💣 The Power of Evil 💣

Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

People are generally more civil or more of a savage. Someone that would be considered civil is normal, polite, kind, and essentially a good person. Someone that would be considered a savage is rude and essentially evil. In the novella, Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, a civil person is considered a gentleman and a savage is considered as a criminal. The novella Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Robert Louis Stevenson shows a struggle between the civil and the savage. Through the novella Jekyll demonstrates the civil and Hyde demonstrates the savage. Dr. Henry Jekyll is a scientist who is a well-known gentleman and he lives alone in his house in London. Gabriel John Utterson is a lawyer and a good friend of Jekyll. He is also more of a gentleman than Jekyll is. One of Jekyll’s experiments was to make himself look younger and to separate the good from the evil in a person. Therefore he creates a potion to alter himself to look younger and be a different person to separate his good from his evil. Jekyll creates Mr. Edward Hyde. Hyde is a dwarfish, odd looking person and everyone in London thinks he is a criminal from the way he looks. The novella shows that between the struggle of the civil and the savage, that the savage eventually takes over and wins. Even though Jekyll is a gentleman, helps Hyde, and tries to stop being Hyde; the evil in Hyde is more powerful. He trips a girl, murders a person, and basically kills Jekyll.

The savage like things that Hyde does are more noticeable than the civil things that Jekyll does. People that know Jekyll may distinguish that he is a gentleman; but people don’t even have to know Hyde to know that he trampled a little girl. People just talk about Hyde trampling a little girl more than they would talk about Jekyll being a gentleman. While Jekyll and Utterson were on their usual Sunday walk “they said nothing, looked singularly dull and would hail with obvious relief the appearance of a friend”; which is how a gentleman acts. Utterson is told the story of Hyde tripping the little girl “all at once, I saw two figures: one a little man who was stumping along eastward at a good walk, and the other a girl of maybe eight or ten who was running as hard as she was able down a cross street. Well, sir, the two ran into one another naturally enough at the corner; and then came the horrible part of the thing; for the man trampled calmly over the child’s body and left her screaming on the ground” was the description Utterson got. Most people do not pay attention to people walking down the street. Although if someone saw two people run into each other and one of them trample the other they would pay attention. The little things Hyde does are more powerful than the things Jekyll does.

Jekyll is being civil by trying to help Hyde while everyone else is against Hyde; that is, until Hyde acts like a savage and actually murders someone. Jekyll has even been asked by Utterson why he helps Hyde. Hyde killed the person right in the open while someone was watching. When Utterson asked Jekyll why he helps Hyde so much he replies, “I have really a great interest in poor Hyde. I know you have seen him; he told me so; and I fear he was rude. But I do sincerely take a great, a very great interest in that young man” is the reply Utterson got. The only reason Jekyll takes such great interest in Hyde is because Jekyll is Hyde. While Hyde was on a walk with someone he “all of a sudden broke out in a great flame of anger, stamping with his foot, brandishing the cane, and carrying on like a madman. The old gentleman took a step back, with the air of one very much surprised and a trifle hurt; and at that Mr. Hyde broke out of all bounds and clubbed him to the earth. And next moment, with ape-like fury, he was trampling his victim under foot and hailing down a storm of blows, under which the bones were audibly shattered and the body jumped upon the roadway” and he has killed the person. As soon as Hyde murdered the person Jekyll told Utterson “I swear to god I will never set eyes on him again. I bind my honour to you that I am done with him in this world” he told Utterson that he is not going to help Hyde ever again or have anything to do with Hyde.

Jekyll believes that the good in a person should be separated from the evil. But once his evil side, Hyde started to take over he tried to stop changing into Hyde. While Jekyll continued to stay civil, Hyde continued to progress into more of a savage each time he did something. Jekyll created Hyde because “on the thought of the separation of these elements. If each, I told myself, could be housed in separate identities, life would be relived of all that was unbearable; the unjust might go his way, delivered from the aspirations and remorse of his more upright twin; and the just could walk steadfastly and securely on his upward path, doing the good things in which he found his pleasure, and no longer exposed to disgrace and penitence by the hands of this extraneous evil. It was the curse of mankind that these incongruous faggots were thus bound together- that in the agonized womb of consciousness, these polar twins should be continuously struggling” Jekyll thinks that by separating good from evil they will go their own way and the good can have a good life. Also that it is a curse that the good and evil are combined. Hyde essentially kills Jekyll even though they are the same person. Jekyll had to drink a potion to turn into Hyde; after drinking the potion so much Jekyll unwilling started to change into Hyde. Jekyll would go to bed as Hyde and wake up as Jekyll. One morning when Jekyll woke up he “was still so engaged when, in one of my more wakeful moments, my eyes fell upon my hand. Now the hand of Henry Jekyll was professional in shape and size: it was large, firm, white and comely. But the yellow light of a mid-London morning, lying half shut on the bed clothes, was lean, corder, knuckly, of a dusky pallor and thickly shaded with a swat growth of hair. It was the hand of Edward Hyde” instead of waking up as Jekyll he woke up as Hyde. This is when Hyde starts to take over Jekyll because Jekyll isn’t able to change back and stay as Jekyll. Even though Jekyll tried to stop changing into Hyde he couldn’t, and Hyde took over and killed Jekyll.

There is always a struggle between the civil and the savage. Between the struggle through the civil and the savage the savage always has more power and takes over; since the good things people do are not noticed as much as the bad things people do. Also the savage has more power than the civil because the savage brings negativity upon people and everything is affected more by negative things than positive things. Everyone is good and evil but the evil will always come out more than the civil and more powerful than the civil.