

**The Nineteenth Century Novel**  
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**Lecture – 45**  
**The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Chapter 3**


Hello and welcome to week 10's lectures. In today's session, we are looking at R.L. Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. We will be looking particularly at Chapter Three and if you remember in the previous sessions, we had looked at the initial two chapters and we have been introduced to the major characters and the preoccupations of the major characters. So let us see what Chapter Three holds for us and the ideological significances of some of the incidents which fill out this chapter.

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**Ch-3: Dr Jekyll Was Quite at Ease**

- “a large, well-made, <sup>No blemishes</sup> smooth-faced man of fifty, with something of a <sup>Slyness - disturbing character - isic</sup> slyish cast perhaps, but every mark of capacity and kindness-you could see by his looks that he cherished for Mr Utterson a sincere and warm affection.”

*Inviting reader in*  
*Dr Jekyll + Dr Lanyon*  
*Mr Utterson*  
*Sly = clever & cunning.*



Chapter 3 is entitled Dr. Jekyll Was Quite at Ease. So we are introduced to one of the central characters which is Dr. Jekyll, and we are going to look at him through the eyes of a figure called Mr. Utterson whom we know is a lawyer and he is deeply interested in the life of his friends especially Dr. Jekyll and others. So let us see how Dr. Jekyll is described, he is described as a man with “a large well-made, smooth-faced man of fifty, with something of a slyish cast perhaps, but every mark of capacity and kindness - you could see by his looks that he cherished for Mr. Utterson a sincere and warm affection.”

So, we get an interesting picture of this scientific man. He is large, he has a big frame, he is well made, he is of the appropriate stature, an attractive stature, and he is smooth faced. I am

interested in the word smooth face, there is no blemishes, without any wrinkles, without any kind of blot or stain, he is a smooth faced man of fifty with something of a slyish cast, again this word is also very interesting, slyish cast perhaps, What is the meaning of sly? Someone who is clever and cunning, cunning especially, sly.

And even though he has a slyish tinge to his face, he does have every mark of capacity and kindness. And you can tell, look at the way the narrator puts it, you could see by his looks, he is inviting the reader in. The narrator says that you could see by his looks that he had a sincere and warm affection. This phrase is also interesting because in the previous session we saw a description about Dr. Lanyon, and when Dr. Lanyon is described the same kind of ideas are associated with him. And what are those ideas? Sincerity especially, and genuine feeling. So Dr. Lanyon also possesses these qualities of sincerity and you know, genuine feeling, and we get the same kind of associated ideas for Dr. Jekyll.

So we have two scientific men, Dr. Jekyll and Dr. Lanyon, who are kind of seen through the eyes of their common friend Mr. Utterson. And Mr. Utterson feels that both of them possess a similar value system even though there are contrary points of view between the two scientific gentlemen. So we will come to that in a short while and we did see those ideas in the previous session too. So there is a commonality between the two scientific gentlemen, and there are father complications with regard to these men, we will see what they are.

So, the particular word that should catch our attention is slyness. So why do we have this disturbing; slightly disturbing characteristic just thrown into the picture here? That is a big question that we need to ask. And if you remember the description of Dr. Lanyon, there was just one characteristic which was not a part of a sophisticated set of attributes to describe a man, and that was theatrical. So that was the slightly disturbing aspect, and even that quality was explained away by Mr. Utterson who said that even though it looks a bit theatrical, the way Dr. Lanyon expresses himself you know, underneath his surface there is a lot of sincerity and warmth and affection for his friends and genuine feeling towards them. And here, you know, as a parallel, we see slyness thrown into a good set of attributes that are indicated as being possessed by Dr. Jekyll.

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Ch-3: Dr Jekyll on Dr Lanyon

"Oh, I know he's a good fellow—you needn't frown—an excellent fellow, and I always mean to see more of him; but a hide-bound pedant for all that; an ignorant, blatant pedant. I was never more disappointed in any man than Lanyon."

*Handwritten notes:*  
 - Science as a...  
 - Hide-bound  
 - Science  
 - Comparing by using  
 - Contrasting  
 - Scientific contributions of  
 - Dr Lanyon  
 - Mr Utterson  
 - Companion piece  
 - Dr Jekyll  
 - Mr Utterson



Now, Mr. Utterson has come to Dr. Jekyll's home for a visit, and they talk about their common friend Dr. Lanyon. So this is like a companion chapter, I would call it a companion piece, because this mirrors the conversation that had happened early on between Dr. Lanyon and Mr. Utterson. And we have similar set up here between Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Utterson, and we will see what Dr. Jekyll's opinions about Dr. Lanyon are.

