

Charles Dickens 'Great Expectations' And The Metamorphosis Of Dreams

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Charles John Huffar Dickens was born on 7 February (1812-9 June 1870) at land port in Portsea Island and is regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian period. Dickens was regarded as the colossus of his age. This creative genius has been praised by fellow writers from Leo Tolstoy to George Orwell for the realism, prose styles unique characterizations and the most important part, the social criticism. Writers like Oscar Wilde, Henry James and Virginia Woolf complained of a lack of psychological depth and sentimentalism. Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* almost written a century and a half ago is one of the most enduring pieces of work ever written.

During his childhood, Dickens was forced to leave school to work in a factory. He wrote about social reforms, children rights, education and other social reforms. As Dickens began writing *Great Expectation*, he had separated from his wife Catherine Dickens and was keeping secret affair with a much younger woman, Elten Ternan. George Bernard Shaw praised the novel as "All of one piece and consistently truthful. Dickens felt *Great Expectations* was his best work calling it "very fine idea" and was very sensitive to complements from his friends, Balwer, who has been extraordinarily taken by the book.

Great Expectations is Charles Dickens thirteenth novel. It is his second novel after *David Copper Field*. *Great Expectations* is a coming of age novel and it is a classical work

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of Victorian Literature. It depicts the growth and personal development of an orphan named 'Pip'. It was first published in serial form in Dickens.

Weekly periodical 'All the year round' from 1 December 1840 to August 1861. The novel represents Dickens peak and maturity as an author according to G. K Chesterton, Dickens penned Great expectation in the afternoon of his life and fame. Great Expectations is a graphic book full of extreme imagery, poverty, prison ships, "The Halks", barriers and chains and fights to the death the novel reflects the events of the time. Dickens concerns and present the relationship between society and people.

Pip, a poor blacksmith apprentice, as orphan raised by an unkind sister who resents him, and her husband, who is kind towards Pip. Pip is unhappy and longs to become a gentleman. One day a Lawyer, Mr. Jaggers informs him that a beneficiary has left him great wealth, who unexpectedly became the owner of extreme fortunes. Pip immigrated to London to become a gentleman. When his secret benefactor turns out to be a convict whom Pip helped as a child, he is forced to re-examine his feelings about society, criminality and what it means to be a gentleman. The convict never reveals Pips assistance when he is caught and more.

Much later, Young Pip is sent to Miss Havisham, a wealthy old lady who is a bitter woman. Her adopted daughter Estella is beautiful and Pip instantly falls in love with her. But estella is cold and distant but slowly she softens towards Pip. One day he learns that an anonymous benefactor has left him an enormous sum of money. He moved to London to be a gentleman not a blacksmith and a lawyer named Juggers will oversee his inheritance.

On his Twenty fourths Birthday, Pip learns that his benefactor is not Miss Havisham but the convict from long ago. Though Pip is ashamed of the convict Magwitch, he is grateful and loyal, So he commits himself to protecting Magwitch from police morally, he decides not to accept the convicts money. He fee is compassionate towards Magwitch realizing the depth of the convicts love for him. He helps Magwitch to escape, but he is caught at last and Magwitch dies.

The novel ends when he meets Estella after many year. She is remarried she and Pip part as friends and Pip realizes that she will always be a part of his life.

The major theme in the novel are all related to ambition ie.-"Great Expectations". Great Expectations has a colourful cast Capricious. Through out the narrative typical Dickensian themes emerge: wealth and poverty, love and rejection and the eventual triumph of good over evil. No doubt, the novel trace the psychological and moral development of a young boy to maturity, his transment and transition form a rural environment to the Landon metropolis, his emotional development and the exhibition of his hopes and youthful dreams and their metamorphosis.

Great Expectations according to Paul Schlicke, "The more spiritual and intimate autobiography"- It also appears as a tragedy, Since the characters suffers physically, psychologically or both Pips story contains three stages his childhood and early youth in kent and his time in London, G. B. show called the novel "Compactly perfect, similarly the defects in it are as nearly imperceptible as spots on the sun shadow on a sunlit sea. It is one of the most mature and realistic novel of Dickens.

When Pip's benefactor turns out to be a convict whom Pip helped as a child, he is forced to re-examine his feelings about society, criminality and what it means to be a gentleman. Along the way, he struggles with issues of guilt and shame and

labors to win the affection of a lady who has no heart. In short Dickens, *The Great Expectation* is the metamorphosis of dreams of an orphan and the different phases of time along with the changing relationship among people and society.

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