

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

3.1 Theme of Scarlet Letter Novel

In this chapter the writer wants to analyze the theme, moral value, and comparison between puritan and Islamic law about adultery. In this case, the writer just focus on Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale punishment as main character in Scarlet Letter novel.

3.1.1 Point of View Nathaniel Hawthorne

The Scarlet Letter starts because in nineteenth century discussion about religion is very interesting in Europe. This novel tells that everyone certainly has a mistake and sin. The Scarlet Letter invites the reader to sympathize with the sinner as Hester struggling, often rebelliously to Hester relationship between Hester sin and the punishment.

The point of Hawthorne's novel is to criticize the severity of the Puritan law and the self-righteous intolerance of the Puritan community. Hawthorne uses seventeenth century Puritanism as a point of departure for reflecting on what a Christian community should strive for in the nineteenth century. Hawthorne suggests that the ideal Christian community should be one based on charity, compassion, and mercy rather than rigid dogmatism and harsh judgment. Within the framework of Puritanism, however, Hester's good in works or not and she should not be viewed as a means for her redemption, since under Puritan doctrine this would amount to a form

of religious heresy (Puritans rejected the belief, known as Armenians, that an individual can achieve his or her own salvation through righteous action).

There are five point of Calvinism doctrines that used by Puritanism; 1) the Supremacy of Divine Will, 2) the Depravity of Man, 3) Election, 4) Free Grace, and 5) Predestination (Crawford et al, 1953: 13). Under the Five Points of Calvinism, election (that is, salvation) is considered “unconditional,” and grace is likewise “irresistible.” According to Calvinistic belief, with the gift of God’s son Jesus Christ, humans entered into a new covenant based on grace, not works. Through the representation of Hester’s isolation, rebellion, and final reemergence as a fixture of understanding and sympathy in her community, Hawthorne seems to argue that the Puritan law divides individuals from one another, making them vulnerable to self-righteousness rather than cultivating a sense of caring and forgiveness.

From the explanation above, the writer have a conclusion that Nathaniel's background of the novel is peoples opinion about a priest or minister. It is a person who hasn't sin and guilt. He never does mistake and always on the right away. Nathaniel want advise to the peoples that a minister had to ever does a mistake and sin. When a person do mistake and sin so he must given a punishment although a priest or minister.

3.1.2 Character's in Scarlet Letter Novel

First character in scarlet letter novel is Hester Prynne. Hester is a beautiful woman, shi si tall has dark and thick hair.she has thick eyebrow and black eyes. She

look so feminism because she is beautiful than other woman. It can be seen by this quotation.

“The young woman was tall, with a figure of perfect elegance on a large scale. She had dark and abundant hair, so glossy that it threw off the sunshine with a gleam; and a face which, besides being beautiful from regularity of feature and richness of complexion, had the impressiveness belonging to a marked brow and deep black eyes. She was ladylike, too, after the manner of the feminine gentility of those days; characterised by a certain state and dignity, rather than by the delicate, evanescent, and indescribable grace which is now recognised as its indication” (Hawthorne; 81).

Second character is revered Arthur Dimmesdale. Arthur character is a young protestant from England University he has big and brown eyes. He has many knowledge in him mind. He always give many speech to puritan society that become he is very popular and respected by each other in him society. It can be seen by this quotation:

”The directness of this appeal drew the eyes of the whole crowd upon the Reverend Mr. Dimmesdale—young clergyman, who had come from one of the great English universities, bringing all the learning of the age into our wild forest land. His eloquence and religious fervour had already given the earnest of high eminence in his profession. He was a person of very striking aspect, with a white, lofty, and impending brow; large, brown, melancholy eyes, and a mouth which, unless when he forcibly compressed it, was apt to be tremulous, expressing both nervous sensibility and a vast power of self restraint. Notwithstanding his high native gifts and scholar-like attainments, there was an air about this young minister—an apprehensive, a startled, a half-frightened look—as of a being who felt himself quite astray, and at a loss in the pathway of human existence, and could only be at ease in some seclusion of his own. Therefore, so far as his duties would permit, he trod in the shadowy by-paths, and thus kept himself simple and childlike, coming forth, when occasion was, with a freshness, and fragrance, and dewy purity of thought, which, as many people said, affected them like the speech of an angel “(Hawthorne; 100-101).