So, we get parallel pictures, mirror images of certain characters, and we are asked to compare and contrast. So we are constantly comparing and contrasting and we are also constantly getting different perspectives about the same idea, concept, person. So which is the real version and which is the false version, so we need to ask that question. And is it even possible to find out what is the truth when we have so many versions of the truth.

So, Dr. Jekyll says, "Oh, I know he is a good fellow - you needn't frown - an excellent fellow, and I always mean to see more of him; but a hide-bound pedant for all that; an ignorant, blatant pedant. I was never more disappointed in any man than Lanyon." So they are talking about Dr. Lanyon, these two friends, and Dr. Jekyll says he is a good fellow, he is a good human being, an excellent human being, and he wishes to see more of him, enjoy more of his company but all the same he is very very pedantic, very narrow-minded, who is you know, possessing only set viewpoints on what is right and wrong.

So he is very pedantic, he is very, you know, bound to a particular set of values and ideas. And he calls that ignorant, that is an ignorant viewpoint to hold. And obvious a pedant, not only, you know, a man who is hiding his pedantic attributes, but he is very obvious about it, and he says I

am completely disappointed in him, and he is never more disappointed in any man than Dr. Lanyon. The meaning is that he is capable of higher things, better things, but then he is affected by his pedantic attributes and he is a disappointment.

So disappointment to what, perhaps to science? Disappointment to scientific contribution? So the implication that we have here from Dr. Jekyll is that Dr. Lanyon could have done better things, adventurous things, you know, through his caliber as a scientist but then he is not because he is very pedantic and therefore it is such a shame that he is not able to expand his horizons. So we have differing viewpoints as I pointed out.

So, they are differing in their approaches to science. So which one is the real science and which one is rubbish? If you remember the word that is used by Dr. Lanyon is unscientific balderdash, unscientific, that is what Dr. Lanyon calls the scientific approaches of Dr. Jekyll. So who is doing real science, that is a big question, and the other question that we need to ask is which science is better, is the science of Dr. Lanyon better or is the science of Dr. Jekyll better? Which one is bringing a lot of benefit to human society?

And that question also needs to be kept in mind and posed to certain events that are happening in this particular novella.

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## The Will

- ...in case of Dr Jekyll's "disappearance or unexplained absence for any period exceeding three calendar months," the said Edward Hyde should step into the said Henry Jekyll's shoes without further delay and free from any burthen or obligation, beyond the payment of a few small sums to the members of the doctor's household.

Replace Dr Jekyll's identity  
Mr Utterson  
problematic document

The two friends, Mr. Utterson and Dr. Jekyll end up talking about the will of Dr. Jekyll again, and this is what the will reads. It reads, "in the case of Dr. Jekyll's 'disappearance or unexplained absence for any period exceeding three calendar months', the said Edward Hyde

should step into the said Henry Jekyll's shoes without further delay and free from any burden or obligation, beyond the payment of a few small sums to the members of the doctor's household.”

So, there are slight modifications to the will that was initially prepared, and now we do not just have the reference to the death, we have a reference to the disappearance or unexplained absence for any period exceeding 3 calendar months. If Dr. Jekyll disappears for three months then Edward Hyde can enter into the person in fact, into the identity of the Jekyll, he can replace Dr. Jekyll's identity in his home, in Dr. Jekyll's home.

In fact, look at the way it is put. He should step into the - not that he could, he should step into the said Henry Jekyll's shoes without further delay. So he is literally entering the identity, the figure, the body of Dr. Jekyll, if Dr. Jekyll disappears or dies and Edward Hyde can come to replace him. And there is no obligation on the part of Edward Hyde, he can simply jump into the position of Dr. Jekyll. And except for you know, paying off a few members of the doctor's household, there is no obligation on Edward Hyde.

So, this is the problematic document that bothers Mr. Utterson who is not at all happy with this document for this reason, which is that Edward Hyde is a horrible terrible human being. In fact, he is not a human being but a monster for committing crimes against the innocent and the weak, so he cannot believe, Mr. Utterson cannot believe that Dr. Jekyll would leave his property to such a human being. And the understanding is that perhaps Mr. Hyde is blackmailing him for some reason, for some mistake that Dr. Jekyll committed in his past.

