that we need to bear in mind. So remarkable also means something that is very unique and odd. And we will gradually get a sense of what this oddity, curiosity is about.

The chapter begins this way. “The death of Sir Danvers was, to his way of thinking, more than paid for by the disappearance of Mr. Hyde.” So the his here refers to Mr. Utterson, not to Dr.

Lanyon. We will come to him in a short while. “Now that the evil influence had been withdrawn, a new life began for Dr. Jekyll.” So with the disappearance of Mr. Hyde, there is a sense of rejuvenation for Dr. Jekyll.

“He came out of his seclusion, renewed relations with his friends, became once more their familiar guest and entertainer; and whilst he had always been, known for his charities, he was now no less distinguished for religion.” If you remember the previous sessions, we saw that Dr. Jekyll was ill. And then now with the disappearance of Mr. Hyde, he has recovered. And narrator says that he came out of his seclusion, he was no longer isolated.

And it is also very important to note the connection between isolation and the sickness of one kind or another. And he renews relations with his friends such as Mr. Utterson and Dr. Lanyon, became once more their familiar guest and entertainer. And he is beginning to be greatly involved in charitable activities. He is involved in a lot of charities, and he is also very obviously religious. He is becoming associated with these good things of life, good aspects of life, good domains of life. And he is no longer the recluse.

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**Dr Jekyll**

- He was busy, he was much in the open air, he did good; his face seemed to open and brighten, as if with an inward consciousness of service; and for more than two months, the doctor was at peace.

*Handwritten notes:*  
open air  
↳ freedom from oppression  
spiritual  
physical  
A Tale of Two Cities  
plane trees in the Boko Square

“He was busy, he was much in the open air, he did good; his face seemed to open and brighten, as if with an inward consciousness of service; and for more than two months, the doctor was at peace.” So this is the period in which Dr. Jekyll enjoys his life. This is like the summer of his

life, and he keeps himself busy. He is much in the open air. So open air is highly significant because it represents freedom from oppression, and this oppression could be of any kind.

It could be spiritual, it could be physical. So open air is very important in this set of symbolic values, and I want you to think back to A Tale of Two Cities where the plane tree in the Soho Square home of the Manettes is associated with open air, freedom, free circulation of air and even its association with The Garden of Eden. So open air is very significant in this regard. So he was much in the open air.

He was seen, he was visible. His face seemed to open again. So look at the connection between open air and openness of appearance, his face was frank. And he is also out and about in the town. His face seemed to open and brighten as if for the inward consciousness of service. So his soul is reflecting all these brightness upon his physical demeanour and appearance. And for more than two months, he was peaceful. So that is the length of the period during which Dr. Jekyll is very outgoing and friendly.

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The slide features the word "Seclusion" at the top center. Below it is a blue oval containing a text excerpt from the novel: "On the 8th of January Utterson had dined at the doctor's with a small party; Lanyon had been there; and the face of the host had looked from one to the other as in the old days when the trio were inseparable friends. On the 12th, and again on the 14th, the door was shut against the lawyer." The words "inseparable friends" and "the door was shut against the lawyer" are underlined in red. Handwritten red annotations include: "about mysterious / seclusion ??", "Friendship / Code of Conduct" (circled), "romantic bond", "The story of the door" (circled), and "the door of Dr. Jekyll's house illness". A video inset in the bottom right corner shows a woman with glasses and a patterned scarf.

Something drastic happens, and he goes back to his old ways of secluding himself in his home, and let us see how this comes about. It is very abrupt, it is very mysterious as well. And we do not know the reason for his seclusion. "On the 8th of January Utterson had dined at the doctor's with a small party; Lanyon had been there; and the face of the host had looked from one to the

other as if in the old days when the trio were inseparable friends.”

So who are the trio here? Mr. Utterson, Dr. Lanyon and Dr. Jekyll. So the trio were inseparable friends. So we have that homosocial bond here between these three men. “On the 12th, and again on the 14th, the door was shut against the lawyer.” So the door is not being opened to welcome his guests, his friends. The doctor was confined to the house. He was confined. Look at the word confined.

This suggests some kind of illness. And Poole said, he saw no one. So he is not welcoming any of the visitors. He is not inviting any guests into his home. He is not physically ready to meet anybody. So this is a very mysterious set of affairs, and I am interested in a set of words here. Let us see what they are.

The inseparable nature of the friends, the three friends, once again reminds of the bond of friendship and its related code of conduct, and how each one of them adheres to this common code which relates to the ideal of friendship. How does Mr. Utterson embody this code? How does Dr. Lanyon embody it and how does Dr. Jekyll embody it? So this theme needs to be kept in mind. The other issue that I want to bring up is this metaphor of the door being shut.

So the man himself is shutting himself out. The man is kind of protecting himself by shutting out all the visitors, all his friends and the door is shut. So I want you to go back to the first chapter of the story where the title is, The Story of the Door. So now the door is shut, the door of Dr. Jekyll's house. The house is somehow connected to the mystery that is complicating the story which has Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde at its center.

So what is the complication which implicates the structure of the house too? And that will be unravelled in the climax to the story, and the story seems to end abruptly there. So we will come to that in due course. And Poole as I said is the steward, the servant of Dr. Jekyll.

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## Dr Lanyon's illness

- There at least he was not denied admittance; but when he came in, he was shocked at the change which had taken place in the doctor's appearance.

