



## The inner conflicts in The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

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### Abstract

The objective of this study is to explore the emotional reactions and internal conflicts of the main characters brought about by external events in “The Scarlet Letter” by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Further, the present study depicts all the mental agonies and inner struggles that the characters go through. The study also attempts to step inside the characters' psyche to decipher the real motives behind the characters' actions or, sometimes, the motives behind their reactions. To what extend does the public humiliation incline the characters to reveal or conceal their true feelings and real identities? Furthermore, it delves deeply into the complex mentalities of the four main characters: Hester Prynne, Arthur Dimmesdale, Roger Chillingworth and Little Pearl. The study, nonetheless, concentrates upon the idea that a single sin can condemn the past and determine the future of the characters. Hester Prynne, in the Puritan society, commits the act of adultery with her unknown partner-in-sin and her husband Chillingworth promises to seek revenge upon her secret lover. Further, the themes of isolation and alienation, which are an inevitable result from the act of adultery and deep internal feelings of guilt, will be explicated in this paper.

**Keywords:** internal conflicts, external events, identities, puritanism, revenge, adultery, isolation, alienation.

### الملخص

الهدف الرئيسي من البحث هو اظهار العوامل الاساسية التي تؤثر على افعال و ردود افعال ابطال القصة و طريقة تفكيرهم و طريقة تعاملهم مع المجتمع. ما هي دوافع المؤدية الى تلك الافعال و كيف يتغير شخصية الابطال مع الاحداث حولهم و طريقة النظر اليهم . لماذا لا يستطيعون مواجهة المجتمع و يبحثون عن طرق اخرى لكي يخفون شخصياتهم الحقيقية خاصتنا الابطال الرئيسة في القصة مثل: هيستر، ارثر و جيلينكورث. الهدف الاخر من البحث هو بيان و تأكيد الفكرة لان الخطأ واحد او الجريمة واحدة وهذا يلغي الماضي و يسود المستقبل مثل ما يحدث لبطلة القصة هيستر. و الموضوعات الاساسية في القصة مثل، العزلة و الوحدة سيناقش و بالتفصيل في البحث.

نامانجى سەرەكى لەم تۈزىنەۋەيە بىرىتىيە لە نىشانىدانى كارداňە وە درونىيەكان و وىنەكىرىدىنى ھەمۇ ئەو كىشە و گىروگىرۇتە درونىيەنى كە ھەرىيەكە لە كاراكتەرە سەرەكىيەكانى ئەم نۇقىلە بىيىدا تىپەرەدەن كە سەرچاوهى دروستبۇونەكەشى ھۆكارە درەكى و كىشەكانى دروروبەرىيانە. ئەم تۈزىنەۋە ھەولۇ دەدات بە قۇولۇ بېچىتە ناو مىشەك و كەسايەتى ئەم ئەكتەرانە وە بۇ باشتىر تىيەشتن لە ھەنسىس و كەوت وەنە و پەرچە كەدارانە كە ئەكتەرەكەن ھەيانە بەرامبەر رۇداوهەكانى دروروبەرىيان. تاچ راپەيەك كۆمەنگا و تىپۋانىنیيان ھۆكارە لە پشت شاردەنە وە كەسايەتى راستەقىنەي ئەكتەرەكەن، بەتايىيەت ھەرىيەكە لە سى ئەكتەرە سەرەكىيەكە، ھىستەر، ئارپەر و چىلىنگۈرپ. ئەم تۈزىنەۋە بەھەمان شىۋە ئەو وە راستىيەش نىشان دەدات كە چۈن تاكە تاوازىيەك راپەردى ئەنجامدەرەكە ئاشىرىن دەكەت و داھاتوشى لەناؤ دەبات. وەك ئەمەدەي بەسەر ئەكتەرە سەرەكى ھىستەر دا دىيت. ھەرەوەھا بابەتە گۈنگەكانى وەكۇ خۆپەراۋىز حىستان و دوورەپەرىزى و تەنیاىي لە نۇقىلەكەدا ئەم تۈزىنەۋەدا باس دەكىرىن.