And therefore, he is paying the price for the crimes of the past. So that is also a kind of an assumption on the part of Mr. Utterson. So he feels that Dr. Jekyll is caught up in the web of Edward Hyde, and he feels that it is up to him to somehow help his friend be freed from the grasping clutches of Edward Hyde.

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## Dr Jekyll

- "I am painfully situated, Utterson; my position is very strange—a very strange one. It is one of those affairs that cannot be mended by talking."

*blackmail!  
Embarrassment  
or  
Shame*

*Dr Jekyll's position?*

*pain & Strange*

Now, what does Dr. Jekyll have to say about his position with regard to Hyde? And he says that I am painfully situated, it is an interesting phrase to adopt to explain his position. "I am painfully situated, Utterson; my position is very strange." Look at the word again, strange, a very strange one, the idea is repeated. "It is one of those affairs that cannot be mended by talking." You cannot solve this problem by just talking about it to me.

And there is no kind of hope of being freed of this painful situation. So pain and strange, these attributes are significant in terms of, you know, their association with their explanation of Dr. Jekyll's position. Why is he in a painful situation, why is that situation very strange, you know? So is he referring to blackmail, is that what he is referring to, and does he not want to talk about it to his close friend Mr. Utterson.

And he says that you cannot save me. So there is some kind of embarrassment, or there is some kind of shame related ideas which is kind of preventing Dr. Jekyll from talking about it to his closest friend.

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*isolation*  
*scene*

## Dr Jekyll's assurance

*private vs public*

- "I will tell you one thing. The moment I choose, I can be rid of Mr. Hyde. I give you my hand upon that; and I thank you again and again and I will just add one little word, Utterson, that I'm sure you'll take in good part: this is a private matter and I beg of you to let it sleep."

*personal*


*complete power over Hyde or this situation?*

*mystery*

*Control / power + Pained + Strange*

*public offence?*

*do not call the police*



But he has some kind of assurance to offer to Mr. Utterson, so what is that assurance? He says that "I will tell you one thing, the moment I choose I can be rid of Mr. Hyde. I give you my hand upon that; and I thank you again and again and I will just add little word, Utterson, that I am sure you will take in good part: this is a private matter and I beg of you to let it sleep." It is an interesting request and an explanation that Dr. Jekyll offers to his friend Mr. Utterson who is preoccupied by the state of affairs surrounding Dr. Jekyll.

And he is right to be concerned, because if you look back to the first chapter, we had told about a crime, a serious crime committed by Mr. Hyde who just casually, simply, walks over a young child; a female child and leaves her screaming. So it is a monstrous picture of humanity that we get in terms of Hyde, and Mr. Utterson is worried that you know, Dr. Jekyll who is such a popular gentleman, who is a well-respected gentleman in society, and it is this figure who is associating himself with Edward Hyde.

So, he is unable to square these two extremes, and he is desirous of helping his friend, and Dr. Jekyll does not want any kind of help. He says that it cannot be solved by talking about it and he says that do not worry, he is kind of reassuring his friend. He says that if I want to be rid of Hyde I will be, he says that I can be rid of Mr. Hyde the moment I choose. The moment I choose is an interesting way to put it.

So, he implies that he has complete power, Dr. Jekyll has complete power over Hyde and this situation. So that is, Dr. Jekyll thinks that that should give some kind of assurance to his friend Utterson. So when he describes, when Dr. Jekyll describes that this is the painful situation, a

strange situation, he now adds that he is in control of that situation. So if I choose I can be free of Hyde, so having control, having power and being pained and being in a strange situation, makes this entire affair extremely mysterious.

So, there is an element of mystery which is very, very clearly kind of suggested in this novella. So again, from the reader's point of view, it is this mystery that keeps the readers hooked to this narrative. And secondly, we again see a parallel, a thematic parallel between the Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and A Tale of Two Cities which also has a kind of affinity towards generating lots of secrets and mysteries which are slowly unravelled, and if one mystery unravels, another is you know, re-structured and brought to the surface for the reader's attention.

So there is a lot of mystery, and Dr. Jekyll tries to assure his friend. And secondly, he says that, he put in a very polite way, he says said Mr Utterson take it in a good way and do not interfere. So that is the message that Dr. Jekyll offers too. He says that take it in good part, this is a private matter, this is a personal matter.

