💣 Dueling Equity 💣

The Yin Yang Enigma

The yin yang is the Taoism symbol of light and dark, balance. This symbol can be used to embody ones personal well being; both the good and the evil within a person. Analogous to Robert Louis Stevenson’s Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde; the tale of a considerate benevolent civil doctor turned scientist, Dr. Jekyll, whom cannot resist and preserve his inner iniquitous titillation aside. So in acting on such impulse creates a methodical potion allowing him to mutate into another being granting him to release his appetite for destruction and chaos amongst the world. This persona, known as Hyde (the malevolent wicked immortal savage), is confronted with his ‘better half’ to eradicate himself in hopes to retain Dr. Jekyll’s well known integrity as a civil doctor, thus ending the feature with the civil prevailing. The novella develops the idea to perceive people into having multiple personalities, a civil side, a savage side, and a contrast between the two.

Dr. Jekyll, if to be defined by one word, impossible. As this gentleman like being may illuminate the idea of a gracious well rounded civil being, though within his core lays the foundation for a vice malicious criminal ready to spring and strike horror into the hearts of the public. But that is his other side, his ‘yang’ to put in layman’s terms, the dark side. His ‘yin’’ is what to be focused on, as he is the good half of this multi persona being. Jekyll owning elegant clothing of utmost expense is also a “well-made, smooth-faced man of fifty…(18)” illustrates his gentleman like traits through his appearance. Aside from appearance another gentleman like trait is composure, the will to resist agitation. To discuss one’s will and be criticized as to who the future inheritor and react “…if I could make the choice; but indeed it isn’t what you fancy; it is not as bad as that; and just put your good heart at rest…(19-20)” demonstrates Jekyll’s tranquility in such a situation to be in. With the evidence presented, one whom is open minded, should come to the conclusion that the man Henry Jekyll is a civil gentleman.

Now to be drawn to the countervail outlook of the reputable and flagitious contrast, the savage. Mr. Hyde, the accumulation of rancorous pieces left by Dr. Jekyll built into a dwarfish ape like juggernaut; come to be by the hands of a mysterious potion concocted by the acute Dr. Jekyll. And this, leads a Mr. Hyde to be the collected combination of all evil thoughts from Jekyll, a savage. His appearance leaves people baffled giving the “…impression of deformity without any nameable malformation…(15)” depicting his brutish presentation. Not only of his facial structure develops the idea of an antagonistic gentleman but his clothing too; to dress in clothes “…enormously too large for him in every measurement…(52)” suggests his opposing position regarding formal civil like appearance. To further the idea of a gentleman, and Mr. Hyde’s complete contention for it, regards composure. The practice of maintaining cool and collected. If the idea of “snarling aloud into a savage laugh; and the next moment, with extraordinary quickness, he had unlocked the door and disappeared into the house. (15)” is gentleman like, then Mr. Hyde is a perfect example of a civilized being. Unfortunately as evidenced this is not the case. No, Mr. Hyde is about as far from as a savage as humanly possible, he is a savage.

As promised by the almighty induction, the comparison. To contrast the two perpetual conflicts amongst the civil and savage can be demonstrated by the two test subjects, Jekyll and Hyde. To begin, the idea of gentleman like qualities are reflected through Jekyll and the opposite through Hyde. However, these two beings are found in the later chapters to be the same person switching back and forth via a mysterious potion. They can be classified as the same person in the physical sense, but within the mental sense not at all. A comparison can be made in appearance. When you have “The large handsome face of Dr. Jekyll…(19)” and the “resemblance to incipient rigour…(52)” of Mr. Hyde, illustrates the juxtaposition amongst the two. Complete opposites appearance wise. Not only does the presentation of the two differ but so do the mental states. Dr. Jekyll’s idea of the “Evil besides (which I must still believe to be the lethal side of man) had left on the body an imprint of deformity and decay. (60)” proposing that each position (person) of him are complete opposites and that when one leaves, another enters. This being the reality to the fiction that is Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

The yin and yang shows the contrast of light and dark, Jekyll and Hyde. The two personalities clash within one physical being and duel out and leave their personal blemish on the world. But in the end only one may leave victor. A moral victory, serving more than favorable is brought to the hands of the yin of the multi persona being, Jekyll. He who over came the urge to reek havoc amongst his world by bringing down himself. The civil whom overcame the savage. And with that “…I bring the life of that unhappy Jekyll and Hyde to an end. (72)”.