Easy entry into Dr Lanyon's house

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Mr Hyde doesn't let him into his "house"

Dr Jekyll " " " "

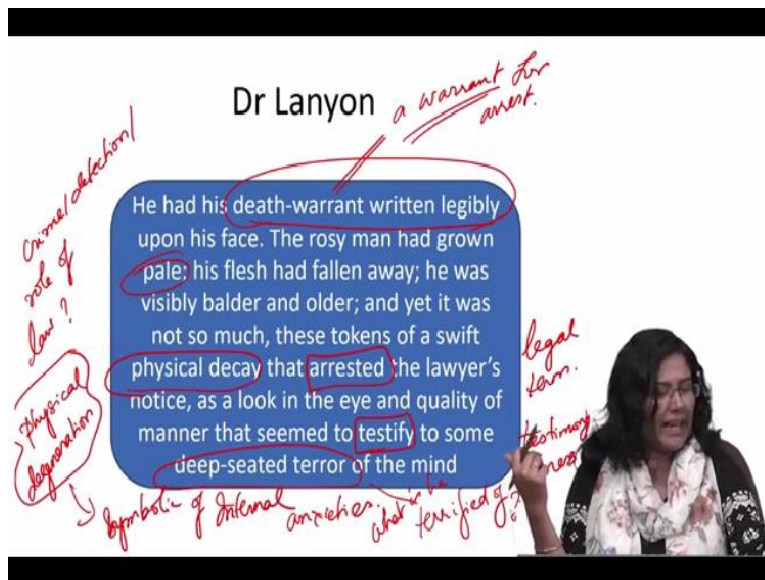


So we go back to Dr. Lanyon here. Mr. Utterson, once he has been shut out by one friend, which is Dr. Jekyll, goes to visit another friend. And interestingly Dr. Lanyon is also ill. So what is his illness about? Do we get any kind of details about his illness and the reason for his sickness? "There at least he was not denied admittance; but when he came in, he was shocked at the change which had taken place in the doctor's appearance."

So Mr. Utterson gets easy entry into the home of Dr. Lanyon. We need to keep this in mind, because not everywhere Mr. Utterson is welcomed. What are the other occasions in which he was made unwelcome? Mr. Hyde does not let him in. If you remember, the initial parts of the story, Mr. Hyde does not invite Mr. Utterson into his house. I will put that in quotation, okay. And again in a parallel fashion, in a manner that repeats Mr. Hyde's activities, Dr. Jekyll also does not allow his friend to get into his house.

So why are they behaving in similar fashion? So that is again a question that needs to be asked. So Dr. Lanyon is very ill, and Mr. Utterson is shocked at the change because he has been used to meeting Dr. Lanyon at the party of Dr. Jekyll. And now suddenly, he is so sick that he is taken aback. So why is he ill?

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Mr. Utterson sees that “he had his death-warrant written legibly on his face.” Death-warrant written legibly, so interesting turn of phrase. “The rosy man had grown pale; his flesh had fallen away; he was visibly balder and older; and yet it was not so much, these tokens of a swift physical decay that arrested the lawyer's notice, as a look in the eye and quality of manner that seemed to testify to some deep-seated terror of the mind.” I want to pick up on the legal language here, the language of judiciary, death-warrant.

That the word warrant is specially interesting because when somebody is arrested, a warrant is issued for his or her arrest, a warrant for arrest. And Mr. Hyde is being hunted down by the police, and a warrant has been issued for his capture. So we need to keep that context in mind. And look at the word arrested that is used here. The decay that arrested the lawyer's notice. Arrested, somebody is captured so that they could be brought before the law and judged and thrown into prison.

So again a legal term. And look at the word testify. Again, you kind of offer your testimony, your witness in a particular case in order to prove somebody's innocence or prove somebody's guilt. So this legal language once again indicates that this narrative is about crime and deduction and the consequences of crime and the role of law. Now Dr. Lanyon is suddenly and visibly sick. Look at the change in his body. He turns pale, he is pale. And sometimes even Mr. Hyde is also referred to as being pale.

His flesh had fallen away; he is literally disintegrating. He is kind of crumbling. He is turning into dust in a metaphoric fashion. And this physical decay as I pointed out, physical degeneration is an interesting concept that we need to keep in mind. Physical degeneration, what does it indicate? Is it symbolic of internal anxieties? And Mr. Utterson, even though he is affected by the physical degeneration or the decay of Dr. Lanyon, thinks that the physical part is not so significant.

That part of the decay is not so important as some kind of terror that is hidden in his mind. And he refers to it as the deep-seated terror. So what is Dr. Lanyon terrified of, that is another question. So questions keep proliferating at this point in the novella, and Mr. Utterson seems to be lost as to what is happening to his two best friends, Dr. Jekyll who is not admitting him into his home, and Dr. Lanyon, who admits him and then shows himself as extremely ill.

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**"Glad to get away"**

*Shock!  
Reason?*

"I have had a shock," he said, "and I shall never recover. It is a question of weeks. Well, life has been pleasant; I liked it; yes, sir, I used to like it. I sometimes think if we knew all, we should be more glad to get away."

**DIE**

*What had Dr Lanyon learned?*

And this is Dr. Lanyon's testimony. He says that "I have had a shock,' he said, 'and I shall never recover.'" I am going to die, that is the testimony of Dr. Lanyon. "It is a question of weeks. Well, life has been pleasant; I liked it; yes, sir, I used to like it. I sometimes think if we knew all, we should be more glad to get away." The last statement here in his excerpt is very interesting. I will come to that in a minute.

But before that, you can get a sense of how thorough Dr. Lanyon is about an assessment of his physical condition. He says that I am ill because I have had a shock. So that is the reason. So what brought about that shock, what is the reason for that shock, it is not very clear. And he says that I am going to live only for a few weeks. It is just a question of weeks. Life has been good and he enjoyed life.

And he says that, very significantly, if we knew, if we knew everything about life, we would want to die. So that is the point that Dr. Lanyon is trying to indirectly communicate to Mr. Utterson. He says if we knew all, we would be, we should be more glad to get away. We would be glad to die, that is what he is implying here. So what is that he had known? So what had Dr. Lanyon know which makes him glad to die quite soon? So that is again, as I said, a question that will be answered at the end.

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The slide features the title "Dr Lanyon on Dr Jekyll" with two small boxes containing "Dr J" and "Dr L". Below the title are two bullet points. The first bullet point is: "Jekyll is ill, too," observed Utterson. "Have you seen him?" The second bullet point is: "But Lanyon's face changed, and he held up a trembling hand. 'I wish to see or hear no more of Dr. Jekyll,' he said in a loud, unsteady voice. 'I am quite done with that person; and I beg that you will spare me any allusion to one whom I regard as dead.'" Handwritten annotations in red ink include: "ill ?? ??", "emotional", "Reason Not clear", "protective gesture?", and "Shut Utterson". A video inset in the bottom right corner shows a woman with glasses and a white patterned scarf.