The third character is Roger Chillingworth. Roger is Hester Prynne's husband. He is a smart and intellectual man. He is always reading books in his library. He sends his wife or Hester Prynne to Boston first because he always travels around Europe and other American districts to study about medicinal treatment. It can be seen in quotation:

“Hester, said he, I ask not wherefore, nor how thou hast fallen into the pit, or say, rather, thou hast ascended to the pedestal of infamy on which I found thee. The reason is not far to seek. It was my folly, and thy weakness. I—a man of thought—the book-worm of great libraries—a man already in decay, having given my best years to feed the hungry dream of knowledge” (Hawthorne: 111).

We can learn a lesson for this novel that if the one does a mistake and sin so he must get a punishment although he is a priest man or a minister. We don't judge that a minister always on right and a sinner always on wrong. But sometimes, a priest is on the wrong way and the sinner on the right way.

3.1.3 Plot in Scarlet Letter Novel

The story begins when Hester Prynne has relationship with Arthur Dimmesdale a pastor of puritan community. From that relationship they get a little baby that make angry puritan community. So, Hester and Arthur get punishment from puritan community such as wear symbol A and stand on a pillory for three hours there. By means, she can be seen and kown by puritan public spectators. In the meantime, all people are talking about her shame and bad fate, a man known as Roger Chillingworth, the husban of hester, just arrives and sees his wife is being disgraced.

Not knowing what is going on, he eventually asks to a man next to him. Then, that man tells what is going on in the market place.

Hearing the man's explanation, Roger revealing her wife's as sinner partner. To make his plane works out, he then gets along with the pastor and in the future, the physician can reveal who actually Arthur Dimmesdale is. In the colony, the physician is a person who is entrusted to take care of pastor's health. As the story goes on, Hester cannot stand with her burden, notably hiding the physician's identity. She tells the truth to Arthur Dimmesdale. Beside that reason, there is something urgent that Hester cannot hide, is the condition of the pastor that always reduces day by day. That is happened because the pastor cannot stand with his sin and betray toward god.

Feeling depression for long time, Arthur in the election sermon when he is preaching in the front of public spectators, he reveals everything by saying that he is the partner sinner of Hester. Before Arthur do that the physician tries to stop him, but that is useful. He insists on saying his darken sin in front of the puritans Boston.

Therefore, lost of puritans feel shock knowing that fact as the consequence of his sin. He dies on Hester Prynne body after kissing pearl for the last time. In the end, Hester and pearl meet happiness when year after year have passed away. For pearl, she gets an amount of heritage from the physician after his death in the same year of the pastor's death.

From the text above, the writer have a conclusion that the theme of Scarlet Letter is about a mistake and sin, which is adultery. Then, the punishment of adultery, symbol “A”, becomes the main idea of Nathaniel’s novel.

had to accept the scolding of the poor and the sick was helping. This we can see in the following statements:

“A short time later, Hester left the prison. She moved into a small house outside the town. She had no friends, but she was always busy. She made beautiful clothes for her daughter. When people saw these clothes, they wanted Hester to make beautiful things to them too. She started to get money from her work. She used some money for food, but she gave a lot of money away”. (Hawthorne: 122)

Hester also gets unfair attitude during she do not tell about father of the child.

When she goes to any where the people give her insult. It shown in the statement:

“People said bad things to her when they saw her in the street. They were unfriendly when she visited their houses. Children followed her in town and shouted at her. Some people saw the scarlet letter on her breast and turned away. Church ministers looked coldly at her and talked to her about punishment and God. In their eyes, the scarlet letter shone red hot on her breast with fire from the devil. Hester felt angry with the minister, but she never showed her feelings. She always looked at the ground and walked away”. (Hawthorne: 129)

The consequences to be borne by Hester that she wears the emblem letter "A" dark red which symbolizes sin and error that means adultery or fornication. The effect of the using symbol is she should go to jail and exclusion from society. While Dimmesdale must wear the guilt in his heart for many years so that he fell ill. Actually he wanted to reveal his sin to the public. However, he did not have the courage for it because it is regarded as a saint that he found it difficult to say the truth to the public. Plus, he always gives advice to his people in the church about good things. However, he had done the forbidden religion. Therefore, he keeps it to himself alone.