And he says that I beg of you to let it sleep, do not disturb this issue, do not worry about this issue. And Dr. Jekyll is forced to offer this advice to his friend because Mr. Utterson tells him of his part in trying to approach Mr. Hyde and talking to him one night as he is about to enter the door to his home in that by-street which we saw at the beginning of this novella. Again, you know, there are other thematic aspects which brings our attention to it, which are the issue of private versus public.

What is private versus what is public? And this is an interesting thematic contrast that we need to keep in mind because if you go back to the first scene we have Hyde attacking a child. And how do we see that matter, is this a public offense or is it a private matter? So it is a public offense, but then the people who deal with that situation do not call the police, instead what they do is they try to blackmail the man Mr. Hyde into offering some money for the child and they are successful in their attempts to corner him.

In fact, the threat that they offered to Hyde is that since he is a gentleman, he would not want this news to spread to the rest of the society, and therefore if he wants to keep his good name, he has to cough up some money. So they threaten him and get the money, and again the issue



about what is public and what is private, how should redressal be brought about for the people who are injured are some of the questions that pop up to our minds when we talk about this, you know, novella.

And again here Dr. Jekyll assures Mr. Utterson that this is a private matter, you know, and he says that let my privacy remain private, do not interfere. And we need to kind of ask this question, is it an entirely private matter if the man he is going to leave his wealth to, his property to, is a kind of a threat to normal society? Is he a public nuisance? Is he a threat to public safety? So all these questions does inevitably come up.

And another thematic aspect that we need to think about is the role of gentlemen, the nature of gentlemen, and here we have Mr Utterson who is a gentleman, who kind of exhibits these qualities of friendship and loyalty and his desire to come to the aid of a friend in need. So these are some of the values that are associated with the gentlemanly class, and he tries to you know, fulfil his duties, his responsibilities towards his friends, and this should be seen in that context too.

And here Dr. Jekyll is rejecting, he is kind of rejecting the offer of friendship and assistance, and he is withdrawing into himself. So again the theme of isolation is one that will be picked up by the narrative as it progress. So Dr. Jekyll will be increasingly in isolation, will increasingly protect himself, safeguard himself, and how does he do that? By withdrawing himself from the rest of society. So that is also another theme that we need to keep in mind.

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The slide features the following text and annotations:

- Title:** Dr Jekyll's request
- Text:** "But, I do sincerely take a great, a very great interest in that young man; and if I am taken away, Utterson, I wish you to promise me that you will bear with him and get his rights for him. I think you would, if you knew all; and it would be a weight off my mind if you would promise."
- Annotations:**
  - "criminal?" above "great, a very great"
  - "why?" and "where?" above "young man"
  - "Haken's sudden death?" above "get his rights for him"
  - "Sudden disappearance?" above "I think you would"
  - "What are his rights?" and "selfish" in a box below "get his rights for him"
  - "aura of mystery" below "I think you would"
- Inset:** A small video frame in the bottom right corner shows a woman with glasses and a red and white striped shirt.

Now, Dr. Jekyll has a request to make of his friend who is a barrister, we need to remember the professional context of Mr. Utterson. So again that brings us to another realization that this novel is full of professionals, we have Dr. Jekyll who is a scientific gentleman, we have Dr. Lanyon who is also scientific gentlemen, we have Mr Utterson who is a barrister, and then there is a reference to an MP. So we are talking about a set of people who are in the wealthier levels of middle class.

And we are also you know, introduced to characters who are slightly above this particular social level and we get to see servants who are beneath the middle classes, the working classes are also given a glimpse of in this particular narrative. So let us come to Dr. Jekyll's request. He says that "I do sincerely take a great, a very great interest in that young man; and if I am taken away, Utterson, I wish you to promise me that you will bear with him and get his rights for him. I think you would, if you knew all; and it would be a weight off your mind, if you would promise."

So he has a strange request to make of Mr. Utterson, and what is that strange request? He is asking his friend to help Mr. Hyde in Dr. Jekyll's absence. In fact we know that Mr. Utterson is completely against Mr. Edward Hyde, he is you know, full of hatred for this man, and now he is put in a position where Dr. Jekyll asks him to help that man in his absence.

And look at the way he puts it, I take a great, a very great interest in that young man. So Dr. Jekyll has somehow taken him under his wing, under his protection, and he is interested in him, he is interested in his career, probably. And he says that you know, if I am taken away, that is also a very interesting idea, why would he be taken away, where would he be taken away, why that idea of being taken? Is he talking about his sudden death, is he talking about his sudden disappearance which is referenced in that, referenced in that will.

