

Ambition

Literature



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Ambition This essay will try to join both Frankenstein by Shelley and Paradise Lost by Milton in an attempt to investigate the theme of ambition. What the authors show as the effects of this ambition are rather costly bringing us to the light of why ambition should be controlled since it is not a completely evil thing.

Mary Shelley shows us the effects of the ambition of her main character Frankenstein. His ambition can be likened to that of Adam and Eve in Milton's poem. The ambition of Frankenstein is to gain as much knowledge as possible and with this knowledge, he is able to create another being almost like him, in fact, it even compares itself to Adam, calling Frankenstein its god. Adam and Eve on the other hand have everything they need but when Satan hints to them a probability of gaining knowledge, they fall.

Shelley presents Frankenstein's life as rather okay, with no hustles or any problems as he joins the University. However, everything seems to change as soon as he discovers the 'secret' (Shelley & Diana 123). This secret is his ability to play God. His great desire to achieve the ability to create another being is the beginning of all his troubles as described in the book. Shelley clearly shows that man cannot handle uncontrolled ambition as Frankenstein loses his moral compass because of it. He is left with the consequences of his blind ambition without having reasoned of the possible effects that could come of it. Shelley shows that nature is powerful and is able to put man back into his position.

Milton starts his work by declaring that he will show man's fault and God's eternal providence justifying whatever happened in Paradise (Milton & Anna 12). Ambition is what drove man to commit the first sin; ambition to know what was good and what was evil. Satan drilled this into the mind of the man

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and the woman who were unable to control it. They just had to know what it was all about as their ambition grew and hence their biggest mistake. Milton also presents another ambitious character who is Satan. He desires so much to reign such that he does not care where he reigns. He presents his ambition to his legions that help him in all his plans. He is driven by an ambition to rebel against God, which is why he plans to make man fall by seducing him to take the forbidden fruit. Milton sets out a rather simple message, which is creations, should obey their creator no matter what. They should not even think of having any ambition that threatens the place of their creator since they will suffer for it.

Milton reveals God's justice to His creation since the ambition of His creation leads them to sin. Satan and his legions have delusional ambitions of reigning while Adam and Eve have vain ambitions of knowing good and evil. In fact critically looking at it, ambition is in itself the first sin ever committed. Shelley also reveals to us how Frankenstein's ambition to be a god brings him to be the father of an evil creature. This goes to show that blinding ambitions make men weak and faulty creatures.

Works Cited

Milton, J. and Anna B. Paradise Lost. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. Print.

Shelley, M. and Diana G. Frankenstein. Madrid, España: Edimat Libros, 2000. Print.