Mr. Utterson points out that Jekyll is ill too, observed Utterson. Have you seen him? So as I said, there are mirror images of Dr. Jekyll and Dr. Lanyon. Both of them are ill at the same time. Why? "But Lanyon's face changed, and he held up a trembling hand. 'I wish to see or hear no more of Dr. Jekyll,' he said in a loud, unsteady voice. 'I am quite done with that person; and I beg you that you will spare me any allusion to one whom I regard as dead.'"

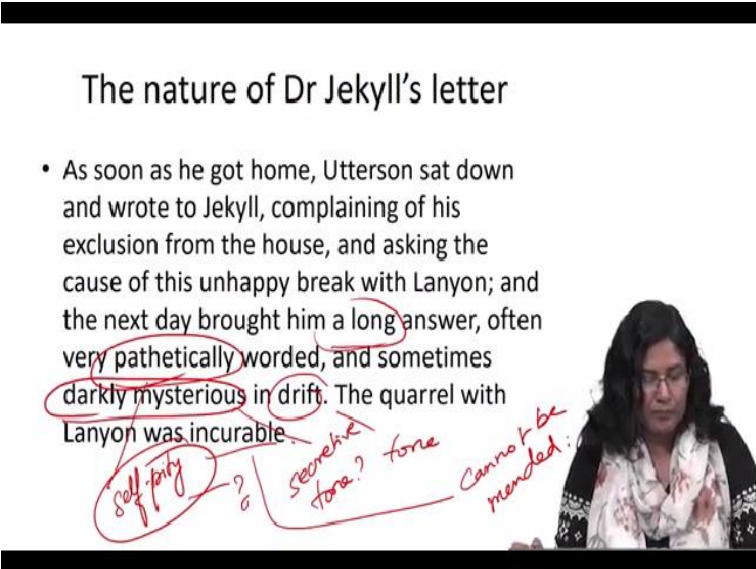
So he has completely cut off himself from his friend Dr. Jekyll. He says that I am not going to do



anything with him. I do not have any kind of bond with him. And he says that please do not mention his name to me because I consider him as one who has died. So this is pretty strong language as we can understand quite easily, and why does Dr. Lanyon use such language in referring to Dr. Jekyll?

Why does he think that he is as good as dead? That reason is not clear, not at all clear. And he says that I do not want to see him or hear about him anymore. And his voice is loud, why is it loud? Is he trying to increase the volume of his voice in order to protect himself? Is it a protective gesture? Is he trying to shush Utterson from not making any mention of Dr. Jekyll? And his voice is also unsteady which points to the fact that he is very emotional at this stage.

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The nature of Dr Jekyll's letter

- As soon as he got home, Utterson sat down and wrote to Jekyll, complaining of his exclusion from the house, and asking the cause of this unhappy break with Lanyon; and the next day brought him a long answer, often very pathetically worded, and sometimes darkly mysterious in drift. The quarrel with Lanyon was incurable.

Handwritten annotations in red ink:

- A circle around "pathetically worded" with the note "self pity".
- A circle around "darkly mysterious in drift" with the note "secretive tone?".
- A circle around "incurable" with the note "cannot be mended".
- A line connecting "secretive tone?" to "incurable" with the note "tone".

So Utterson finishes his visit with Dr. Lanyon and he gets home. “Utterson sat down and wrote to Jekyll, complaining of his exclusion from the house, and asking the cause of this unhappy break with Lanyon; and the next day brought him a long answer, often very pathetically worded, and sometimes darkly mysterious in drift. The quarrel with Lanyon was incurable.” So Utterson, unable to suppress his curiosity and anxiety about the break in friendship between Dr. Lanyon and Dr. Jekyll, writes a letter to Jekyll, and he gets a reply, an immediate reply which is long in nature.

It is a long answer and it is pathetically worded, it is full of self pity, why? We do not know. And

sometimes darkly mysterious in drift. So again very very full of secretive tone. So we get the sense that Dr. Jekyll is hiding something, Dr. Lanyon is hiding something from Mr. Utterson and he does not know what to do in this situation.

Everybody is hiding something. And Mr. Utterson is clueless. And the readers like Mr. Utterson, is also clueless. We understand that something terrible is happening between these men and we do not know what the terrible nature of the crime that is happening between them, beneath their respectable surfaces. And look at the word drift, drift means tone. So he is full of suggestive language which hints at some kind of mystery and secrecy and nothing else.

The rest is all about self pity. Look at the word pathetic. And Mr. Utterson realizes that he is trying to get some kind of pity from the reader. And the bottom line is the quarrel, the fight between the two scientific gentlemen was incurable, cannot be cured, cannot be mended in any way at all.

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The slide features the title "Jekyll's Declaration" at the top. Below it is a list item containing a quote from Dr. Jekyll: "I mean from henceforth to lead a life of extreme seclusion; you must not be surprised, nor must you doubt my friendship, if my door is often shut even to you. You must suffer me to go my own dark way. I have brought on myself a punishment and a danger that I cannot name." The quote is annotated with red circles around "extreme seclusion", "my door", and "a danger that I cannot name". A handwritten note "or v" is above "you must not be surprised". Another note "dark way?" is written below "dark way". A third note "extreme isolation - from society" is written in the bottom left. In the bottom right corner, there is a small video inset showing a woman with glasses and a patterned scarf.

There is a declaration that Jekyll makes although in that letter and it is this. He says that, I mean from henceforth, from this point, henceforth means from now, "to lead a life of extreme seclusion; you must not be surprised," you referring to Mr. Utterson. "You must not be surprised, nor must you doubt my friendship, if my door is often shut even to you. You must suffer me to go my own dark way. I have brought on myself a punishment and a danger that I cannot name."

So again, there are suggestions that something mysterious is happening in his life. But let us look at the obvious references. He says that I am going to be extremely secluded, I am going to be isolated, extreme isolation. That is interesting. Isolation from society. And then he says that even if I do that, please do not doubt my friendship, my regard for you, if I shut my door even to you. Again the idea of doors being shut, people being locked out and people locking themselves in.

