

## ***Frankenstein: Chapters 15-17***

**Chapter 15:** The Creature reveals the story of the DeLacey's in the previous chapter and comments on how their demeanor produced in him a joy and goodness that he wished to share with others. He also reveals in these pages that he came across three books in the forest one afternoon that someone had left behind. He begins reading them, as he now speaks and reads fluently. This chapter is devoted to what he learned and how he became more self-aware.

First novel: *Sorrows of Werter*- The Creature can relate to the hero, Werter, and the rejection he is faced with. The Creature often cries after reading his story and begins to question his own existence. Why am I here? Whence did I come? And Who am I? are all questions that he asks of himself. Learns gloom and rejection in this book.

Second novel: *Plutarch's Lives*-He learns of the founding republics in history from this book. He learns of heroes from past ages. "Many things I read surpassed my understanding and experience. I had a very confused knowledge of kingdoms, wide extents of country, mighty rivers, and boundless seas." Here, he begins to see a world outside the cottage, forest and towns that he has been exposed to in his short life. The Creature learns of men meddling in public affairs, governing, and massacring their species. He sees great vice in the world and wants to act in a benevolent fashion instead.

Third novel: *Paradise Lost*: This novel helps The Creature in paralleling his life to that of Milton's poem. He sees the duality of his being; he is both like Adam and the devil. His Creator made him, yet did not do so in his like image. Instead, he is gigantic and is given no companion to share with. He also is like the fallen angel, Satan, cast down to his own hell on earth because he is monstrous in appearance. He also comments that even Satan had his admirers, yet The Creature has none.

One important note is that The Creature finds Victor's journal in the pocket of the jacket he is wearing. He is able to read every detailed note and comments how his father was incapable of making a creature in his own image. He made it unreal, gigantic and "too advanced", perhaps commenting on the ambition of man and its dangers.

Things to note

- Creature wants to be good and begins preparations to meet the cottagers.
- He desires companionship, an Eve, who could share in his burden
- He musters the courage to meet with DeLacey while the others are out, knowing he is blind will allow him to visit without prejudice.
- He visits with DeLacey and learns that DeLacey is accepting of him—tries to find out who the Creature desires to become friends with.
- Unfortunately, the family comes home and drives The Creature away!!!
- He is savagely beaten until he runs away.
- Throughout this chapter the Creature constantly refers to the appreciation he has for nature.

**Chapter 16:** "Cursed, Cursed Creator! Why did I live?"

The Creature begins to detest the world he lives in. He speaks to Victor and asks why he would choose to make a life destined for such torment and wretchedness. As he suffers from rejection that he faced by the cottagers, he claims, "I declared everlasting war against the species, and, more than all, against him who had formed me, and sent me forth to this insupportable misery."

- The Creature has one moment of clarity when he decides to return to the cottage to explain himself
- There he sees Felix explaining to two men that he shall never return to the cottage again.
- The Creature never sees the family again

It is then that The Creature decides to set FIRE to the cottage. This serves as his rebirth into the monster that everyone sees him as. As he watches the fire grow, he decides to press on toward the home of his father. Having learned geography from DeLacey's teachings, he set out in pursuit of his father and family. He officially gives "birth" to revenge.

- The Creature's journey to Geneva is a long and painful one.
- He finds himself plagued by exhaustion and cold
- His only solace is in NATURE, where he feels some of his torment "borne away". (much like father again)

The Creature sees a young girl running in the forest and she appears hurt. He observes her injury and notices that she falls into the river. He decides to save her; this only sheds light on the fact that the Creature wanted to be good, was born good and was only turned evil by society. Once he saves her, he is shot down by a man who saw The Creature near the girl. His reward for being courageous is a bullet wound.

- He accepts this as man's cruelty and becomes more vengeful.
- The closer he gets to Geneva, the more wrathful he becomes

Upon arriving at his destination, he takes in the beauty of nature and tries to replenish himself from the exhaustion he feels when he notices a young boy, pure to the ways of the world, approach him. On seeing this young boy, he resolves to "adopt" him so that he may have a "son" who he could educate about tolerance and acceptance.

- When The Creature takes the boy he finds out that he is a Frankenstein. The boy yells he will tell his father— immediately the Creature knows this is Victor's brother.
- "I gazed on my victim, and my heart swelled with exultation and hellish triumph: clapping my hands, I exclaimed, 'I too, can create desolation; my enemy is not invulnerable: this death will carry despair to him...'"
- He kills William and realizes that he can now take revenge on his father.
- Because he had learned the laws of man and their mischief throughout history, once he came upon Justine, sleeping in a barn after looking for William for hours, he placed the locket that William held in his hands before his death, into the folds of Justine's dress.
- The Creature has become evil now. He understands the duplicity of man and works it in his favor
- He explains the torment that Victor has caused him and knows that no woman would ever accept him as he is.
- He then requests that Victor make him a female companion who would accept him in his wretchedness, as she would be just as hideous too.

### **Chapter 17:** The Creature demands a bride!!!

"Let him live with me in the interchange of kindness; and, instead of injury, I would bestow every benefit upon him with tears of gratitude at his acceptance. But that cannot be; the human senses are insurmountable barriers to our union. Yet mine shall not be the submission of abject slavery. I will revenge my injuries..."

Question: What does the above passage say about the human condition?

- Victor refuses to make him a bride
- Victor continues to listen and feels bad for the Creature. He understands that he has neglected his son and maybe he owes this to him.
- The Creature claims that if he is given a bride he will leave the country and travel to South America. There, he and his bride will live off berries and live out their miserable lives together. It may not be much, but they'll have each other.
- He explains that he will make his home in NATURE and avoid humans altogether.
- Victor still says no!
- The Creature swears to never show his face to man again and never do harm and Victor reconsiders. He finally agrees to make him a mate if he will swear to a life in solitude with his bride.
- The Creature descends the mountain and is out of sight.
- The theme of nature is highly focused on in this chapter. Victor returns to nature, to cry under the stars as he ponders the decision he made for the Creature.
- He now sets out to commit to the task of creating another monster, knowing he may desert his family once again.

Questions:

What are two symbols that are heavily studied in these chapters?

How do we know The Creature was born good?

Is it right of V. to create a mate for his son?

Explain the major themes that are played out in these chapters.