Unable to bear the burden, Dimmesdale finally reveals his honesty in public. He invites Hester and Pearl to take the stage. This we can see in the following statement:

“Then he turned to the crowd in the square and said loudly, “People of New England. You loved me, but look at me now—the one sinner of the world. I did not stand here before, and I was wrong”. “After he spoke, he did a very strange thing. With a small smile, he opened his shirt to the crowd. People pushed excitedly nearer the platform. They all wanted to see the minister. Arthur stood there with his shirt open. Then he fell. Hester went down next to him. Roger Chillingworth jumped up onto the platform. He went down to the floor and said into the minister’s ear, “You got away from me”. (Hawthorne: 135)

3.2.2 Puritan and Islamic Punishment

Puritanism is a religious movement in case of Protestant reformation. The Puritans themselves desired to reform England as well as John Calvin did in Geneva. Puritan religious doctrines were mostly based on Calvinism (*The Encyclopedia Americana*, 1990: 21). They were of the same mind with Calvin since his teachings were considered fixed to the Bible and experience (Foerster, 1962: 9). The scarlet letter tells about life of puritan community who lives in America. They use law as Calvinism does, they return to the Bible.

In the book of *American Literature*, it is stated that there are five points of Puritans' basic tenets including 1) the Supremacy of Divine Will, 2) the Depravity of Man, 3) Election, 4) Free Grace, and 5) Predestination (Crawford et al, 1953: 13). "The starting point for Puritan Theology was an emphasis on the majesty, righteousness, and sovereignty of God" (Eliade, 1987: 103). God has absolute authority and arbitrary will to create and maintain the universe. Due to His will, everything in this

world must be directed using His morality and if God wills His world, His world must be governed by His morality and worldly occurrences must be the consequences of His moral law (Crawford et al, 1953: 13). God has due to make a people become good or bad. He is lording overall in the world.

Puritans also hold the concept of the depravity of man. “Scripture, their social surroundings, and an intense personal introspection all persuaded the Puritan that human being were depraved sinners incapable of earning merit in the eyes of God” (Eliade, 1987: 103). Everyone was guilty of sin as the result of Adams fall for his mistake in the Garden of Eden (*The Encyclopedia Americana*, 1990: 21). By the reason, humans are sinful and weak deserving damnation. Thus, many Puritan preachers gave a picture to his congregation that they are hopelessly stupid, wickedly sinful, and irretrievably damned (Crawford et al, 1953: 13). However, Puritans believed the concept of election means that Christ’s sacrifice has resulted covenant with God to save the elected person from damnation. They held that God “elected” or predestined certain persons—a limited number, not all mankind by any means—to be saved and did this solely out of His mercy (*The Encyclopedia Americana*, 1990: 21).

Puritans taught that good works meant nothing in earning salvation since good works do not please God and sinners cannot save themselves. People cannot simply reach the salvation by holding natural means provided by God such as scripture, sacrament, and sermons of Godly preacher. Yet, the elected person can liaise with the Spirit's transforming work on their souls. Subsequently, those who are God's elected could get God's grace as a free gift. Grace is not a reward for anything people had

done but it is a gift for them elected by God. God gives satisfactory grace for the elected person's salvation (Foerster, 1962: 9).

Despite of this, Puritan hold the idea of predestination in which God eternally has determined who is saved and who is damned. God is a Supreme will therefore He could predestine human end into heaven or hell according to His plan. In the beginning of Puritanism, every Protestant absolutely believed in the conviction of Scripture, the existence of heaven and hell, or the sins (*The Encyclopedia Americana*, 1990: 21). “But although Adams sin had led to this fallen state and thus precluded humankind from using the Adamic covenant of works to earn its way to heaven, a benevolent and loving God predestined some of his fallen creatures for the gift of salvation included in the covenant of grace” (Eliade, 1987: 103).

The scarlet letter discusses about predestination of a ministry, Arthur Dimmesdale, who does a big sin and guilt. Although he is a priest cannot free of mistake and sin. He does adultery with the young wife, Hester Prynne. Actually, the woman who must take a risk because in a physical the consequence of adultery has looked of herself. She gets punishment such as enter to jail, insult by peoples, and most burden wear symbol “A” in front of clothes. It based on the text: “The letter was the symbol of her calling. Such helpfulness was found in her—so much power to do, and power to sympathies—that many people refused to interpret the scarlet A by its original signification” (Hawthorne; 242-243).

From the explanation above, it can be conclude that puritan's punishment which gotten by Hester is very difficult done by people. Physically, a woman is weak

head until dead if they ever married before. Allah states: "The fornicatress and the fornicator, flog each of them with a hundred stripes ". [An-Nur / 24: 2]

In the *shahih muslim* book 17, number 4192, it says:

'Ubadah ibn as-Samit reported that whenever Allah's Apostle (may peace be upon him) received revelation, he felt its rigor and the complexion of his face changed. One day revelation descended upon him, he felt the same rigor. When it was over and he felt relief, he said: Take from me. Verily Allah has ordained a way for them (the women who commit fornication),: (When) a married man (commits adultery) with a married woman, and an unmarried male with an unmarried woman, then in case of married (persons) there is (a punishment) of one hundred lashes and then stoning (to death). And in case of unmarried persons, (the punishment) is one hundred lashes and exile for one year.