And he says that you must suffer me to go my own dark way. And what is that dark way? Again, another question. What is that dark path that he is travelling down? We do not know. And he says that that is something I have brought upon myself, it is a punishment that I am undergoing because of the wrong deed I have committed, and it also involves danger to me which I cannot explain. So again full of mystery here, and Mr. Utterson is once again lost.

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**Dr Jekyll's Declaration**

"If I am the chief of sinners, I am the chief of sufferers also. I could not think that this earth contained a place for sufferings and terrors so unmanaging; and you can do but one thing, Utterson, to lighten this destiny, and that is to respect my silence."

*Theoretical Statement*

*Repeated request*

Dr. Jekyll further says, "If I am the chief of sinners, I am the chief of sufferers also. I could not think that this earth contained a place for suffering and terrors so unmanaging; and you can do but one thing, Utterson, to lighten this destiny, and that is to respect my silence." So again it ends with a request here. I will come to this request in a minute. Let us look at the other aspects of this set of declaration.

He says that if I have sinned quite a lot, I have also suffered quite a lot. Look at the parallelism in

that statement. It is very rhetorical. It is a rhetorical statement. Dr. Jekyll is very good with his language. He is intending a particular effect on the reader, and he is coming off as being very emotional, self-reflective, and he is punishing himself. That is what the impression we get from the way he writes.

He is trying to portray himself as someone who is undergoing a lot of punishment by secluding himself. And he says that he did not realize that this earth had a place for sufferings and terrors so unmanly. Unmanly is something that makes him less of a man. This kind of suffering is not something that men usually experience and express. Men are supposed to be very strong and hard and not show any emotion.

But here we have Dr. Jekyll, a scientific gentleman, expressing a lot of agony and self-pity and that he says is unmanly. But the point is that the terrors that he undergoes are so great that he has no reason but to act in this particular way. And the last request is interesting because this is a request that he keeps asking Mr. Utterson. He had asked this request early on too when Mr. Utterson was discussing the nature of his will.

So if you remember the earlier sessions, you will know that he said Mr. Utterson, this is a private matter. We cannot solve this by talking about it quite a bit. Let it lie low. Do not intervene. So that request is repeated again. And what is the request? To respect the silence of his friend. In other words, do not poke your nose in my affairs. Do not try to find out more information about my secret secluded life.

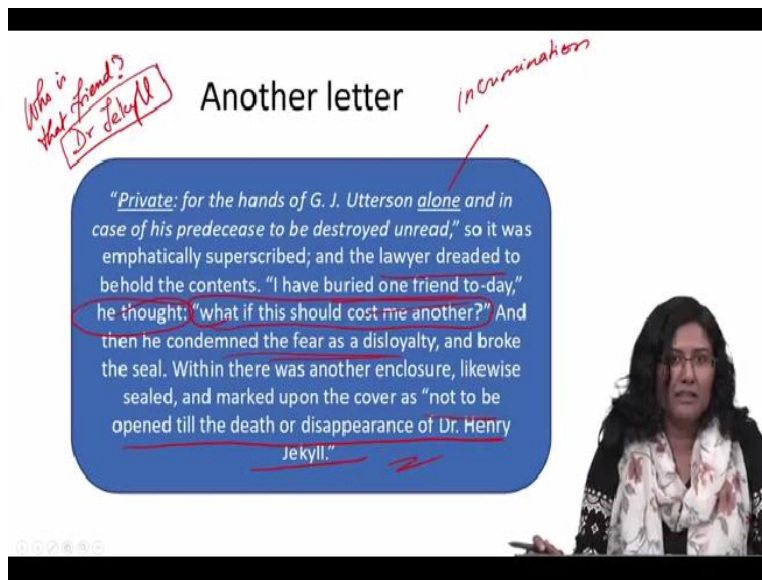
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Who is that friend? Dr. Jekyll

## Another letter

Incrimination

*"Private: for the hands of G. J. Utterson alone and in case of his predecease to be destroyed unread," so it was emphatically superscribed; and the lawyer dreaded to behold the contents. "I have buried one friend to-day," he thought: "what if this should cost me another?" And then he condemned the fear as a disloyalty, and broke the seal. Within there was another enclosure, likewise sealed, and marked upon the cover as "not to be opened till the death or disappearance of Dr. Henry Jekyll."*



Dr. Lanyon dies, as he had predicted. So he was quite right in his estimation that he would die, and he dies. Once he dies, Mr. Utterson has a letter. His letter, this is a letter from Dr. Lanyon. And it says, Private. This is a private letter, and it is for the hands of G. J. Utterson, the lawyer, Utterson alone, and in case of his predecease to be destroyed unread. So if Mr. Utterson dies before Dr. Lanyon, then this letter has to be destroyed.

So this is what Dr. Lanyon has left for his friend Mr. Utterson, a very mysterious letter. It was emphatically superscribed; and superscribed means written on that envelope, on the top of the envelope. And the lawyer dreaded to behold the contents. The lawyer is afraid to see what would be in the letter. And he thinks to himself, I have buried one friend today, he thought. He thinks to himself.

What if this should cost me another? What if this letter and its contents will cost the friendship of, one more friendship. And then he condemned the fear as a disloyalty, and broke the seal. So he is opening the envelope. And within there was another enclosure, likewise sealed. So there is another letter within the letter and it is also sealed. And marked upon the cover as not to be opened till the death or disappearance of Dr. Henry Jekyll.

So please do not open the letter until Dr. Jekyll has disappeared or die. So there are several instructions for Mr. Utterson on the part of his friend. He gives him a lot of instructions as to

how to go about reading the letter. And the letter is specifically for the hands of Mr. Utterson. It should not be opened by anybody else. And even then, Mr. Utterson is to open and read the letter only if Dr. Jekyll is dead or have disappeared.

And the impact of the letter on Mr. Utterson is that, is he going to lose one more friend? And who is that friend, and it is very clear who is that friend. That friend obviously is Dr. Jekyll. So Mr. Utterson gets the sense that there is something incriminating, there is something that details the criminal affairs of Dr. Jekyll written by Dr. Lanyon, and which is why he is worried that what if this should cost me another friend.

