

**The Nineteenth Century Novel**  
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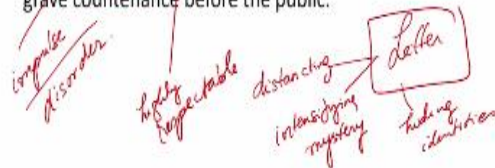
**Lecture – 54**  
**The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Chapters 10**

In this chapter, we do get to see the confession here, the confession of Dr. Jekyll. In the previous chapter, we saw the confession of his friend Dr. Lanyon, and in Chapter Eight we saw that Hyde is dead. So this narrative is moving at a very sustained pace, and we are given glimpses of what this big reveal is going to be. And now we know that Hyde is Dr. Jekyll, Jekyll is Mr. Hyde, and now we want to know the details, you know, the details of the various incidents and emotions that Dr. Jekyll underwent, and that is offered in this particular confessional narrative.

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Chapter 10: Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case

- And indeed the worst of my faults was a certain impatient gaiety of disposition, such as has made the happiness of many, but such as I found it hard to reconcile with my imperious desire to carry my head high, and wear a more than commonly grave countenance before the public.



Again, it is in the form of a letter. As I pointed out earlier too, letters are important pieces of narrative. They serve several functions, they serve distancing effect, they also kind of contribute to intensifying the mystery, and they also are useful in hiding identities. Okay, so this is Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case, that is the title to this chapter, and Mr. Utterson is the one who is reading this letter.

And Jekyll says that “And indeed the worst of my faults was a sudden impatient gaiety of disposition, such as has made the happiness of many, but such as I found it hard to reconcile with

my imperious desire to carry my head high, and wear a more than commonly grave countenance before the public.” So, what is Dr. Jekyll's crime or fault or flaw? In his own assessment, Jekyll says that my biggest fault, my worst fault was a certain impatient gaiety of disposition.

Some kind of impulse disorder in contemporary terms is what is affecting him, and he is unable to reconcile this impulse, you know, the impulse to experience physical pleasures with his imperious desire to carry my head high, he wants to be highly respectable in society. So he is unable to square these two contrary, you know, modes of emotion, and he wants to be especially serious and sombre in public and kind of get, you know, reinforcement of that kind of identity by the recognition of the society.

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### Jekyll's confession

Hence it came about that I concealed my pleasures; and that when I reached years of reflection, and began to look round me and take stock of my progress and position in the world, I stood already committed to a profound duplicity of life.

log book.  
↑  
double  
↓  
divide himself  
↑  
Dr. Jekyll     Hyde



04:21

“Hence it came about that I concealed my pleasures; and that when I reached years of reflection, and began to look around me and take stock of my progress and position in the world, I stood already committed to a profound duplicity of life.” So, what he does is he is suppressing his pleasures, he is suppressing his instinctive desires and pleasures that he wants to enjoy, and when he has reached this level of maturity, when he has, when he was grown up, he began to look around him and take stock of the progress and position that he has attained in life. And he realizes that he is leading a double life.

And this word is interesting as I said, because the word double comes up in that log book of Dr. Jekyll. It is like a book of notes of his experiments. And in that experiment he is able to divide himself into two beings. One is Dr. Jekyll who does good, one who is pious, one who is an upright man in society, and the other is Mr. Hyde who was extremely evil and enjoys his brutality. So he is able to disassociate his personality into two into two characters and create personas.

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### Jekyll's Confession

- Many a man would have even blazoned such irregularities as I was guilty of; but from the high views that I had set before me, I regarded and hid them with an almost morbid sense of shame. It was thus rather the exacting nature of my aspirations than any particular degradation in my faults, that made me what I was and, with even a deeper trench than in the majority of men, severed in me those provinces of good and ill which divide and compound man's dual nature.



And Jekyll's confession continues. He says that sometimes, some men would have advertised such irregularities, and he did not do that. "Many a man would have even blazoned" you know, put up for public view, "such irregularities as I was guilty of." So, what he is indicating here is that I am not doing anything abnormal, many people are doing the same thing, but I am not advertising that fact because I want to lead a very serious and respectable life.

"But from the high views that I had set before me, I regarded and hid them with an almost morbid sense of shame." So, he had very high goals, he had set his goal so high that he was compelled to hide these pleasures. So, he also looked upon these pleasures with a morbid sense of shame, he felt extremely embarrassed by his longing to commit all those pleasures. "It was thus rather the exacting nature of my aspirations than any particular degradation in my faults, that made me what I was and, with even a deeper trench than in the majority of men, severed in me those provinces of good and ill which divide and compound man's dual nature."

It is a fantastic paragraph because it shows a very high understanding of the psyche of human beings. Here Dr. Jekyll says that I did not possess anything especially bad which other human beings, you know, did not possess. We all possess the same kind of, you know, divided qualities. But then, I had a really high and exacting set of aspirations. I punish myself because I push myself too hard to get what I want. So since my standards were so high, it divided me from my baser, earthy pleasures.