So, what is he talking about? So again, there is an aura of mystery here, and further questions are come up to our mind. Why is he taking a great interest in this young man who has committed crimes? In fact he could be referred to as being criminally inclined, he has committed acts of cruelty against an innocent girl, so why would you take an interest in that man? And look at the way Dr. Jekyll is exploiting the bond of friendship.

He says that promise me that you will bear with him, you will put up with him, you will tolerate him, that is a request, do tolerate him, and get his rights for him. So what are his rights? His rights are those which would get him the property, the wealth of Dr. Jekyll. So those are his rights, and he says that if you knew all, you would do this, you would promise me, but you know, make sure you do. So, it is a kind of a complicated request that he has asked of his friend.

So, in the initial stage, he is asking him to stay quiet, not to interfere but even, you know, when he is no longer around, it is at that moment he wants the intervention of Mr. Utterson because he is a barrister, he can get the rights of Mr. Edward Hyde, and that way he can smoothly transition into Jekyll's home and his wealth. So he is using the bond of friendship for his selfish purposes, that is what is becoming clear.


If you do a close reading of that passage, that idea will come through, that idea that perhaps Dr. Jekyll is somehow selfish too.

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Real life model for Dr Jekyll's house

- Famous surgeon John Hunter (1728-1793),
- In Leicester Square in the late 18th century
- Knowledge about Human Anatomy: Hunter required human cadavers, many of them supplied by 'resurrection men' who robbed fresh graves.
- Delivered at night generally, "to the back entrance of the house, which had a drawbridge leading to the preparation rooms and lecture-theatre"

*No homogeneity*      *duality - home people*



Now, we have a real-life model for Dr. Jekyll, and for Dr. Jekyll's house too. If you remember the earlier sessions we were talking about the strange setup of his house where you know, there is a lab in a different part of his house and that lab could be approached by a by-street, and in fact we have the house and the lab and all the other sections in the same area but approached from two different you know, entry points.

And we have a real-life model for this physician, and that is famous surgeon John Hunter who lived between 1728 and 1793. He is interested in gathering knowledge about human anatomy, and he had acquired a lot of human cadavers, human bodies, and many of these bodies were supplied by resurrection men who robbed dead bodies from churchyards. So it is a very interesting, bizarre, macabre context that we have here.

And he lived in Leicester Square in the late 18th century. So this is the real-life physician, real-life model for Dr. Jekyll of R. L. Stevenson's story. And how did the dead bodies get delivered to Dr. Hunter's house? In fact, they were delivered at night when the rest of human society is asleep, and the bodies were brought to the back entrance of the house very quietly, and the back entrance had a drawbridge, a bridge that could be put down and pulled up when required.

And the bodies were brought through this drawbridge to the preparation rooms, to those surgical rooms and lecture theatres. So this is the setup that John Hunter had in his 18th century home in Leicester Square, and this is the model for Dr. Jekyll's home in this particular novella, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. And in fact we have the same words being used lecture theatre in this narrative, and perhaps that is an echo of this real-life physician from the 18th century.

Now, we have other thematic parallels too, which is that in a *Tale of Two Cities*, we have reference to resurrection men. And if you remember the story well, the name of Jerry Cruncher would, you know, pop to your mind, and he is a resurrection man because he used to dig up bodies from churchyards and sell those bodies to doctors so that they could perform their experiments, they could use those bodies for their surgical purposes and to know more about human anatomy.

So, resurrection men is a continuing thematic parallel that we have between these two novels, one from the middle of the 19th century and one from the later section of the 19th century, and we also see connections to the 18th century as well. So this is a constant, you know, idea that has been around since the previous century. Again, the other idea that comes to my mind is the drawbridge that we saw in reference to the Bastille, the prison in France.

And prisoners were made to cross this draw bridge to enter the Bastille and the drawbridge was pulled up and everybody was secured in that prison. So the idea that the home becomes a kind

of a fort, is also indicated in these references to all these protective measures, security measures, kind of figured into the setup of a home. So it is a very interesting structure, the home that serves several purposes.

So, there is a duality to the home, as there is a duality to people. So there is no homogeneity to the purposes of people and structures in society. Thank you for watching, I will continue in the

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