## ***Introduction***

Nathaniel Hawthorne in Scarlet Letter elucidates and goes deep into discussing the dark and hidden aspects of human souls. It is not only Roger Chillingworth who probes into the minister's mind in order to ruin him and attain vengeance, but the author himself seems very interested in the psychological and inner life of his three central characters; Hester Prynne, Arthur Dimmesdale and Roger Chillingworth. He also portrays little Pearl thoroughly. Hawthorne describes the inner feelings of each of his characters meticulously in various stages of their lives and multitudinous situations. Their relationship within themselves on one hand, and their relationship with the society in which they live have both been explored and developed through psychoanalysis.

A psychological novel, also called psychological realism, revolves around and inevitably tends to focus more on the interior characterization and emphasizes on the motives and the unseen factors behind the actions of the characters. Instead of a neutral representation of the events and the actions of the characters, the psychological novel usually steps inside the unexplored angles of the characters, approaches their real motives and reveal their true feelings to the readers.

The psychological novels illustrate the internal conflicts and struggles of the characters, which are ultimately resulted from the external actions. For the writers of this type of novel, the characters and the characterizations are more important than the events. The psychological novel can also be referred to as a novel of "The inner man". Therefore, it focuses on the techniques of stream of consciousness and internal monologues to uncover the inner workings of the human mind. In this paper we are delving deep into these inner workings and attempt to explore the internal and often complex aspects of the main characters in the novel to decipher the true motivations of the characters and illustrate them accordingly.

*The Scarlet Letter* is the first American psychological novel set in New England in the seventeenth century amongst the Puritan society. The novel fastidiously depicts the great impacts and influences of sin upon the sinner and his or her surroundings. Hester Prynne commits an act of adultery and even when she delivers her baby, she still refuses to reveal the identity of the father and attempts to continue life with a different identity and lifestyle. The scarlet letter "A" signifies the various emotional statuses of Hester, such as, guilt feeling, pain, betrayal and vengeance, creating, in turn, an intense



psychological novel. Hawthorne wants to illustrate the complex ways in which humans tackle myriads of psychological tumults. Hawthorne is very wise in approaching the human psyches and revealing the power of alienation and what influence does it leave on the human souls. On one hand, he explores the notions of doubt and self-torture in the characterization of Arthur Dimmesdale, and on the other hand, he represents the themes of defiance and repudiation of the traditions and social laws in the depiction of Hester Prynne. The Puritanism and its strict rules along with its influences upon the individuals have been rigorously portrayed throughout the novel.

### **The inner conflicts in the *scarlet letter***

Both Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale go through excruciating mental anguish and their calamities or sufferings have been laid bare at every step. In the very beginning of the novel, we see Hester standing on the scaffold with a “burning blush” and yet a “haughty smile” on her face, which are brilliant presentations of her sense of shame. Hester’s advertisers are resulted from society’s criticism on one hand, and the defiance or the feeling of indifference she is displaying to the Puritan society who castigated her from its midst, on the other hand. The scarlet letter “A” she is wearing in her dress indicates the desperate recklessness of her mood. Although she seems haughty, but she undergoes indescribable mental suffering when people are inevitably talking about and heavily criticizing her unforgivable sin. It is as if her heart has been flung into the streets and people are in the best position to step on it heavily until crushing it. Hester, however, experiences very severe pain because the author informs us that a sufferer never appreciates the amount of suffering he or she is going through when they are being tortured, but later on when they think about it, the torture is more severe and more destructible. ( Batra, 2012: 196)

Hawthorne says that the scene of Hester standing on the scaffold with her innocent infant in her arms and the scarlet letter embroidered in her dress “was not without a mixer of awe”. And he says “had there been a Papist among the crowd of Puritans, he might have seen in this beautiful woman, so picturesque in her attire and mien, and with the infant at her bosom, an object to remind him of the image of Divine Maternity, (Hawthorne, 65, quoted in Batra, 2012: 198) And it is only this “sinless motherhood” notion that helps Hester to manage during this difficult time.

