

Jane's Self-Respect: Interaction between Disposition and Faith in Jane Eyre

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This paper aims to argue that Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre (1847) describes Jane's faith as more distinctive and healthy compared to other believers such as Helen Burns and St. John without undervaluing them. Jane is not deprived of her decisions on the basis of self-respect when she is in conflict with Rochester's love and St. John's coercion of marriage. Jane's nature and personality vigorously interact with her growing relationship with God as she grows up. The interaction and relationship are sources of her self-respect and boldness. This paper examines how Jane's inherent disposition and nature influence the formation and growth of her own faith. In addition, her faith also serves to control her temperament or help her make the right decisions. Jane's assured proclamation of equality before God in the Victorian period has aroused many previous discussions both in feminism and Christianity. According to some studies, feminism in Jane Eyre is biblical, and her independent decisions are based on her Christian faith. Although these studies are more comprehensive as an in-depth analysis of Jane's era, they are insufficient to explain where Jane's deep self-respect is rooted. Thus, this perspective offers a way to understand how Bronte highlights Jane's distinctiveness through her disposition and faith.