One friend is dead already and that is Dr. Lanyon. So he has buried one friend. And now another friend's reputation is on the line. But then he thinks that such kind of fear is disloyalty towards his friends, and then opens the envelope and comes up with this particular message.

**(Refer Slide Time: 29:36)**

Mr Utterson's Attempts

It is one thing to mortify curiosity, another to conquer it; and it may be doubted if, from that day forth, Utterson desired the society of his surviving friend with the same eagerness. He thought of him kindly; but his thoughts were disquieted and fearful.

going down.

approach to anxiety

frightened?

Mr. Utterson is curious. Even though his friend Dr. Jekyll said do not intervene, do not poke your nose in my affairs, even though he puts it in a diplomatic way, Mr. Utterson is unable to suppress his curiosity about what is going on in the private affairs of his friends. So he does something. What does he do? “It is one thing to mortify curiosity, another to conquer it; and it may be doubted if, from that day forth, Utterson desired the society of his surviving friend with the same eagerness. He thought of him kindly; but his thoughts were disquieted and fearful.”

So he is curious to know more, and but then, he is not very willing to desire the company of his friend because he gets the sense that something is wrong in his friend's personal affairs. He thought of him kindly, he had good feelings towards his friend, kindly feelings, but there is a lot of disquiet. What is disquiet? There is a lot of apprehension.

Some kind of fear and anxiety about his friend. He is frightened of his friend? Why? So that is what the narrator says, that it may be doubted if desired the society of his surviving friend with the same eagerness. The eagerness is going down. There is a lack of camaraderie that he feels towards his friend. So that is the state in which Mr. Utterson finds himself.

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**Mr Utterson's Attempts**

He went to call indeed; but he was perhaps relieved to be denied admittance; perhaps, in his heart, he preferred to speak with Poole upon the doorstep and surrounded by the air and sounds of the open city, rather than to be admitted into that house of voluntary bondage, and to sit and speak with its inscrutable recluse.

Annotations:

- Persistent?
- Curious?
- Detective
- on Dr Jekyll
- Servant instead of the master
- prison
- place of incarceration
- inscrutable recluse

He went to call indeed. He went to call on Dr. Jekyll. He went to call indeed, this statement is interesting. This part of the statement is interesting, and I want you to connect it with this set of ideas. It is one thing to modify curiosity, another to conquer it. It is difficult. The point of that phrase is that it is difficult to suppress one's curiosity. It is difficult. Which is why he goes to call on his friend, Dr. Jekyll, even though Dr. Jekyll said I am going to be extremely secluded. I am not going to see you and do not take it amiss if I shut my door against you.

Despite all these requests, Mr. Utterson is persistent. Why is he persistent? Why is he curious? Why cannot he let things be? Because Mr. Utterson is acting like a amateur detective. He is

trying to figure out what is buried, what is hidden underneath, and he is trying to figure out what went wrong between Dr. Lanyon and Dr. Jekyll.

So he went to call on Dr. Jekyll, but “he was perhaps relieved to be denied admittance.” So he is denied admittance. The door is not opened. But he is relieved, he is glad that he has not been admitted, he has not been asked to come in. “Perhaps in his heart, he preferred to speak with Poole upon the doorstep and surrounded by the air and sounds of the open city, rather than to be admitted into that house of voluntary bondage, and to sit and speak with its inscrutable recluse.”

Very significant, the way Mr. Utterson thinks about his being rejected admittance to the house. Why is it significant? Why it is odd as well? Because he prefers to speak with the steward, the servant instead of with the master. And who is the master? It is Jekyll of course. And he is referred to as an inscrutable recluse. We cannot comprehend him. It is unable to understand the nature of this recluse who has shut himself up.

And why does he want to talk to his servant? Because he wants information, probably. We do not know what are the nature of the questions that Mr. Utterson put to the steward. So he has preferred to speak to Poole to gather information perhaps, than to be invited into the house of bondage. So the house becomes a place of incarceration. Incarceration means imprisonment.

So the house becomes a prison. There is also this cultural stereotype that the Englishman's house is his fort. And it literally becomes a fort in the case of Dr. Jekyll. He is shutting himself in and not letting in everybody. And but in Mr. Utterson's interpretation, it becomes house of bondage, being tied up inside, and he would rather speak to Poole than to sit and speak with this mysterious, incomprehensible man that his friend had become.

**(Refer Slide Time: 35:22)**



*preying on his mind* *sick* *decline of Dr Jekyll*

### Dr Jekyll's State

The doctor, it appeared, now more than ever confined himself to the cabinet over the laboratory, where he would sometimes even sleep; he was out of spirits, he had grown very silent, he did not read; it seemed as if he had something on his mind. Utterson became so used to the unvarying character of these reports, that he fell off little by little in the frequency of his visits.



“The doctor, it appeared, now more than ever confined himself to the cabinet over the laboratory, where he would sometimes even sleep; he was out of spirits, he had grown very silent, he did not read; it seemed as if he had something on his mind. Utterson became so used to the unvarying character of these reports, that he fell off little by little in the frequency of his visits.” Dr. Jekyll is ill. In fact, we know that he has been seriously ill from the same time when Dr. Lanyon fell ill. But he is not confined within his house, he is confined elsewhere.

And that is again mysterious. Why is he not within the house? If he is sick, why is he in his cabinet above the laboratory? And he used to sleep even in the lab. Sometimes he was occupying the lab for hours together. He was out of spirits. He was sad. He had grown very silent. He was becoming very silent. He did not read. It seemed as if he had something on his mind.

Something was preying on his mind. Something that was making him sick in body and mind. Utterson became used to these unvarying character of these reports. So these, the information that he collected from Poole, and he seems to get the same old reports from the servant, Poole, and he gradually reduces the number of times he is going by the house.

So we kind of sense the gradual decline of Dr. Jekyll. Is he declining in the same way that Dr. Lanyon was declining? And one thing becomes clear. The symbolic disease that is there, the spiritual disease, the conceptual disease that is there in the heart is affecting the physical well

being of Dr. Jekyll.