Hester, while standing on the scaffold, resorts to her memories of past experiences in her village as a solace for her recent torments, even the village of rural England, where happy infancy and stainless maidenhood seemed yet to be in her mother’s keeping, like garments put off long ago has now been exposed to absolute disgrace of public. She inevitably compares her past life to that of present and sighs deeply for all the beauty surrounded her and the purity she used to have as a child. Hester, however realizes soon that the only reality she has now is this public expostulation she is receiving and the shame she has brought forth to herself and this new-born child. Thus, she breaks down and is led back to the prison. This is yet another contrast to the serene and calm attitude she had been able to keep on the scaffold, despite the public humiliation she received in the form of a badge worn in her bosom. Hester refuses to leave the Boston settlement as she secretly and sacredly is bound to this place. The badge is a chain that unites her to this place and her partner-in-sin, the young priest, Dimmesdale. She thinks this very place has been her place of guilt and it will be her place of punishment and eventually her place of purification and reconciliation with her soul and people.

Hester's reactions to the weird and incomprehensible mood of her child, Pearl, is another indication of Hester's psychology. Hester is utterly and completely baffled by Pearl's abnormal character and perplexing behavior. She keeps questioning herself whether Pearl is a human child. She gets very frustrated by her behavior and cries out in a great misery "O father in Heaven, what is this being which I have brought into the world?" Hester is further annoyed and frightened when the people refer to Pearl as a demon offspring. (Bewley, 1959: 28)

Hawthorne is very wise in his descriptions and is well aware of all these facts and innate characteristics within the people. He shows it in Hester's nature and her state of mind in relation to the stigma that she is wearing. Hester becomes the Sister of Mercy without even gaining any worldly privileges. She gives sufficient evidence of a feeling of her sisterhood with the race of man. She is always ready to help the needy and the distressed and endeavors to help them overcome their unfortunate conditions without even receiving any sort of appreciations for her sincere efforts. She dedicates her time and efforts to alleviate the pain and the misery of her townspeople when an epidemic emerges. This outcast and cursed woman, at all times of adversity, becomes the savior and helper of her fellow people. The scarlet letter "A" is now changed from Adultery to Able because of all the helps she is offering her town. (Napitupulu, 2009: 30)

When the scarlet letter "A" is imposed on Hester, she covers her beautiful and abundant hair in a cap and she repudiates to show it or loosen it except in the forest scene when she is alone with Arthur Dimmesdale. Her heart has already been crashed by the shame and public humiliation she received. Therefore, she has no desire to attract attention of any man in the area. Hawthorne wisely illustrates that Hester's coldness or the indifferent nature is due to the fact that her life has thoroughly changed, "from passion and feelings to thought". Hester is confused "Thus, Hester Prynne, whose heart had lost its regular and healthy throb, wandered without a clue in the dark labyrinth of the mind." However, she is not closer to repentance than she was forced to stand on the scaffold. She never waves in her belief that her act of adultery, which is regarded as an immoral sin by the Puritan society, had "a consecration of its own. "Hawthorne wittily says "the scarlet letter had not done its office", Hester's mental agony has been great. But the purpose for which the community has condemned her failed to serve its purpose. Hester has not realized the gravity of her sin, but she cannot in any stage look at herself as a sinner. She is well aware of the intense hatred that Chillingworth has towards Dimmesdale, who now stands on the edge of lunacy. Since she is strong-minded, she decided to break her promise to her former husband and reveal his true identity to the minister. She is aware now that it is because of her that Dimmesdale has fallen into his present condition, but now she has the perseverance to redeem the situation. After revealing her true intention to Chillingworth, she gives the most shocking news to the minister, which is the fact that the physician is in fact her husband. She wanders in "moral wilderness" for years. The puritan society has not given her anything except for cursing and forcing shame upon her through the letter she is wearing. She has been treated as a pariah and dealt with cruelly, which in turn made her stronger. Therefore, she suggests a plan of escape to Dimmesdale and she would have indubitably gone ahead with it, if only fate had not willed otherwise. (Batra, 2012: 202)



