

Q. Supernatural Element in "Wuthering Heights"

"Wuthering Heights" is one of the superb creations of Emily Bronte, a Victorian novelist. It ranks a masterpiece of Emily Bronte as far as novel is concerned. In this novel she manifests her belief both in the indestructibility of the soul and the indestructibility of love. If she believes in the immortality of the soul, she also believes in the attainment of love in this world even if the lovers die. Physical demise is not the extinction of love. Body dies but the soul continues to live. Since love is the spiritual entity, it continues to exist even after death. Since the soul is immortal, Heathcliff and Catherine exist as ghost after their death. Since love is indestructible, they are united in their spiritual form after their death.

Character in Wuthering Heights have a faith in the continuity of life after death. They not only believe in existence after death but also think that in that state of existence their natures will be able to flow out unhampered love and <sup>at</sup> peace;

; a place not of annihilation, but of attainment. According to Emily Bronte, death is the gateway to a better and fuller state of existence. Since love is expected to be fulfilled in the present life, if not, a better existence after death is needed in which both the lover and the beloved can be eternally united with any hindrance or fear of separation. It is this idea Emily Bronte presents through the ghosts of Heathcliff and Catherine and their eternal and unbreakable association after death.

If there is happens superhuman intensity of emotion in Wuthering Heights, there happens also superhuman occurrences. The novel opens with a strange dream of Mr Lockwood in which the ghost of the first Catherine stands outside the window of the room in which he is sleeping. It is the first intimation of a ghost in the story. Subsequently, there is the suggestion or intimation of the ghost of Heathcliff seized with an intense desire to take Catherine's dead body in his arms. Heathcliff begins to dig Catherine's grave. But while so doing, he overhears someone sigh above the grave and he stops digging the grave further. Next, Heathcliff feels the appearance of a ghost and losing completely his consciousness, starves himself to death. Finally, the spirits of both the couple are united and live together in Wuthering Heights.

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