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Ch-7; INCIDENT AT THE WINDOW

- 'Well,' said Enfield, 'that story's at an end at least. We shall never see more of Mr. Hyde.'
- 'I hope not,' said Utterson, 'Did I ever tell you that I once saw him, and shared your feeling of repulsion?'

Disguis

Episodes

Gothic Sensation

Setting no help or support

Domestic Structures or implication

Incident

Repeated often

part of a building/structure

Now we come to Chapter Seven which is entitled, Incident at the Window. Here I want you to observe the way the chapter titles are repeating in one way or the other. Chapter Six is titled Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon and then if you go back to the earlier chapter, it read The Incident of the Letter. The word incident keeps repeating often, why? There is a series of episodes. It is very episodic.

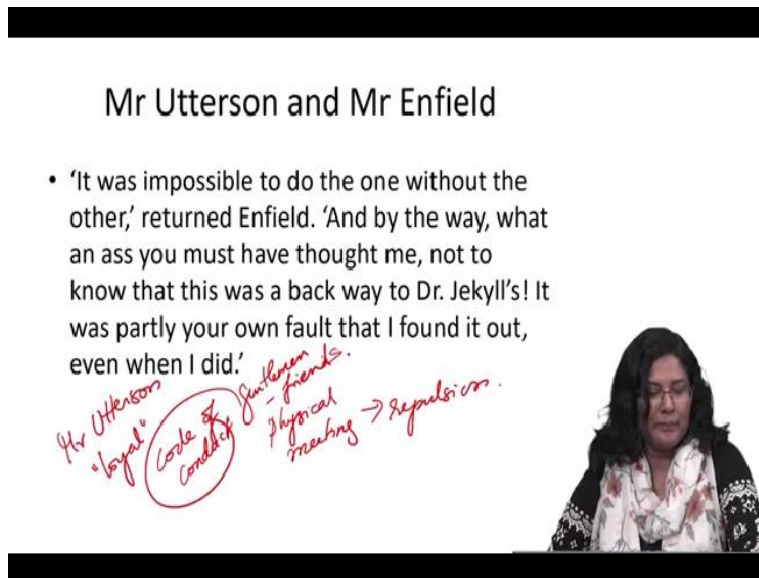
There is a series of episodes which intensifies from one to the other, and it culminates in a big scene of destruction. And we will see the nature of the destruction at the climax. So we have this chapter which is titled the Incident at the Window. Again look at the reference to a part of a building, a particular structure. So again, there is a suggestion that domestic structures are implicated, and this kind of implication is connected to gothic and sensation fiction of those times where setting contributes to the mystery.

The setting becomes a character in itself. So the setting in which we find Dr. Jekyll becomes almost a character in this mystery plot of this novella. So we have two friends here, who is Mr. Enfield and we have Mr. Utterson. If you remember, the story began with the walk of these two gentlemen, Mr. Enfield and Mr. Utterson. Enfield is a distant kinsman of Mr. Utterson. They are taking a walk together.

“Well,' said Enfield, 'that story's at an end at least. We shall never see more of Mr. Hyde.' 'I hope not,' said Mr. Utterson. 'Did I ever tell you that I once saw him, and shared your feeling of repulsion?’” So they are talking about Hyde. They say it is good riddance that he is no longer around. So his disappearance seems to be final, and that the society is well rid of that bad character and we are not going to see him anymore. And Mr. Utterson acquiesces.

He says yes, I hope so too, and he mentions that he had seen Mr. Hyde once and he shared his feeling of repulsion, disgust.

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Mr Utterson and Mr Enfield

- 'It was impossible to do the one without the other,' returned Enfield. 'And by the way, what an ass you must have thought me, not to know that this was a back way to Dr. Jekyll's! It was partly your own fault that I found it out, even when I did.'

*Handwritten notes:*  
Mr Uttersons "loyal"  
Circle of condition  
Jekyll's friends - physical meeting → repulsion.

“It was impossible to do the one without the other,' returned Enfield.” So he says that if you see the man, it would automatically mean that you would have been repulsed by him. So the two things go together. Physical meeting means the emotional response of repulsion. “And by the way, what an ass you must have thought me, not to know that this was a back way to Dr. Jekyll's! It was partly your own fault that I found it out, even when I did.”

So here for the first time, we have in plain language that the laboratory entrance, the entrance to the laboratory by the by-street is actually connected to the major, the central house of Dr. Jekyll. So it is all part of one unit, and Mr. Enfield realizes that Mr. Utterson knew about this structural connection quite early on. And he did not mention it to his kinsman.

Why? Mr. Utterson is apparently very loyal to his friend, and he does not want to indulge in gossip which would harm the reputation of his friend. And once again we come back to the code of conduct among gentleman who are friends, which is why we have Mr. Enfield slightly accusing his friend Mr. Utterson about not revealing this information to him at very early on.

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Meeting with Dr Jekyll

The court was very cool and a little damp, and full of premature twilight, although the sky, high up overhead, was still bright with sunset. The middle one of the three windows was half-way open; and sitting close beside it, taking the air with an infinite sadness of mien, like some disconsolate prisoner, Utterson saw Dr. Jekyll.

Mien  
Danger  
Symbolic imprisonment  
of the mind  
appear

Now these two friends as they are walking, they come to that particular court, and that court is very interesting because that courtyard is the space where we saw at the beginning of the chapter that they came to that cellar door through which Mr. Hyde enters and gets back with that cheque and ten pounds of gold. So they come back to the same scene, so we can see that this narrative is somehow circular. We are back to the same spatiality.

“The court was very cool and a little damp.” It is damp. It is not very dry. “And full of premature twilight.” It is slightly dark. It is getting dark. “Although the sky, high up overhead, was still bright with sunset.” The sun had not set, but there is premature twilight. “The middle one of the three windows was half-way open; and sitting close beside it, taking the air with an infinite sadness of mien, like some disconsolate prisoner, Utterson saw Dr. Jekyll.”