In Hester, Hawthorne shows the example of a very courageous and determined woman who repudiates to succumb to the pressure and the codes of morality that she strongly despises. She never feels sorry for what she had done, realizing in her heart there was nothing wrong in what she did. She is made of heroic stuff and the penance only strengthens her further. (Kilborne, 2003:470)

Hawthorne shows a more detailed and cleverer psychological penetration and insight in describing Arthur Dimmesdale, Hester's partner-in-sin. The psychological description of Hester and Chillingworth is relatively simpler. Hester is a romantic woman, who believes in total freedom of the individuals and their right to seek and find their own happiness disregarding the social fingers and obstacles. Chillingworth represents the spirit of revenge, single-handedly and relentlessly he pursues revenge. Arthur Dimmesdale, on the other hand, has a more complex nature. The thought of the sin that he has committed with Hester, the sin of adultery gnaws deeply in his very soul. Hawthorne here enters into the interior of this young priest's heart and wishes to explore his deep feelings and reveal the intense psychological sufferings he is undergoing. (Kilborne :472)

Dimmesdale goes through severe painful experiences and struggles bitterly deep inside with the agony of remorse, yet he lacks the courage to confess his sin for the public. His personal and public personas are in a complete dispute or disagreement. Thus, his sufferings and pains are just beyond description. On one hand, he does not want to ruin his "godly image" with his confessions and on the other hand he fears becoming a "remorseful hypocrite". If it was not for his feeling of guilt inside, Dimmesdale would have climbed to the highest point of sanctity, as Hawthorne informs us. The town's people consider him as "miracle of holiness", but the public's admiration and respect only burdens his soul and further intensifies his sufferings. He is exceedingly baffled by these two controversial images he is having. Privately, he is a sinner and wishes to repent, but publically he is considered a saint. He keeps long vigils, fasts and tortures himself physically before making a half-hated attempt at penitence by climbing up the steps on the scaffold on that dark night. He collects himself and more than once tells the people how bad and morally wicked he is, but the people gathered only attribute it to his humility and further respect him. Dimmesdale's pricks of conscience compel him to stage a "vain show of expiation" on the night of the scaffold. Hawthorne wittily conveys to us the feelings of guilt haunting Dimmesdale, the desire to confess and the fear of the consequences of revealing his true character to the public that would completely ruin his image even after he has decided to flee the settlement with Hester and Pearl. So he cannot reconcile his private and public life.

The scene of the meeting between Hester and Dimmesdale has been meticulously described by Hawthorne. Dimmesdale yet again is bewitched and overwhelmed by her beauty and succumbs to the temptations of running away from the settlement with her. The minister's behavior in this particular condition is psychologically convincing when Hester agrees to go with him to the Brave New World. Afterwards, the minister utters profanities to the runaways, showing a Freudian impulse of the subconscious mind even long before Freud invented them. Hawthorne is very wise and thoroughly understands the minister's mind as well as human psychology in general. Hawthorne's portrayal of the minister's mind is a unique and priceless masterpiece of psychological insight. ( Batra, 2012: 206)

Dimmesdale, after his meeting with Hester, obtains sufficient courage to wish to make a public confession and have a clear conscience and he decides to reveal his true character and unburden his soul in the Election day and specifically after giving the sermon. It only comes after a long mental

conflict and psychological struggle. Roger Chillingworth main motive in life is revenge and he thoroughly personifies it throughout his life. Seeking revenge inclines him to resort to cruel actions and thoughts. Further, Hawthorne's main purpose behind analyzing Chillingworth's character is to display "the effects of revenge in diabolizing him who indulges in it." Chillingworth marries with a young girl from the rural England even though he is past his prime. He is old and ugly but still marries this young beautiful girl. Chillingworth confesses his crime to Hester when he meets her in the prison: (Chase, 1957:60)

I, a man of thought, the look-worm of great libraries, a man already in decay, having given my best years to feed the hungry dream of knowledge, what had I to do with youth and beauty like thine own; misshapen from my birth-hour, how could I delude myself with the idea of that intellectual gifts might veil physical deformity in a youngers girls'fantasy?" this very quotation is a brilliant self-analysis.