For this text, the punishment for adultery in case of married person is one hundred lashes and throwing stone to the head until death. And in case of unmarried person, the punishment is one hundred lashes and exiled for one year.

In the other case, if a man has married commits adultery with a woman has unmarried so the punishment is one hundred lashes for married person and throwing stone to death for unmarried people. It can see at Muslim hadith book 17, number 4191;

'Ubadah b. as-Samit reported: Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: Receive (teaching) from me, receive (teaching) from me. Allah has ordained a way for those (women). When an unmarried male commits adultery with an unmarried female (they should receive) one hundred lashes and exile for one year. And in case of married male committing adultery with a married female, they shall receive one hundred lashes and be stoned to death.

Above paragraph explains that sin has done anything whether it's small or big sin as long as it does not ascribing partners to Him, then if the offender repents with, will undoubtedly be forgiven by God.

In the Dawud hadith book 38 number 4405 which narrated Nu'aym ibn Huzal tells:

Yazid ibn Nu'aym ibn Huzzal, on his father's authority said: Ma'iz ibn Malik was an orphan under the protection of my father. He had illegal sexual intercourse with a slave-girl belonging to a clan. My father said to him: Go to the Apostle of Allah (peace be upon him) and inform him of what you have done, for he may perhaps ask Allah for your forgiveness. His purpose in that was simply a hope that it might be a way of escape for him.

So he went to him and said: Apostle of Allah! I have committed fornication, so inflict on me the punishment ordained by Allah. He (the Prophet) turned away from him, so he came back and said: Apostle of Allah! I have committed fornication, so inflict on me the punishment ordained by Allah. He (again) turned away from him, so he came back and said: Apostle of Allah! I have committed fornication, so inflict on me the punishment ordained by Allah.

When he uttered it four times, the Apostle of Allah (peace be upon him) said: You have said it four times. With whom did you commit it?

He replied: With so and so. He asked: Did you lie down with her? He replied: Yes. He asked: Had your skin been in contact with hers? He replied: Yes. He asked: Did you have intercourse with her? He said: Yes. So he (the Prophet) gave orders that he should be stoned to death. He was then taken out to the Harrah, and while he was being stoned he felt the effect of the stones and could not bear it and fled. But Abdullah ibn Unays encountered him when those who had been stoning him could not catch up with him. He threw the bone of a camel's foreleg at him, which hit him and killed him. They then went to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and reported it to him.

He said: Why did you not leave him alone. Perhaps he might have repented and been forgiven by Allah.

The story above tells about Allah forgives to Him slaves who repent seriously and do righteousness based from rules of Allah.

Furthermore, if the people who have fallen into this disgraceful act if he repents with taubatan Nasuha, true repentance, accompanied by self-improvement with good deeds with various kinds, regret and do not want to re-do it then it will be able to eliminate the repentance of sin over God. As the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad:

".التَّائِبُ مِنَ الذَّنْبِ كَمَنْ لَا ذَنْبَ لَهُ"

"Those who repent of sin as people who do not have sin". (HR. Ibn Majah)

" Except those who repent and believe and do good deeds; that the crimes they replaced God with goodness, and God is Forgiving, Merciful. And whoever repents and do good deeds then indeed he has to repent to God with repentance is real" (QS. Al-Furqan: 70-71). (Muhammad Taqiuddin al-Hilali and Muhammad Muhsin Khan: 486-487)

Although many critics view Hester in a positive way, some liberal one sees her as degenerating spiritually since her thoughts are on earthly love as is clear in her conversation with Dimmesdale during their meeting in the forest. In fact, her artistic embroidery is seen as her way of "expressing and therefore soothing the passions of her life" (Crews 148-58). It is also said that she "handles her guilt more successfully than Dimmesdale because her conscience is less highly developed than his" (Crews; 143). Those who see her positively emphasize the transformation that she undergoes.

