

Frankenstein

People



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Frankenstein and the Pursuit of Knowledge
Frankenstein and the Pursuit of Knowledge “ I will pioneer a new way, explore unknown powers, and unfold to the world the deepest mysteries of creation.” – Victor, Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein.

Frankenstein is a work of art in the science fiction genre according to a number of critics. Despite the horrifying elements that the book contains, most people are for the fact that the book is a work of science. As Victor is seen joining the university at Ingolstadt, he creates a monster, a grotesque act committed by him, which removes him far from the victory of committing a scientific triumph. He attempts to go beyond accepted human limits of knowledge in order to create secrets not known to mankind. The story behind Frankenstein thus may be viewed as a lesson about the search for knowledge as well as the dangerousness that accompanies the pursuit.

The 1931 make of the film based on this sci-fi thriller talks about how scientists at the time were not satisfied with what human life had to offer.

Victor was devastated and bereaved the death of his mother and soon began to create a human life in order to bring back those memories that he shared.

However, his emotions got warped up within the scientific aspects of life and gave birth to destruction instead. He questions his friend Robert Walton, “

Are you mad, my friend? Or whither does your senseless curiosity lead you?

Would you also create for yourself and the world a demoniacal enemy?

Peace, peace! Learn my miseries and do not seek to increase your own.”

Scientists have never given up on understanding the working of the human body, and just like most of them, Victor challenged himself to move his

thoughts and ideas on to a more productive work sphere so as to not think

about his past and family life. However, the film has a very tragedian note as

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it helps the audience understand the protagonist's regret upon formulating a monster which ends up killing his loved ones. He realises that one cannot create new life because it will lead to devastation finally. Scientists have a yearning to find out more and more, however, the film helps the audience understand that sometimes it is enough to stop and comprehend how such mystical situations need to be left to the hands of God.

Victor Frankenstein says towards the end, “ My imagination was vivid, yet my powers of analysis and application were intense; by the union of these qualities I conceived the idea and executed the creation of a man. Even now I cannot recollect without passion my reveries while the work was incomplete. I trod heaven in my thoughts, now exulting in my powers, now burning with the idea of their effects. From my infancy I was imbued with high hopes and a lofty ambition; but how am I sunk! Oh! My friend, if you had known me as I once was, you would not recognize me in this state of degradation. Despondency rarely visited my heart; a high destiny seemed to bear me on, until I fell, never, never again to rise.” By these very lines, he talks about the superhuman thirst for knowledge that ultimately ended up destroying him by creating a monster.

Works Cited

(2008) Frankenstein and the Pursuit of Knowledge – Associated Content from Yahoo!. Retrieved from http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/992230/frankenstein_and_the_pursuit_of_knowledge_pg4.html?cat=38