But the moment Chillingwoth promises to seek revenge, he becomes cruel and relentless in its pursuit. He does not show mercy to his victims and the passion for revenge is very obvious in his face. The blackness of his heart is easily noticed on his face, "there came a glare of red light out of his eyes as if his soul were on fire." In Chillingwoth, Hawthorne wittily displays man's faculty of diverting themselves into devil, if only they are ready to undertake a devil's' office for a while, Chillingworth himself is aware of his transformation and he calls himself a fiend. Once, he was a moral man with a pure heart. Hester pities him "for the hatred that has transformed a wise and just man to a friend." And heedless to Hester's appealing, he refuses to pardon his victims and carries out his plans of revenge "Peace, Hester, peace! It is not granted me to pardon, I have no such power as thou telles me of."

Deviously, Chillingwoth comes to learn about Dimmesdale' plan to escape with Hester and Pearl and he goes to meet the captain of the ship with the purpose of thwarting their plan. Besides, when the minister is trying to make the public confession on the scaffold, he dissuades him from carrying out his plan and eventually when the minister is dying on the scaffold after confessing his crime to the public, Chillingworth sighs diabolically "Thou hast escaped me! Thou hast escaped me!" After Dimmesdale's death, Chillingworth loses his real purpose of life, which indubitably was taking his revenge; therefore, he dies, and leaves all his fortunes and properties to the little Pearl. His passion for revenge was such that once his victim dies, he loses his purpose in life. Hawthorns writes:

This unhappy man had made the very principle of his life to consist in the pursuit and systematic exercise of revenge and when by its completest triumph and consummation, that evil principle was left with no further material to support, when, in short, there was no more Devil's work on earth for him to do, it only remained for the unhumanized mortal to betake himself whither his Master would find him tasks enough, and pay him his wages duly.

Nevertheless, Hawthorne understands psychology of child and fastidiously depicts it in the description of little Pearl. Pearl is a strange child with unexpected behavior and her unpredicted mood appalls Hester. Pearl is very intelligent for her age and not amendable to discipline at all. She is wayward, rebellious and impatient. Her elements are beautiful and brilliant but all in disorder, she is a complete and constant concern to her mother and she does not have desire to mix with other children as according to Hawthorne she is "a born outcast of the infantile world." She is often referred to as a



product of a sin, or emblem. The child does not know any laws and does not have respect to anyone. Her screaming in the forest along with making frantic guesters when Hester casts away the letter are all parts of her mental make-up. Hawthorne has wittily portrayed this unusual child in his book, Pearl is a dreamlike figure in the Puritan society of the seventeenth century. ( Batra, 2012: 160)

### Alienation and Isolation

Karl Marx characterizes alienation and alludes to his concept of man and how man relates to society. Marx demonstrates to us that the manner of human plays a great role in the theory of alienation. Oilman says that the theory of alienation is the scholarly development in which Marx shows the staggering impact of capitalist creation on individuals, on their physical and mental states and on the social procedures of which they are a section (Oilman :131). Marx also thinks that human attitude is provided in an entrepreneur society. To comprehend alienation is not to comprehend the individual person in capitalism yet to comprehend capitalism from the outlook of the individual person. This is accomplished by concentrating not only on the individual person as well as on those components of his manner over which he has lost control and which are presently controlling him (Oilman: 252). Marx tries to make the relation between alienation and capitalism. Alienation does not need to be particular to capitalism because, despite the fact that economic status can direct how we live and how society sees us, there are different elements that assume a major role. Another major part might be social status. The issues of social status are more predominant when characterizing isolation. man's separation from society, his mostly incomunicable division, is not a focal issue of contemporary sociological thought. The two prevailing ideologies of our age, communist doctrine and psycho-systematic experts, look upon the issue of isolation as a by-item of a bigger essential issue (Halmos XV).

