

## The Treatment of Love in WUTHERING HEIGHTS

Wuthering Heights is the superb creation of Emily Bronte. In this novel there is central love situation between Heathcliff and Catherine. It has unique intensity, and it is beyond the effect of time. Heathcliff's love for Catherine is as strong after her death as it was during her life. He believes in the continuity of existence in some form even after her death. So Catherine's death does not separate him from her. He believes that she still exists in some form, and will ultimately be united to him. Love, according to Emily Bronte, is an imperishable passion. It does not reduce in intensity by the death of the loved one. So, the lover in this novel does not pursue the object of his love through the ages. After their death, the lover and the beloved turn into ghosts, and are seen together in that form. They are often seen together as ghosts inside Wuthering Heights, particularly on stormy nights. So, after their marriage Catherine and Hareton go to live at the Grange, and leave the Heights to the ghosts, where they reside undisturbed by any living being.

Heathcliff believes in the existence of ghosts. So, after Catherine's death, he visits his grave every night in the hope of seeing her spectre. One night, he digs her grave with the intention of taking her dead body in his arms. But he hears a sigh above her grave and thinks that it is Catherine's spectre which is sighing above her grave. So he stops it but he is hopeful to be united to it. Heathcliff has a strong and imperishable longing for an inseparable union with Catherine after his death. Like the other Victorian novelists, she does not depict the animal or physical side of love. It is a deep craving of the soul for union with the loved one, not for the sake of sexual but spiritual satisfaction. The union comes to the two lovers when they are disembodied spirits in which the question of sensual gratification does not arise.

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The love between Cathy and Hareton is a natural love between a young woman and young man. The love between Catherine and Heathcliff has a spiritual significance. It symbolises the soul's craving for union with its counterpart. Linton's love for Catherine is a love between two dissimilar natures and, therefore, doomed to be unhappy. Cathy's love for Linton is a healthy energetic girl's love for a young man who has a diseased body and mind. Hareton and Cathy are the types of lovers who promise to lead a happy and comfortable life. Cathy is by nature gentle and affectionate. She needs a suitable young man to bestow her love on him.

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