

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

After I have analyzed completely the protagonists' social and inner conflicts in the two novels, Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy and The Cinder Path by Catherine Cookson, I come to a conclusion that these conflicts have their similarities and differences.

My discussion about the above conclusion will go first with social conflicts. The protagonists' social conflicts are similar in some ways. Firstly, they begin to face their social conflicts after particular incidents that take place in their youth. Tess, in Tess of the D'Urbervilles, faces her conflicts soon after the discovery of her family's lineage, which proves that both her family and her belong to one of the famous English royal family. In The Cinder Path, the murder of the protagonist's (Charlie) father becomes a powerful trigger for his conflicts. Secondly, they are involved in social conflicts with their past enemies more frequently than with any one else. The last similarity I notice is that they are finally capable of putting an end to their social conflicts when they murder their enemies with their own hands.

The social conflicts, that the protagonists encounter, also denote some differences. The first difference is about people with whom both protagonists have their conflicts. Tess experiences conflicts with two high-class men, Alec d'Urberville and Angel Clare, whereas Charlie with a man from a lower-class named Ginger Slater and two high-class women named Mary Macfell (his mother) and Victoria (his wife).

The second one is about the protagonists' aims. Tess has a great desire to show her nature's good quality to high-class men even though she is a woman from a lower class. For instance, she shows Alec that she is a woman who appreciates politeness, loyalty, and trust. She also shows Angel that she is a merciful woman capable of forgiving and forgetting anyone else's sins particularly her beloved people. Meanwhile, Charlie struggles hard to prove to others that he is not a cowardly born-loser man every time he argues with them, such as he fires Slater immediately from his job when Slater insults him and threatens Victoria with a divorce when she does not submit to his request to help him run the farm.

The last one is the end of the protagonists' stories after they murder their enemies. As soon as Tess stabs Alec with a knife, she becomes a fugitive. However, she gets caught then and is sentenced to death by the court. On the other hand, Charlie can obtain his freedom although he deserves to be put in jail because he has murdered Slater and there are some eye-witnesses who will give the court strong evidences for the murder. Yet, fortunately, one of the witnesses takes side with him and wins the hearts of those attending the military court that they decide Charlie to be innocent of Slater's blood.

The next discussion is concerned with inner conflicts. The two protagonists suffer from inner conflicts that are caused by men. In Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Tess often debates with herself about an attractive young man named Angel Clare. Charlie, in The Cinder Path, also faces inner conflicts because of a young man named Ginger Slater. Nevertheless, there are differences I underscore. Tess's inner conflicts always deal with the man she loves profoundly, Angel, and always reflect her love and adoration for Angel, whereas Charlie's with the man he hates, Slater, and his conflicts reflect his desires not to be mocked as a coward or a loser.

Besides discussing the similarities and differences of the protagonists' conflicts, I would like to end this chapter by giving some other conclusions. In my opinion both social and inner conflicts in Tess of the D'Urbervilles are portrayed in more interestingly and blatantly ways and the novel is also deeper in its content than The Cinder Path. Yet, I do not want to belittle The Cinder Path. Somehow, I find it easier to understand owing to its simple language.

The interesting portrayals of the conflicts in Tess of the D'Urbervilles are seen in the protagonist's, Tess Durbeyfield, different attitudes, especially in her social conflicts with two male major characters, Alec d'Urberville and Angel Clare. When being involved in conflicts with Alec, Tess always turns to be very courageous like a lioness to defend either herself or Angel. She also always expresses her temper through unexpected and violent actions such as slap and murder. But, when facing Angel, she becomes as meek as a lamb although Angel hurts her more. In The Cinder Path, Charlie Macfell's (the protagonist) attitudes towards his opponents do not alter,

except for one case as he quarrels with Slater for the last time, that I feel them quite monotonous to analyze. The conflicts in Tess of the D'Urberville are also written more blatantly because Thomas Hardy, its author, deliberately creates them with the use of long and detailed language. Meanwhile, Catherine Cookson, The Cinder Path's author, tries to expose the conflicts in a brief way. Consequently, I have a difficulty to quote some proper quotations. As for the depth of the novels' content, there is a reason why Tess of the D'Urbervilles is considered to be deeper than The Cinder Path. I notice that the first lifts up many various values like religious-moral value, in the view of Christianity, and social value (mainly gender and status discrimination), whereas in the latter there is only moral value.

The next conclusion is that the protagonists' conflicts take place since there are different ways of thinking between the protagonists and their opponents and also within the minds of the protagonists about the subject matters. For social conflicts, both protagonists insist on maintaining their own thoughts that some conflicts are ended with murders.

I finally conclude that all conflicts are resolved. But, most of the resolutions are inclined to be negative if they are seen through the protagonists' ways of taking decision. Whenever they decide something, anger and harsh actions usually follow it.