So, look at the choice of words that he uses to talk about it. He says that within my psyche there was a deep trench. There was a, you know, a big gap, a massive chasm between the good and the bad side, you know, and this is unlike the divides that many men had in their own psyches. For me it was harsher, deeper, more problematic because I had very high standards. I was too exacting, I wanted to push myself to the extreme. So, he kind of informs the reader of the effects, the evil effects of, you know, too high an aspiration.

And his entire flaw seems to be rest, seems to be resting on that particular point. So we also understand that his faults are nothing extraordinary, many men commit the same faults. But why did he end up in such a divided personality? It is because of the higher goals that he had set himself.

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### Edward Hyde

- Edward Hyde was so much smaller, slighter, and younger than Henry Jekyll. Even as good shone upon the countenance of the one, evil was written broadly and plainly on the face of the other. Evil besides (which I must still believe to be the lethal side of man) had left on that body an imprint of deformity and decay.

*evil is young.*

*impression*



So because of his experimentation, he is able to come up with two figures: One, Dr. Jekyll who can retain his good side, and Mr. Hyde who can retain his evil side, who can just go out at night, enjoy himself to the maximum, commit all kinds of brutalities and then come home transform himself to Dr. Jekyll. So, how does Edward Hyde look to Dr. Jekyll? “Edward Hyde was so much smaller, slighter, and younger than Henry Jekyll.”

Smaller, slim and younger, and that is an indication of the weakness of evil, the evil has not become strengthened. At this point, evil is young, which is why his stature is small. “Even as good shone upon the countenance of one, evil was written broadly and plainly on the face of the other.” So, they have become embodiments, perfect embodiments of these two concepts of good and evil. If Dr. Jekyll stands for good, Hyde stands for evil.

“Evil besides (which I must still believe to be the lethal side of man) had left on that body an imprint of deformity and decay.” So in Dr. Jekyll’s own assessment, he says that evil brings with itself the imprint, the impression of deformity. So, you know, these are associated attributes. If you are evil, you will also be physically deformed. So, it is a dangerous idea that you know, Dr. Jekyll is proposing, but you got to remember this is 19th century, late 19th century England, and in that period, you know, people believed that if you are evil it showed, it reflected on your body. So, he says that evil had an imprint of deformity and decay. So there was degeneration, physical degeneration in you if you are evil.

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## Edward Hyde

*Dr. Lanyon  
Mr. Utterson  
Mr. Enfield*

And yet when I looked upon that ugly idol in the glass, I was conscious of no repugnance, rather of a leap of welcome. This, too, was myself. It seemed natural and human. In my eyes it bore a livelier image of the spirit, it seemed more express and single, than the imperfect and divided countenance I had been hitherto accustomed to call mine.

*cheval glass*



“And yet when I looked upon that ugly idol in the glass, I was conscious of no repugnance, rather of a leap of welcome.” So, remember that glass, the big looking glass, cheval glass that Dr. Jekyll has in his lab? And he says that when I transformed and looked at my appearance as Hyde on that glass, I was not repulsed. It is very significant because if you remember, everybody is repulsed. Dr. Lanyon is repulsed by Hyde, Mr. Utterson likewise, Mr. Enfield, and so do the servants of Dr. Jekyll.

Everybody is taken aback in horror and disgust when they look at Edward Hyde, but not Dr. Jekyll. In fact, he has a leap of welcome in his mind when he saw Edward Hyde. “This too was myself.” This is a very important statement in the entire book, and it is a very famous line in all of English literature. This too was myself, this evil side is also my, you know, my being, my creature. It seemed natural and human to me.

“In my eyes it bore a livelier image of the spirit,” That is how Dr. Jekyll reads it. He says that this being, Edward Hyde, is true to his spirit. He is evil and he reflects evil, so he is not hypocritical like many people are, who hide the hypocrisy. This man is true to his, you know, real spirit, and “it seemed more express and single.” It is expressing its, you know, unified consciousness, that is that evil consciousness.

“Than the imperfect and divided countenance I had been hitherto accustomed to call mine.” It is more single of mind and body, unlike my body says Dr. Jekyll, before this transformation, because he had to hide his evil personality within himself. So he is more, you know, hypocritical than than he is now because now he is able to divide, discriminate between the two sides. So, his original personality is what is imperfect according to Dr. Jekyll.

The original psyche of his where good and evil coexisted, and that is what is imperfect and divided. This, you know, new versions of himself is what he prefers.

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### Dr Jekyll's pride

- Men have before hired bravos to transact their crimes, while their own person and reputation sat under shelter. I was the first that ever did so for his pleasures. I was the first that could thus plod in the public eye with a load of genial respectability, and in a moment, like a schoolboy, strip off these lendings and spring headlong into the sea of liberty.



