

## **Victor Frankenstein: Neglecting his Creation**

*4. the novel speaks to the desire to know more, to surpass former limitations, and the dangers involved with such desires. Choosing either Victor Frankenstein or Robert Walton, demonstrate the truth of this statement.*

In the novel *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley, the dangers involved with blind ambition and the craving to surpass former limitations are depicted through the actions of the protagonist, Victor Frankenstein, and his inability to remain responsible and in control of the monster that he creates. These dangers are shown, first when Frankenstein, in his ignorance, creates the monster, and again later on, when the monster kills his brother and Frankenstein fails to act accordingly. Victor creates the monster in hopes of achieving glory and remembrance through his contributions to scientific advancement. However, he does not ever consider the many implications involved with the creation of life. In his endeavors to create the monster, he takes on the role of a God, but fails as a creator of life in being accountable and managing his creations. In Christianity, God is said to remain responsible to those who he creates, such as Adam, Eve and Satan, who resemble Frankenstein's creation.

Although Victor Frankenstein attempts to take on the role of a God, unlike God, he is unable to maintain responsibility to the monster. Once Victor realizes the wretchedness of his creation, instead of deciding to take action, he allows the creature to escape and wreak havoc on the world around him, without the guidance of his creator. His reaction is shown when he says: "By the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs" (32). Frankenstein neglects the creature because of its hideous demeanor, and his actions are the cause of his ultimate downfall. Although hideous, the monster still has feelings and emotions similar to regular people. As the creature examines the world around him, he begins to develop the need for a companion, which parallels the situation Adam had in the Garden of Eden. According to the bible, Adam was the first man that God created and he was in need of a mate. Once aware of Adam's need, God decided to put Adam to sleep so that he could create a woman from Adam's rib. In the tale of Frankenstein however, although the Doctor takes on the role of a God in his creation of the monster, he refuses to make a companion for the being, neglecting the

duty's he has to his creation. Thus, through the comparison between God and Frankenstein, and Adam and the monster, it is evident that Victor Frankenstein fails as a creator of life, and strives beyond his limitations without considering the implications of his actions.

Furthermore, in comparing the monster's actions to those of Satan, one can further examine Frankenstein's lack of control and accountability to his creature. When the creature declares war against his creator, he parallels Satan, who also declared war against God. Even the creature compares himself to Satan when he says: "Many times I considered Satan as the fitter emblem of my condition, for often, like him, when I viewed the bliss of my protectors, the bitter gall of envy rose within me" (92). The monster and Satan share a jealousy towards humans, as they were both treated with far less respect and love as humans. God showed affection and took pride in his creation of man but did not have the same level of affection towards Satan. Similarly, Victor Frankenstein showed his loved ones great compassion, but did not show any love towards his creation. Thus, because of their feelings of inferiority towards humans, both Satan and the monster decided to rebel against their creators. Satan took 1/3 of God's angels and caused a war in heaven, while the monster killed Frankenstein's brother William in his revenge, which is explained when he says: "The child still struggled and loaded me with epithets which carried despair to my heart; I grasped his throat to silence him, and in a moment he lay dead at my feet" (127). Frankenstein and God differ in their approach in dealing with their creations. God did not allow Satan to do any more damage and thus, banished him from heaven. Frankenstein however, does not act accordingly in response to the creature, which then brings further despair to his life. Even once the monster tells him: "It is well. I go; but remember, I shall be with you on your wedding-night" (153), Frankenstein is unable to manage the angry being that he has created. His lack of assertiveness allows the monster to walk freely and bring mayhem upon the people he encounters.

In conclusion, it is evident that Frankenstein strives beyond his limits in his pursuit of knowledge and is thus unable to maintain control over his monster, which is evident when he first creates him, and when the monster kills his brother. Through the comparison between Frankenstein and God, and the monster and Adam or Satan, one can

see that Frankenstein lacks the level of control and accountability that is required of a creator of life, such as God.