

# Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by R. L. Stevenson on Psychological and Philosophical Study

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**Abstract** – R. L. Stevenson's novel, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is a conspicuous case of Victorian fiction. Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is a vague novel. More hazardous than one would anticipate. From one perspective, it portrays the picture of this present reality spoken to by the bona fide depictions of London appeared differently in relation to the evening of crime in the city, and announces the positivist faction of explanation. The names Jekyll and Hyde have turned out to be synonymous with multiple personality disorder. The plot enables us to interface Stevenson's nineteenth century novel with the mid-Victorian ones, in light of the ethical boldness and psychological validity, intended to respond to the primary inquiries of the period. The *Strange Case* uncovers moral confusion, duality of man and the terrible outcomes of depending on exploitative standards in understanding the world and the human nature. Therefore, Stevenson's work is by all accounts put nearer to modernism than authenticity. Stevenson's work is additionally a sensational story which can be perused as a purposeful anecdote of underhandedness always vanquishing man, which, thus, makes the work nearer to the romantic horror novel. This article looks to analyze the novel from the view point as an arrangement of philosophy and Psychology in understanding.

**Keywords:** Psychology, Philosophy, Literature, Romantic, Horror, Novels etc.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* deals with a Dr. Henry Jekyll who is generally regarded, effective, and has a splendid mind however is very much mindful of the duplicity of the existence that he leads, and of the evil that dwells inside him. Dr. Jekyll secretly gives expression to the evil in his spirit by different unspeakable acts, yet fears doing so straightforwardly as a result of the fear of social criticism. Over the span of his investigations, he prevails with regards to creating a mixture that empowers him to liberate this evil in him from the control of his great self, subsequently offering ascend to Edward Hyde. Edward Hyde is unadulterated evil and amoral. Not exclusively is his mind not quite the same as Dr. Jekyll yet additionally his body is bizarre and distorted. In this way, Dr. Jekyll feels that he can get the joy that the two pieces of his being ache for without each being hampered by the demands of the other. Be that as it may, Mr. Hyde brings out sentiments of fear and loathing in Dr. Jekyll's companions who importune him to surrender his "friendship" with this Edward Hyde. Edward Hyde continuously turns out to be always amazing than his 'great' partner and at last drives Dr. Jekyll to his fate. "Jekyll and Hyde" as an

eponymous term has turned into an equivalent word for multiple personality in logical and lay literature and the novel has additionally been viewed as a case showing of substance reliance.

Robert Balfour Louis Stevenson was a Scottish novelist, short story essayist, and writer. Conceived in 1850, he was a certified promoter however earned his living as an author. He was constantly burdened with tuberculosis, and dallied with different psychotropic drugs, for example, alcohol, cannabis, and opium. He is outstanding for his dark and sinister stories like *Markheim*, *Thrawn Janet*, and indecent experience novels, for example, *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped*. Fruitful and well known, he passed on at a youthful age in 1894. Curiously enough, Stevenson later guaranteed that the plot of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* was uncovered to him in a dream.

### *The Psychological Approach*

This is the most generally held view; it expresses that "some psychological relation is vital of adequate (or both) for one to continue". The exact meaning of what sorts of psychological connectedness there are, and what types are

important to manage the cost of psychological continuity is as yet a matter of discussion. For our motivations, it is adequate to take note of that the way in to Jekyll's disappointment lies in psychological continuity: Jekyll is exceptionally and firmly psychologically associated with Hyde in the correct manner: he recalls Hyde's encounters as his own, he feels authentic regret for them; they share "certain wonders of consciousness", they are "weave" to each other "closer than a wife, closer than an eye" (STEVENSON: 2003, p.61). And yet, there is by all accounts real justification for trusting in Jekyll's genuineness when he, in specific minutes, communicates the shared estrangement among Hyde and him.

His underlying proclamation that one individual is "a nation of disjointed denizens" can be in this way reworded in contemporary wording: psychological continuity isn't really amicable; one's ideas, feelings and tastes may not all be in understanding, yet they all are accessible to one's consciousness, and are a piece of "what one's identity is". Jekyll wishes to make a subsequent identity so at any rate two of these components can be free of each other's organization; he wishes to separate certain parts of his interesting psychological continuity, with a view to good gains. Saying that this relation is novel methods it must hold solely one-one; it can't hold one many, as may be the case when one experiences parting. On the off chance that Jekyll had cut off his psychological constituents into two distinctive human beings, he would have stopped to exist, and two unique men (anyway psychologically persistent with him) would have sprung in his stead. Moreover, we have to hold up under as a primary concern that, for exceptional psychological continuity to get, not all components need to persevere consistently: our ideas and tastes may transform, we may get new tastes, adapt new things are overlook old ones. The case of psychological continuity doesn't infer that every one of these components be perpetually with us with the goal for us to endure; it just expresses that they be associated: if Jekyll is never again on neighborly terms with Lanyon, he used to be; he recalls Lanyon, was Lanyon's friend, and it is anything but difficult to perceive how like and abhorrence of a similar individual are, anyway extraordinary, associated.