In *The Scarlet Letter*, the use of isolation by the writer is one of the major and significant themes which he tries to draw the attention to. Right from the beginning *The Scarlet Letter* gives the theme of isolation when Hester Prynne is obliged to take on the letter 'A' on her bosom for committing the sin of adultery in the Puritan community. This sin makes Hester an alien in society and a social outcast (Kaul :13). And she must live with the cross for the rest of her life. Pearl, also, is separated and stigmatized from the rest of the children in the community due to her mother's sin. Roger Chillingworth is an alien in the community. And Arthur Dimmesdale, too, is an alien in the community even to himself for twinges of conscience perpetually troubling and hurting him. Dimmesdale is divided between his desire for revealing his real nature to the people who worship him and priestly duties. Each one of the major characters in the novel suffers from isolation or alienation from society.

Hawthorne is using *The Scarlet Letter* as a style of isolation. The letter "A" standing on her chest is isolated and " as if by contagion, isolates Hester" (Crain :194). In society, sinners are isolated. We sympathize with Hester because the most horrible part, the really brutal perspective, of Hester's destiny is not that she is chastened in public but rather that her discipline appears as segregating her from the rest of the community. Indeed, even while she is remaining in the focal point of the jam in the marketplace center, the letter A has the impact of a spell, removing her from the customary relations with mankind, and encasing her in a circle independent from anyone else (Kaul :13).

Hester's recognition of the result of her silence is going to be unpleasant because she is the only one being accused, but her silence also further isolates her from the community. (Kaul: 13).

Hester Prynne is alienated and she realizes that her alienation is transitory and that gives her the certainty and that is why she stays firm through her public humiliation. She doesn't give her circumstance a chance to influence her humility and the way she treats the people in her community. Hester Prynne, additionally, has been alienated by her husband, Roger Chillingworth, who has sent her off to live on her own alone in the new world. The alienation of Hester is made by the Puritan hypocrisy when "the ostracism called too lenient a punishment by the perhaps envious matrons of the town was almost fatal to Hester's sanity and moral sense..." (Abel :171). One can also acknowledge that there is a relation between the Puritans and Salem. The narrator's family settled in Salem, what's more, he is judgmental while portraying how the Puritans did not support different religions. He appears to appreciate the company of other people disregarded of their religious belief, traditions or convictions. We see his acknowledgment surprisingly as he rejects Puritan power.

Marius Bewley sees the pressure amongst society and isolation as lying 'close to the focal point of the majority of Hawthorne's art,'... If sin the postulated basis of life should its open manifestation be treated with comprehension and sympathy or with cruel rebuke? The reply of the Puritan people community to this question—postured solidly in their midst by Hester, is to put her upon the pillory, to make her bear for all time the disgrace of her shame, lastly to suspend her. (Bewley :27).

In spite of the fact that Hester is alienated and detached by her people, despite everything she indicates commitment to Dimmesdale because she adores him. She can isolate her punishment from the demonstration that brought on her punishment. Pearl is a consequence of the feeling that she and Dimmesdale shared; thus, Hester feels remorseful to a specific degree because despite the fact that she was in an unloved marriage, having love was not the right arrangement. She doesn't feel regretful about how she feels for Dimmesdale or how she feels about her girl who was a result of her affair with Dimmesdale. Hester "is marked liable by society, yet bit by bit rejects that brand; Dimmesdale is viewed as honest by society, however bit by bit expect a shame of blame". Hester "is branded guilty by society, but gradually rejects that brand; Dimmesdale is considered innocent by society, but gradually assumes a stigma of guilt" (Baym : 186). Hester is additionally marked guilty because of the fact that as a lady the people in her society expect her to carry on positively and that is the reason they were dismayed when she enlivened the letter.