So they have come to a spot on the street where Dr. Jekyll is spotted at one of the open windows. And how does he look? He looks infinitely sad. He is extremely dejected. Mien means

appearance. His face is extremely sad, and he looks like some prisoner who cannot be consoled at all. And we need to remember that he is not literally a prisoner but a prisoner of the mind. In A Tale of Two Cities, what we saw was two kinds of imprisonment.

One was the literal imprisonment that both Darnay and Dr. Manette underwent. And there was also symbolic imprisonment which Dr. Manette experienced, symbolic imprisonment experienced by Dr. Manette because of the influence of the Bastille on his psyche. And you can remember how he used to make shoes even when he was free at his home with his daughter. So again we have the symbolic imprisonment being undergone by Dr. Jekyll because we know that he is literally free, he is in his own home, but somehow he is incarcerated.

So he is extremely sad. And look at the condition of that space, the condition of the ambience of his spatiality. That space is already dark. It is very cool and it is very damp. It is not a place which is full of brightness and light as the home of Dr. Manette was in Soho Square, London in A Tale of Two Cities. So the two friends spot him at the window.

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The slide features a title "Incident at the Window" at the top. Below it is a bulleted list of text from the novel. The text is: "• 'That is just what I was about to venture to propose,' returned the doctor with a smile. But the words were hardly uttered, before the smile was struck out of his face and succeeded by an expression of such abject terror and despair, as froze the very blood of the two gentlemen below." The words "abject terror and despair" are circled in red. Below the text, there is a red line and the handwritten note "Reason = mysterious". To the right of the text is a small video inset showing a woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a patterned top, looking down.

And they ask him, they ask him to come out and join him in their walk together, and Dr. Jekyll says that he is too ill to do that, and perhaps they could talk in this fashion with Dr. Jekyll up at his window and the two friends downstairs on the street. So look at the way they have been divided, there is a lot of space between the three men. And once he hears what Mr. Utterson is

proposing, he says “That is just what I was about to venture to propose,’ returned the doctor with a smile.” It should be smile. “But the words were hardly uttered, before the smile was struck out of his face and succeeded by an expression of such abject terror and despair, as froze the very blood of the two gentleman below.”

The two gentlemen looking at this friend of theirs, and he is about to, and he is smiling. And as soon as he smiles, the smile was struck out of his face. It is as if somebody had come and given him a blow to his face, and his face has completely and drastically changed into one of complete terror. There is abject terror, total terror and there is despair. Plenty of pessimism, immediate pessimism. And the change in his face freezes the blood of the two gentlemen below on the street who are looking at his friend who is like a prisoner in his own home. In fact, he is occupying the cabinet above his lab.

It is a very strange incident. So this is what is being referred to as part of the title to this particular chapter, the strange incident at the window. And we do not know what is causing this kind of abject terror, total terror on the face of Dr. Jekyll. Again, the reason is pretty mysterious.

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*Space Symbolism by moment disorder*

### Incident at the Window

- They saw it but for a glimpse, for the window was instantly thrust down; but that glimpse had been sufficient, and they turned and left the court without a word. In silence, too, they traversed the by-street; and it was not until they had come into a neighbouring thoroughfare, where even upon a Sunday there were still some stirrings of life, that Mr. Utterson at last turned and looked at his companion. They were both pale; and there was an answering horror in their eyes.
- ‘God forgive us, God forgive us,’ said Mr. Utterson.

*Silence* → characters, Dr Jekyll why were they horrified?

“They saw it but for a glimpse.” They saw it just for a moment, for a glimpse. “For the window was instantly thrust down; but the glimpse had been sufficient, and they turned and left the court without a word. In silence, too, they traversed the by-street; and it was not until they had come

into a neighbouring thoroughfare, where even upon a Sunday there were still some stirrings of life, that Mr. Utterson at last turned and looked at his companion. They were both pale. There was an answering horror in their eyes. 'God forgive us, God forgive us,' said Mr. Utterson."

So they are immensely affected by what they saw at the window. They are you know, hugely shocked by the sudden change of emotions on the face of Dr. Jekyll, even though the glimpse that they had of Dr. Jekyll was momentary. And what is the immediate reaction? The window had been instantly pulled down.

Is this Dr. Jekyll pulling the window down or is it somebody else? They are puzzled. And why is he pulling it down? What made him turn into a figure of terror? And they quietly turn and leave the court, you know, the space before the building, without a word. They are in absolute silence. Silence pervades the novel in terms of several characters, especially Dr. Jekyll who is increasingly becoming silent. In fact, if you remember the phrase that I used a moment ago which is taken from the narrative of course, is inscrutable recluse.

Somebody who is not able to be comprehended because he does not talk much. And he only offers a little bit of hints here and there. And even Dr. Lanyon does not talk quite a bit about what is bothering him so seriously. And this silence is picked on by these two friends as well, Mr. Utterson and Enfield. So in silence they traverse, travel the by-street. And this is the small street which is paralleling the thoroughfare.

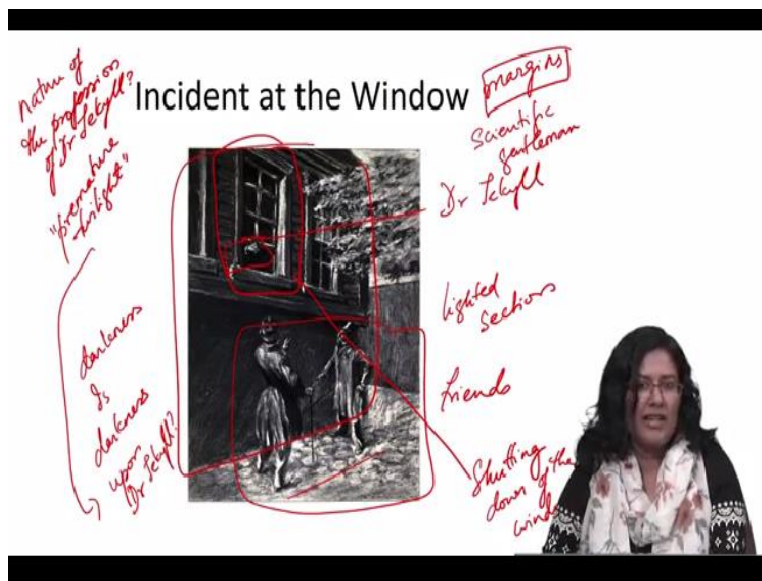
And it was not until that they have come into a neighbouring thoroughfare main street where even on a Sunday, there were still some stirrings of life. Life was active in this particular street even though it was a Sunday. And only here, when they were surrounded by little bit of life about them, that Mr. Utterson at last turned and looked at his companion. So this is the third or fourth very interesting thing to happen in this novel.