Hawthorne, the author of *Scarlet Letter*, points out that while sin which is exposed and confessed frees the sinner's mind and often brings about a transformation in the life, sin which is concealed and cherished tends to cause ruin and death. Arthur Dimmesdale suffers during the seven years of silence. The source of his anguish is the remorse he feels for his sin. Guilt eats away at his very soul and threatens to destroy him. It can be seen on the statement:

Rodger Chillingworth, who enters the story as Hester stands on the scaffold, waits with fiendish patience to destroy the soul of his patient. He clings like a leech to the minister intent on taking his revenge and willing to become a devil. How does this affect him? He becomes more deformed and ugly. He is led to commit what some critics call the unpardonable sin by his lack of human sympathy. Of him Hester says, "That old man's revenge has been blacker than my sin. He has violated, in cold blood, the sanctity of a human heart" (Hawthorne; 195).

Sin is an estrangement from God on the part of a morally free person. It occurs when one transgresses God's laws. Sin not only isolates man from God, it also alienates him from his fellowmen. The characters in *The Scarlet Letter* all suffer isolation as a result of their sins, based on the statement:

Pearl was born an outcast and remains at war with her world until the expiation of the final confession scene. Hester lives at the edge of the village and years afterward, when Pearl has married, returns to finish out her life at the same spot. The scarlet letter, when she first wrote it, 'had the effect of a spell, taking her out of the ordinary relations with humanity, and enclosing her in a sphere by herself,' and as time passed, it became everywhere apparent 'that she was banished, and as much alone as if she inhabited another sphere, or communicated with the common nature by other organs and senses than the rest of human kind.' The isolation brought on Chillingworth by his guilt is represented by the fear his dark visage and stooping posture inspires in the children as he moves about the village. (Hawthorne: 59-60).

Hawthorne presents another effect of sin on the characters. To him, they attain greater understanding as a consequence. Although one may not necessarily agree with this view in relation to Chillingworth and Pearl, it seems reasonable to believe that "the effectiveness of Dimmesdale's sermons is testimony to his extraordinary insight into human nature" (Turner: 60). It seems as if his own weakness makes him more understanding and tolerant of the faults and failing of others. It is through Hester, however, most of all, which Hawthorne presents the greater understanding due to sin. According to Turner, "The scarlet letter has taught her to recognize sin in others and to look with warm sympathy into the hearts of sinners. Still, her awareness of sin in others did not destroy utterly her faith, for she 'struggle to believe that no fellow mortal was guilty like herself,' and thus refused to believe that sin is universal--'such loss of faith is ever one of the saddest result of sin'".

Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale as the main character in scarlet letter have psychological conflicts in their life. They have a dream seeking for their own happiness by following their sexual desire. However, they fail to pursue their dream and caused them several conflicts with themselves and the society. These situations make them suffer in a great depression.

There is a story in Malik hadith book 41: 41.1.2 tells about a fornicator who repents and asks to Muhammad, is the sin and guilt of adultery forgiven by Allah or not? This is the statement:

Malik related to me from Yahya ibn Said from Said ibn al-Musayyab that a man from the Aslam tribe came to Abu Bakr as-Siddiq and said to him, "I have committed adultery." Abu Bakr said to him, "Have you mentioned

Really, Islam teaches to the followers about moral. When a person do a sin and guilt, he has to be responsible for what ever done before. The law of Islam is not cruel; it is to be inspiring to the people that what they do is wrong and must be punishable. The punishment of adultery manner as in Muslim hadith book 17, number 4194:

'Abdullah ibn 'Abbas reported that 'Umar ibn al-Khattab sits down on the prophet of Allah's Messenger (May peace be upon him) and said: Verily Allah sent Muhammad (may peace be upon him) with truth and He sent down the Book upon him, and the verse of stoning was included in what was sent down to him. We recited it, retained it in our memory and understood it. Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) awarded the punishment of stoning to death (to the married adulterer and adulteress) and, after him, we also awarded the punishment of stoning. I am afraid that with the lapse of time, the people (may forget it) and may say: We do not find the punishment of stoning in the Book of Allah, and thus go astray by abandoning this duty prescribed by Allah. Stoning is a duty laid down in Allah's Book for married men and women who commit adultery when proof is established, or if there is pregnancy, or a confession. (shahih muslim)

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that Islam preaches people to do not follow their wrong desire since it can lead people to the wrong path. Furthermore, Islam teaches its followers to behave in such a good morality that can lead people to the right path.

The writer gives a conclusion that puritan and Islam forbid adultery because it is a despicable act and contemptible. Almost of all the religion in the world give a prohibition to adultery. So, the adulter and the adulteress both of them must be punished. The punishment of puritan more emphasize in mind and heart. While Islamic law emphasize in physical punishment.

