

## WUTHERING HEIGHTS' HEATHCLIFF: DEVIL OR VENGEANCE

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Patel Niyatiben Natvarbhai\*  
Dr. Divya Bhadauriya\*\*

### ABSTRACT

*Since the publication of the book, Heathcliff has been the subject of controversy and discussion, but no one has offered a convincing justification for his image. There is still no clear consensus on whether Heathcliff is a victimized hero or a figure with dark, cruel undertones. The Heathcliff persona is used in this research paper as a metaphor for how society may ruin a person's inherent goodness. His persona is a representation of a steadfast love story, a scathing critique of society, and an insightful and incisive investigation of people. This research paper aims to explore the multifaceted character of Heathcliff, examining his origins, motivations, and actions throughout the novel, to determine whether he should be perceived as a villainous figure or a complex protagonist deserving of empathy.*

**Minutae:** *Is Mr Heathcliff a devil? or as a vengeance? or the enigmatic persona? or a wrong hero?*

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**Keywords:** *Devil, Prejudice, Vengeance, Love, the Enigmatic Persona and Wronged Hero.*

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### Introduction

"Wuthering Heights" is a famous novel written by Emily Bronte, published in 1847 under the pseudonym "Ellis Bell." The novel is currently regarded one of the finest works of English literature and is known for its dark, passionate, and complicated portrayal of human emotions and relationships. "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Bronte is a timeless book that is still the topic of controversy and critical examination today. This novel is frequently recognized as a great example of gothic fiction owing to its blending of different gothic motifs and themes throughout the work. As a gothic piece, the novel stresses the dark, mysterious, and supernatural components of the plot, creating an atmosphere of tension and foreboding.

Heathcliff, a figure who resists simple classification, is at the center of the story. Heathcliff is one of literature's most divisive characters because of the way his acts are portrayed throughout the book, which elicits both compassion and contempt. In order to ascertain whether Heathcliff may be considered as a complicated, wronged hero seeking atonement or a wicked adversary, in this research paper examined the numerous facets of his character, taking into account both his malicious deeds and the potentially traumatic history that may have influenced him.

Heathcliff's obscure roots and early upbringing shape his character, as he is found destitute in Liverpool by Wuthering Heights owner Earnshaw, causing estrangement and isolation. Heathcliff's character may also be evaluated in the perspective of cultural conventions, class conflict, and the influence of one's upbringing on character development.

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\* English Literature, Ahmadabad, Gujarat, India.

\*\* Assistant Professor, Sabarmati University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.

Bronte depicts Heathcliff's character as a diamond form. We can notice distinct diamond beauties at various ages. This sort of Heathcliff figure can be perceived throughout the years as revenge, prejudice, enigmatic persona or demon, or as a wronged Hero.

- **The Devilish Antagonist:** Heathcliff's entry into the Earnshaw household, as well as his turbulent childhood, shaped his diabolical demeanor. His orphanage roots, dark skin, and the aura of mystery that surrounds him all add to his otherness within the family and society. His malevolence unfolds throughout the story via acts of brutality, deception, and retribution. We learned more about his evil disposition by evaluating major occurrences in the narrative, such as his treatment of Hindley and his pursuit of revenge against the Linton family.
- **Prejudice:** Heathcliff is severely hurt by Catherine's choice to marry Edgar, which is driven in part by a desire for socioeconomic elevation. He sees this as a rejection because of his social status and looks, exacerbating his sense of alienation. This romantic bias plays a crucial role in his spiral towards vindictive deeds.
- Heathcliff's outsider position, both as an orphan and as a dark-skinned man in a largely white culture, forms his identity and determines how he is regarded by others.
- **Vengeance:** Heathcliff's desire for revenge against those he believes has wronged him, notably the Lintons and the Earnshaw family's second generation, is crucial to his character. His acts, such as manipulation, harshness, and vindictiveness, often correspond to the paradigm of a wicked adversary.

Heathcliff's passion for Catherine is both the driving force behind his deeds and the source of his anguish. His connection with Catherine is turbulent and stormy, and their closeness transcends death. Additionally, his connection with Catherine's daughter, Cathy, also plays a key role in the later portion of the narrative.

- **Heathcliff's Love:** The love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff is characterized as passionate and profound. It begins throughout their youth while living on the moorland and grows into a close affinity between them. Their love is not a traditional one, since it violates society standards and expectations.

The love triangle in "Wuthering Heights" is marked by its intricacy, intensity, and destructive nature. Catherine's inability to choose between her love for Heathcliff and her desire for societal approval ultimately leads to catastrophic results for all three characters. Heathcliff's extreme jealousy and desire for retribution drive most of the story's drama, while Edgar's real devotion for Catherine contrasts with the more tempestuous and volatile connection she enjoys with Heathcliff.

Overall, the love between Catherine and Heathcliff in "Wuthering Heights" is a complicated and intense feeling that plays a crucial part in the novel's storyline. It is a love that defies society rules, transcends human life, and has profound ramifications for the individuals involved. The description of this relationship lends depth and passion to the subjects discussed in the novel.

Heathcliff's love for Catherine confronts society dynamics, overcoming familial and class boundaries. He brutally manipulates and marries Isabella to obtain power and attempts to afflict the following generation by targeting Hareton and Catherine's heirs. Their love is described as powerful and passionate, reaching beyond individuality and attempting to transcend human life. It is regarded a life-force principle, a religious devotion, and even an addiction. Some regard their love as soulmates, while others see it as a convoluted and tumultuous relationship. Their love is a significant feature of the novel, propelling the tale ahead and altering the lives of the others involved.

- **The Enigmatic Persona:** Heathcliff's background is shrouded in mystery, adding to the fascination surrounding his persona. His presence to Wuthering Heights as an orphan taken in by Mr. Earnshaw remains a crucial turning point in the tale. The circumstances of his early life and his outsider position within the Earnshaws establish a basis for the hate hurled towards him.

Heathcliff's objectives are founded in his desire for revenge and his passion with Catherine. After Catherine's death, he becomes filled with a desire for vengeance against those he believes as having mistreated him, particularly the Linton family and their successors.

- **The Wronged Hero:** Heathcliff's persona in Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights is a fascinating topic of examination and interpretation. While he is generally presented as the adversary, a deeper look of his background, experiences, and emotional issues shows a more complex and sympathetic image. Viewing Heathcliff as a wronged hero adds complexity to the story and

deepens the reader's comprehension of the novel's timeless themes of love, retribution, and the human condition.

Catherine ends up marrying Edgar Linton, a nice and affluent man from the neighbouring estate, Thrushcross Grange, mainly for financial stability. This choice greatly affects Heathcliff, who grows angry and seeks revenge against those he feels have mistreated him. Heathcliff's deeds lead to disaster, impacting the lives of everyone around him, even the following generation.

Throughout "Wuthering Heights," Heathcliff is presented as a sad creature obsessed by his desire for love and vengeance. His presence is felt throughout the story, and his journey is a frightening investigation of the devastating power of love and the influence of cultural prejudice on individual destiny.

By outpouring, Heathcliff's persona is The Devilish Antagonist, Prejudice, Vengeance, Love, The Enigmatic Persona, The Wronged Hero.

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