## II. PHILOSOPHY, DUALISM AND THE NOVEL

Dualism as a philosophy means the view that the universe contains two profoundly various types of being or substance-matter and soul, body, and mind. The antiquated Greeks recognized significantly the spirit and the body as the announcement expresses: "The body is a tomb." Evil in this way was a consequence of an interminable soul caught in a limited body. Plato for example was emphatically dualistic in that he communicated the view that the spirit exists autonomously of the body. The

levelheaded soul is a profound substance unmistakable from the body inside which it abides, much like the chariot and a charioteer. Dualism filled an incredible need in the European Renaissance when Descartes portrayed the mind only as a substance that thinks and matter solely as an all-encompassing substance. This dualism empowered a completely scientific study of physics to come about where each reality in the material world was to be clarified on premise of estimations. In this plan, the mind is incomprehensible and in this manner not open to either understanding or intercession.

In the novel, Stevenson makes a saint who by method for a concoction (that he contrasts and alcohol in course of the novel) intercedes in his "ordinary" mental procedures and releases Mr. Hyde. This new persona not exclusively is unadulterated evil yet in addition has a face that proposes "Satan's signature" and a body that is "something troglodytic". Here, not just the mind is appeared as a procedure that can be intervened by external tangible methods (the secretive concoction) yet in addition that an adjustment in the mind is related with an adjustment in the body or the soma. Stevenson appears to shun traditional mind-body dualism to a surprisingly current monistic method for taking a gander at the mind-body functioning.

The issues brought up in the novel discover reverberation with the Freudian ideas of instincts, life and death instincts, and the structural theory of the mind propounded by Freud.

The characters in the novel manifest attributes of the structural theory of the mind. Mr. Hyde would appear to be effectively conspicuous as the id, looking for moment satisfaction, having an aggressive instinct, and having no good or social mores that need be pursued. He enjoys violence and like the death instinct at last prompts his own obliteration. Dr. Jekyll is then the ego; he is cognizant and sane, and is ruled by social principles. He has a troublesome time shuffling between the demands of the id, spoken to by Mr. Hyde, and the superego as spoken to by the broadcasted and certain morals of Victorian culture which prided itself on refinement and goodness, and is stunned by the appearing aloofness with which Edward Hyde enjoys his debaucheries. In the novel, Dr. Jekyll surrenders to his impulses and after introductory joy before long can't control their capacity. As opposed to let Mr. Hyde go free and understanding that Hyde needs Jekyll to exist, he chooses to take his very own life. Freud characterized instincts differently however most aptly as "an idea that is on the boondocks between the mental and somatic, as the psychical agent of the upgrades beginning from and arriving at the mind, as a proportion of the demands made upon the mind for work in the outcome with its associations with the body." Freud built up the theory of instincts in relation to the idea of drive and the ensuing establishment of the psychosexual

phases of improvement. In any case, hostility as a segment of the libidinal drives turned out to be progressively significant and couldn't be disregarded. It was accordingly raised to the status of a different instinct. It was additionally understood that humans were neither only nor basically great. Freud presented his last theory of life and death instincts in 1920. Freud hypothesized that the death instinct is an overwhelming propensity all things considered and their cells to come back to a condition of inanimateness. The death instinct spoke to the aggressive instincts and Freud later isolated the libidinal and aggressive instincts from the ego and found them in a crucial stratum of the mind which is free of the ego. This line of idea prompted the further separation of the mind according to the "Structural Theory" into the id, ego, and superego.

Further, by marking Mr. Hyde as a "troglodyte", Stevenson appears to make a remark on the hypotheses of development and that he considered Hyde that is savage, uncivilized, and given to energy: inadequately advanced. Edward Hyde speaks to a relapse to a prior, not so much civilized, but rather more violent phase of human advancement.

### III. PSYCHOLOGY AND THE NOVEL

Gothic fiction is typically characterized as a literary genre which contains both horror and romance. By and by, the term Gothic has been improved with a different number of elements through time, fusing and blending new originations and new elements. David Punter calls attention to that "Gothic has to do with the uncanny: the uncanny has now come to shape one of the significant locales on which reinvestigations of the mind, from both the psychoanalytic and likewise the neuropsychological perspectives, can occur. And Gothic talks, unremittingly, of substantial mischief and the injury."

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde is properly viewed as a novella that has a place with a late restoration of the Gothic genre. However, we should explicitly put the novella in the 'decadent Gothic' of the 1890s. The 'decadent Gothic', or *blade de siècle* Gothic, investigates "the disintegration of the country, of society, of the human subject itself". The Gothic investigates the horrors that human beings must be looked with and how they face them.