“Men have before hired bravos to transact their crimes, while their own person in reputation sat under the shelter. I was that first ever did so for his pleasures. I was the first that could thus plod in the public eye with a load of genial respectability, and in a moment, like a schoolboy, strip off these lendings, and spring headlong into the sea of liberty.” Look at the boyish manner in which he enjoys his transformations.

And look at the logical, you know, logical according to Dr. Jekyll, assumptions that he throws at the reader. He says that men have hired, you know, rowdies, people who do evil things to do bad things for him, for the person, whereas they remain respectable. So, it is like the modern day gundas that people hire to get their things done in society. So, I do not do such things, in fact I do



enjoy my own crimes. I go out into society and do whatever I want to do on my own as Mr. Hyde.

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### The Rise of Hyde

increasing in size

- That part of me which I had the power of projecting, had lately been much exercised and nourished; it had seemed to me of late as though the body of Edward Hyde had grown in stature, as though (when I wore that form) I were conscious of a more generous tide of blood; and I began to spy a danger that, if this were much prolonged, the balance of my nature might be permanently overthrown, the power of voluntary change be forfeited, and the character of Edward Hyde become irrevocably mine.



Hyde is rising in power. He was young, he was small, he was slim, but he is gradually gaining strength. And what is the impact of the rise of Hyde? Dr. Jekyll says that “that part of me which I had the power of projecting, had lately been much exercised and nourished.” The evil side is much exercised and given food by Mr. Hyde who goes out and, you know, does bad things. It seemed, “it had seemed to me of late as though the body of Edward Hyde had grown in stature, as though (when I wore that form) I were conscious of a more generous tide of blood; and I began to spy a danger that, if this were much prolonged, the balance of my nature might be permanently overthrown, the power of voluntary change be forfeited, and the character of Edward Hyde become irrevocably mine.”

So, what is the new danger that is in front of Dr. Jekyll? It is a real danger. So Edward Hyde has grown in stature, he is increasing in size, and why is that? Because he is given the liberty to exercise his evil nature. And Dr. Jekyll says that when I am Mr. Hyde, I can see that I am enjoying my physicality, there is more blood running through my body. And he also realizes that, you know, if I enjoy being Hyde more, then that personality will become mine forever, I might lose the power of transforming back to Dr. Jekyll.



And the character of Hyde will become irrevocably, unchangeably my character. So the balance will be deeply affected. The balance of my nature might be permanently overthrown, that is what he fears, that he will not be able to have control over his transformation. In fact, that is what it, what happens, he is unable to control his transformation. He automatically changes into Hyde without taking that, you know, portion that he usually prepares.

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I was once more Hyde



I am giving you an example of that kind of instance. Dr. Jekyll goes for a walk and he sits in that Regents Park and he is enjoying the day, that winter day. And suddenly what happens is that, you know, involuntarily he changes into Mr. Hyde. So, he goes out as a very respectable man, enjoys himself, and suddenly without any control he is back to Edward Hyde. The man who is being hunted by all of London for the crimes he had committed, especially the murder of Sir Danvers Carew.

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## “I was once more Edward Hyde”

the Regent's Park was full of winter chirrupings and sweet with spring odours. I sat in the sun on a bench; the animal within me licking the chops of memory; the spiritual side a little, drowsed, promising subsequent penitence, but not yet moved to begin. After all, I reflected, I was like my neighbours; and then I smiled, comparing myself with other men, comparing my active goodwill with the lazy cruelty of their neglect.



“The Regent's park was full of winter chirrupings and sweet with spring odours.” So that is the ambience of that park. It is full of the air of spring, spring is not far. “I sat in the sun on the bench, on a bench; the animal within me licking the chops of memory.” So Hyde is inside Dr. Jekyll, and it is not allowed to come out as he usually allowed him to, because he does not want Hyde to take control. So, you know, the animal is inside licking its memory, he is thinking back to those evil things that are in the memory. “And the spiritual side a little, drowsed, promising subsequent penitence, but not yet moved to begin.” So, the spiritual side needs more encouragement there. And Dr. Jekyll thinks that yes, of course I will be repent for, I will repent, I will make certain compensations for my bad behavior, but he is not ready to move yet.

“After all, I reflected, I was like my neighbours.” I am just like any other man. “And then I smiled, comparing myself with other men, comparing my active goodwill with the lazy cruelty of their neglect.” He is like other men, but then other men do not do as many charities as Dr. Jekyll. So he is actively doing good to the society, but the other men who are full of good and evil do not proactively commit such good deeds for the benefit of society. So, it is kind of comparing and enjoying his position. And then suddenly he becomes Edward Hyde.