The first being the attack on the girl, the second being the murder of Sir Danvers Carew, and this is the third very exciting event to happen, at least in terms of the way the narrative progresses stage by stage. And that event is about the shutting down, the physical shutting down of the

presence of Dr. Jekyll. And when he wants to withdraw, he does it by shutting down the window of his domestic spatiality. And they were both pale, they were both drawn, and they seemed to be somehow affected. There is some kind of sickness on them too when they saw this attitude and this behaviour and this terror on their friend. And there was an answering horror in their eyes. Why were they horrified? Did they witness some kind of change on the face of their friend?

And look at the repetition of the invocation that Mr. Utterson utters, God forgive us, God forgive us. Why does he invoke the name of God? What was the serious moral disorder, physical change that they saw on the face of his friend to make him ask the benediction of God here. Again there is a mystery. So once more we see how this space is connected to the symbolism of moral disorder. So there is something untoward happening in the mind and body of Dr. Jekyll, and that is reflected physically on the space that he occupies, and which is why the reference to window being instantly thrust down is highly significant in this kind of reading.

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This is an illustration that we see of this particular incident at the window. So we have two friends here, Mr. Utterson and Mr. Enfield on the court standing by the window of Dr. Jekyll. There is a lot of darkness illustrated in this particular scene. These two men are the ones who are standing in the lighted section of this illustration. This is, the house is in darkness, and we can see from the narrative that the space is enjoying a kind of premature twilight.



It is an evening scene. So what does twilight indicate? What does it lead to? The next stage would be darkness. So is the darkness upon Dr. Jekyll? So is the narrative winding down to a catastrophic ending? Is the career of Dr. Jekyll likewise winding down to a catastrophic finale? So all these questions are asked about this particular section. And look at the hand which is pulling down, thrusting down the window.

Nothing else is clear, and that is again very figurative. We are in the darkness. All we see is bits and pieces of faces and physical structures which we are unable to comprehend. And once again, we can see how the man is kind of, becoming completely secluded and isolated from society, and that is also symbolically indicated in the shutting down of the window. So something is happening which is putting Dr. Jekyll in the margins of society.

And it is a fantastic irony. Why is it an irony? Because this is a man who is a scientific gentleman, and he is like hundreds and thousands of others, kind of feeling the industrial revolution that is kind of increasing in strength in the Victorian England, and in ironic way, in the narrative, he is the one who is being pushed to the margins. So he should be at the center stage and he should be celebrated.

He should occupy a space in society which is well recognized and acknowledged and celebrated. And on the contrary, he is kind of shutting himself off from society. He is becoming a recluse. And it is also not a coincidence that we have the deaths of scientific gentleman in this story. We have Dr. Lanyon being shocked and that shock brings about a fatal illness and he dies off in the narrative.

And we have another scientific gentleman who is also in a downwards spiral. He is travelling down a dark path, and what is that path? Why do we have such characters being somehow described in such a fashion which is bringing a lot of scandal on their reputations? And students would also want to ask this question, what is the nature of the profession of Dr. Jekyll? Do we have any references in the novella that detail the experiments of this particular physician, this particular scientific gentleman?

Also, do we have any detail about Dr. Lanyon's scientific profession? Why is there a lacuna, so to speak, about their careers? Why is the narrative not offering us any information about their job, their profession? Why are we not offered any glimpse into their workings in their labs, in the way they conduct experiments. And in this subject, on this topic, there is a kind of similarity with *A Tale of Two Cities* too because Dr. Manette is also a scientific gentleman.

He is also a physician. And there are references in the novel to the experiments that Dr. Manette conducts in his home. In fact, he also treats patients. He also has a consultation room in Soho Square home of his. But we do not know what exactly is the nature of the experiments that he conducts. So why is there a commonality of theme? Of course, in the *Tale of Two Cities*, Dr. Manette is absolutely good. He symbolizes goodness and he stands for everything that is morally upright.

But in this particular novella, we are definitely given a sense that Dr. Jekyll is not up to any good. In fact, we do not see any evidence, especially with regard to his scientific experimentation, which proves that he is a benefactor to society in that regard. All we know about him is that he is wealthy, he is a man who is involved in a lot of charities, and he is very religious in an overt way in certain patches of his life.

But there is a big blank space when we come to the specifics of his job. So that is one thing that we need to probe into, why is science demonized? If I want to put the question quite clearly, why is science demonized in this particular narrative which is written at the turn of the 19th century. It is published in 1886. So the century is kind of coming to a close, and science is represented in such a way that there is a lot of anxiety about this kind of narrative. And we have scientific figures who are fighting with one another in some way or the other.

And one dies and the other is dying, we can safely say that. And there is also a rupture, there is a rupture in the bonds of friendship among the characters that we see. And the friendship of Mr. Hyde and Dr. Jekyll is completely strained for good reason. And then the friendship of Dr. Lanyon and Jekyll is broken. It can never be mended because the one friend is already dead. And we have the strain on the friendship between Mr. Utterson and Dr. Jekyll.

There is also a strain on the friendship between Mr. Utterson and Mr. Enfield because of all these figures such as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. So there are several complications that become manifest owing to the way in which the society is unravelling because of industrialization, and as a result of the struggle for dominance between and old way of life perhaps, and a new way of life.

The old way of life is the feudal order which we discussed in connection with Jane Austen's Persuasion, and we have the new order being critiqued in a subtle and indirect manner in this gothic thriller, The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Thank you for watching. I will

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