Henry Jekyll is a man who believes himself to be "focused on a significant duplicity of life". Jekyll is partitioned between what he needs and what he needs other individuals to think about him. The status that Jekyll procured through many long periods of decent work and ethic has now turned into a boundary that he needs to survive in the event that he needs to satisfy those joys that would not be ethically acknowledged in the society he lives in. The novella centers around the battle against the evil nature within Henry Jekyll's body (Hyde) and his other predominant self. As per psychology, we can

likewise characterize this duplicity as the conscious and the unconscious. The conscious and unconscious perspectives have been to a great extent examined in the field of psychology and Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) is a standout amongst other known researchers who tried to investigate these two measurements. By and by, there are additionally different attempts to be viewed as when alluding specifically to the unconscious.

The unconscious was profoundly investigated by what is known as the 'Philosophy of Nature'. Carl Gustav Carus, in his work *Pysche* (1846), was "the first to endeavor to give a total and target theory of unconscious psychological life." In Sigmund Freud, Critical Assessments we can locate the primary section of Carus' book:

The key to the knowledge of the nature of conscious life of the soul lies on the realm of the unconscious. This explains the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of getting a real comprehension of the secret of the soul. If it were an absolute impossibility to find the unconscious in the conscious, the man should despair if even getting a knowledge of his soul, that is, a knowledge of himself. But if this is the impossibility is only apparent, then the first task of a science of the soul is to state how the spirit of man is able to descend into these depths.

Jekyll is exactly performing what Carus characterizes as a science of the soul, that is, he is attempting to understand why his soul is isolated into two separate beings. By and by, Jekyll's evil self doesn't plummet into the profundities of his unconscious mind however rises and incarnates as a being. As indicated by Freud, the unconscious holds the ability to decide our conduct in our regular daily existence. Jekyll, be that as it may, recognizes his unconscious with evilness. The Doctor, notwithstanding taking care of business of science, couldn't relate his faulty instincts to the way that they were raised by his unconscious mind and in this way attempt a type of 'psychotherapy treatment' to dispose of them. Henry Jekyll joins the unconscious to a supernatural power at which he calls evil. It isn't astounding, however, that Jekyll accuses the devil in him for the enormous demonstrations that he performs while being Hyde. Jekyll has a huge learning on many fields yet he needs data on how psychology and the mind work. Jekyll's method to inquire about the duplicity of the soul is certainly not a psychological expository method yet an exact one. Jekyll doesn't have the way to investigate his mind scientifically since psychology and neurology were not completely created until later gratitude to crafted by Freud and Carl Jung. Myers himself, after perusing Stevenson's novel, chose to get in touch with him so as to applaud his work just as offer him guidance on some "medical and psychological enhancements". The early psychology of the mind,

before the incomparable Freudian revolution in physiotherapy and psychoanalysis – that is, the science of treating a mental condition through a scientific method—was as yet subject to its very own forerunners and peers: religious reasoning and post-romantic or Gothic ways to deal with the supernatural constitution in man.

The investigation of Dr. Jekyll's duality offers a knowledge into the idea of man and it is likewise a reminder of the tensions among science and religion during the nineteenth century in Britain. In the event that the hostilities among science and morality are as yet uncertain, to what a degree is the scientific method highlighting in The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde educated by moralistic perceptions? During my alumni seminar on Victorian Literature I was struck by the interest of Victorian scholars towards objectivity and how it conflicted with moralistic limitations that definitely educated the portrayals regarding their social milieu. This paper contends that the inevitability of these logical inconsistencies among science and morality depends more on the constraints of the scientific method around then instead of to a hesitance to get rid of moralistic concerns. As we will see, these moralistic concerns were at the center of the scientific method itself, since they in the end were supplanted not by a moral revolution, however (on account of mental science) by the 'newly discovered' method of psychoanalysis.

Notwithstanding, we can't state that Freud impacted Stevenson's work in light of the fact that The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde was distributed sooner than the greater part of Freud's works in the field of psychoanalysis. However, Freud has been to a great extent used to give a clarification of the case by the pundits. By and by, as it has been expressed previously, Jekyll couldn't utilize the data given by Freud on the unconscious since he basically didn't know about its existence.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

*The strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* can be seen at different levels. As a story, it discusses the idea of good and evil that exists in every last one of us. At another level, it is an investigation on the lip service and twofold standards of the society. It is additionally a fascinating examination into the mind of the creator and into the hypotheses of dualism. At long last, it tends to be viewed as a momentous report into human psychology that foretold the structural personality hypotheses as point by point by Freud. Cases of schizophrenia, bipolarity and mental disorders were frequently connected with evilness. It was not until further revelations and advancement of psychology that mental infections were named such and not as deeds of the devil. Jekyll himself, an assumed man of science, couldn't resist however bow down to the intensity of religion and connection his very own understanding to confidence as

opposed to attempting to seek after a scientific goals. The principle concentrates gave to The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde have concentrated on the duality of the soul spoke to in the novella and how this identifies with nineteenth century scientific and psychological speculations about the constitution of man. Be that as it may, considerably less has been said about the empiricist method that Dr. Jekyll utilizes to investigate this duality of the soul and if, toward the end, he prevails with regards to depending exclusively on science for answers.

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