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## The Dirt within

- This was the shocking thing; that the slime of the pit seemed to utter cries and voices; that the amorphous dust gesticulated and sinned; that what was dead, and had no shape, should usurp the offices of life.



“This was the shocking thing; that the slime of the pit seemed to utter cries and voices; that the amorphous dust gesticulated and sinned; that what was dead, and had no shape, should usurp the offices of life.” So as I said, Dr. Jekyll changes into Mr. Hyde and, you know, Jekyll understands that there is dirt within his psyche which is what is making him transform without any kind of control.

And look at the way he describes Mr. Hyde. Hyde is described as the amorphous dust, there is no specific identity to Mr. Hyde, and it is a shocking, you know, creature which is deep inside and it is usurping the offices of life. It is taking away the life of this respectable man, who is Dr. Jekyll. **(Refer Slide Time: 18:31)**

## The Dirt Within

And this again, that that insurgent horror was knit to him closer than a wife, closer than an eye; lay caged in his flesh, where he heard it mutter and felt it struggle to be born; and at every hour of weakness, and in the confidence of slumber, prevailed against him and deposed him out of life.



“And this again, that the insurgent horror was knit to him closer than a wife.” Mr. Hyde is so close to Dr. Jekyll than a wife would be to a husband, “closer than an eye,” more close physically that an eye in a body, “lay caged in his flesh.” In fact, Dr. Jekyll is carrying Mr. Hyde within himself, in his body, “where he heard it mutter and felt it struggle to be born.” So he can experience the desire of Mr. Hyde to come out.

“And at every hour of weakness, and in the confidence of slumber, prevailed against him and deposed him out of life.” So, whenever Dr. Jekyll is at its weakest, at his weakest, Mr. Hyde jumped out.

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## Ruin

- he would long ago have ruined himself in order to involve me in the ruin. But his love of life is wonderful; I go further: I, who sicken and freeze at the mere thought of him, when I recall the abjection and passion of this attachment, and when I know how he fears my power to cut him off by suicide, I find it in my heart to pity him.



So the ruin is very clear, very soon. “He would long ago have ruined himself in order to involve me in the ruin.” So Edward Hyde wants to ruin the life and career of Dr. Jekyll. “But his love of life is wonderful”, the love of life of Mr. Hyde is wonderful. “I go further: I who sicken and freeze at the mere thought of him, when I recall the abjection and passion of this attachment, and when I know how he fears my power to cut him off by suicide, I find it in my heart to pity him.”

So there is one thing with which Dr. Jekyll threatens Mr. Hyde, and that is, you know, the threat of suicide. So if Dr. Jekyll commits suicide, then Hyde would also die. And when he threatens him with this, you know, psychologically, he can see the impact of that on Mr. Hyde and he feels sorry for him.

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### Dr Jekyll's Confession

I am now finishing this statement under the influence of the last of the old powders. This, then, is the last time, short of a miracle, that Henry Jekyll can think his own thoughts or see his own face (now how sadly altered!) in the glass. Nor must I delay too long to bring my writing to an end; for if my narrative has hitherto escaped destruction, it has been by a combination of great prudence and great good luck.



He is finishing up the letter, so this is the final stages of that narrative that Mr. Utterson reads. Dr. Jekyll says “I am now finishing this statement under the influence of the last of the old powders.” So he states that I am still Dr. Jekyll, I am still in my own reason and senses. “This, then, is the last time, short of a miracle that Henry Jekyll can think his own thoughts or see his own face.” So, this is the final time, this is the last moment when I am really alive as Dr. Jekyll.

“Nor must I delay too long to bring my writing to an end; for if my narrative has hitherto escaped destruction, it has been by a combination of great prudence and great good luck.” So he says that I should not prolong writing this letter, because I might lose control of my personality and then Mr. Hyde will come out. And I have been protecting this letter from the clutches of Mr. Hyde because of my shrewdness, I have been very prudent, I have been hiding this letter, and good luck is also on my side.

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## Dr Jekyll's "death"

"Will Hyde die upon the scaffold? or will he find courage to release himself at the last moment? God knows; I am careless; this is my true hour of death, and what is to follow concerns another than myself. Here then, as I lay down the pen and proceed to seal up my confession, I bring the life of that unhappy Henry Jekyll to an end."

*Suicide?*



Will Hyde die upon the scaffold? Will he be arrested by the legal system? Will he be put to death by the state? Or will he find courage to release himself at the last moment. Will he kill himself, will he commit suicide? God only knows I am careless, I do not care about Mr. Hyde anymore, this is my true hour of death. The point at which I finish my letter will be the death of Dr. Jekyll, and what is to follow concerns another than myself.

So, the rest belongs to another life, another man, another personality, I do not care anymore. "Here then, as I lay down the pen and proceed to seal up my confession, I bring the life of that unhappy Henry Jekyll to an end." So, when I put my pen down I also end my life as this unhappy

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