*The scarlet letter* introduces in this way an exceptionally complex variation from Hawthorne's general topic of human separation and human community. Hester Prynne's separation is exacted upon her as opposed to persistently looked for by her, and in the event that it does not twist her ethical identity, the reason is that she looks throughout of her life to re-set up the relation with other people.

Loneliness seems to be the curse blighting the principal characters in the novel. Isolation or alienation from the mainstream seems to be their lot. The blame for terrible issue falls intensely on the Puritan mediators of her fate Hester, with the red letter decorated on her chest, is evaded by the puritan culture. She moves to a detached house on the edges of the town. Hester in her daily rounds to the



village is alone and tries in her attempt to bring up Pearl with her, who barely appears to be human, Dimmesdale, with his hand over his heart, covertly tormented himself rationally and also physically to signify his torment Roger Chillingworth is separated from everyone else in his quest for avenge. He is for the most part observed stooping and gathering herbs in the woodland, or at the fire in his laboratory. (Baym : 185).

Hester and Dimmisdale are segregated because of their sin. Chillingworth by the blazing contempt and craving for revenge in his heart, and Pearl since her elfin-like nature and her consistent hatred toward the children in the town who taunt at and mock her mother. Every one of them is rejected by his society, living in a universe of his or her own particular with the little correspondence with the outside world. Hester's badge of shame is her isolation. The scarlet letter keeps her away from others. Yet the badge contributes to her moral and mental growth. She; "transcends her separation from society by good deeds and the companionship of miserable people" (Aunja, 2017) Dimmesdale's feeling to his sin makes him aware of his unworthiness to lead his clock. It prompts to private enduring and torment, he feels suffocated in this abusive environment, however is excessively feeble, making it impossible to try to receive in return. Death is his only deliverance. Chillingworth's detachment is basically the separation of a man who has been wronged by his wife and his quest for revenge. Chillingworth "violated the sanctity of the human heart" both in Hester's and Dimmesdale's case. This prompts to his spiritual isolation and death Pearl is a free soul, too capricious to ever be secured to anything This is her confinement. She is a desolate child who plays with lifeless items or with creature, streams and blossoms a casualty of the transgression of her licenses and the severity of the Puritan culture. In the long run, she symbolizes the main beam of seek and leaves the settlement after greener fields where she settles down.

## **Conclusion**

The main objective of this study is to understand and interpret individuals' behaviors which are shaped by their desires and sins. The writer reveals the inner feelings and struggles of the characters so judiciously that everyone could relate to. Long before the prevailing concepts of psychology, internal struggles or self-guilt, Hawthorne depicts them in his novel in a vivid way: Hester Prynne embodies the idea of chasing your dreams and repudiating to succumb to the harsh reality and the social rules and restrictions regardless of the inevitable public humiliation that follows. She, amid the storms of turbulences and difficulties, refuses to give in and resorts to her imagination as her only solace and is spiritually relaxed, which is probably the situation for most of the people who undergo similar experiences. Dimmesdale, on the other hand is the victim of a good reputation and public respect. He is burdened with a good reputation and finds it extremely demanding if not impossible, to uncover his true personality and shatter his image in front of the public, which is yet again very relevant today and there are myriads of people who live Dimmesdale's worrying life and experience. Lastly, revenge, which is the last purpose and goal of multitudinous people who believe to have been wronged, is meticulously portrayed in the depiction of Chillingworth's personality and character. Hence, we can conclude that *The Scarlet Letter* is as much as psychology as it is a phenomenal fiction. It highlights the importance of being true to one's feeling. One can easily grasp that the characters are not true to their feelings and as a result that becomes a cause for conflict. Hawthorne is also suggesting that everyone should take responsibility for their guilt or sins and do whatever it takes to redeem themselves.

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