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THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE INDEPENDENT AND THE DEPENDENT IN AYN RAND'S *THE FOUNTAINHEAD*

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ABSTRACT

The novel of Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* depicts picture of various characters. Most prominently on the character of Howard Roark who acts as an individualist . It pays more attention on the conflict between the independent and the dependent. She has taken characters such as Howard Roark and Dominique to present themselves as an independents and Peter Keating and Catherine Halsey as dependents . The protagonist of the novel is Howard Roark who is portrayed as strong willed , stern faced , determined and never compromise his ideals for any one and anywhere. Because of that he struggled from the beginning to end to prove himself as an idealistic architect who follows innovative ideas in shaping all his buildings . His designs were unique and exemplary. But most of them in the society did not accept his designs and rejected him. Since he is a modernist and a man of uncompromised with integrity . He hated the combination of modernistic ideas with conventional ideas in architecture. On the contrary , his classmate Peter Keating reached the heights so soon after leaving Stanton Institute of Technology whereas Howard Roark is expelled from the institution for disobeying the faculty who draws and designs building merely coping the past. Peter Keating is a man who can be influenced with ease and depends on others for all his decision in life. He never values his own judgments and easily got influenced by others.

Key words: modern, , independent, idealistic, architecture, individualism

Introduction

The story of *The Fountainhead* revolves around the theme on individualism and collectivism. The author represents the character of the hero as an independent thinker and acts against collectivist. The hero tries to find happiness and content in his work and adheres his own principles to give the best from his mind not imitating the past but by expressing new ideas in an innovative style. Whereas Ellsworth Toohey, the villain of this novel teaches socialism to others and convinces others with the ideas of serving others . He influences others by telling to shed the ego of oneself and

preaches everyone that there should be selflessness in everyone's heart. He hates the person who acts independently. He disliked the person who possessed originality in their work.

Howard Roark is expelled from the Stanton Institute of Technology for insubordination. His designs are modernistic and new . The faculty in the institute blindly follows conventional designs which has the impressions of the past. Even though Roark had given an excellent designs , they did not accept and insisted him on to stick on the rules of the institution. He is very stubborn in his idealist view

and so he left the college . He never bothers others opinion on his designs and he acted independently.

Dean tried to convince Roark to continue his last year study by accepting the conventional principles of architecture. He further said that architect is a man who must have the quality of co-operation to have clients in future. He told that he was a man with stupid qualities and none accept as an architect and none allowed to get commission. Roark replied that he could give the best to the clients and his intention is to build not to serve or help others . Only to build , he would like to have clients.

Whenever he gets obstacle he neither shattered by the situation nor bewildered by the circumstances. He is a free thinker and he is happy and satisfied with his independent spirit. He followed his reasons and applied it logically . He is not ready to yield himself for any emotional grounds.

He went out from Stanton Institute of Technology and joined with Henry Cameron who resembled Roark in his ideals. Cameron resisted him first and accepted him later because of Roark unbeatable and independent spirit. No one suggested him to work under him . He himself picked up the right person to mould his modernistic views on architecture. Henry Cameron , a famous architect of modernist and not ready to yield to public taste who loved old and past ideas . People did not recognize and approve the talent of Henry Cameron, a great architect, fell down in his life . But till the end he acted on his principle. Roark worked with him for three years and learnt many things from him.

Henry Cameron is the first one who He is a man of unbending integrity. Roark admired the quality and worked with him enthusiastically.

Roark sets up his office and received commissions. He gave the best and his work carried originality. But people expected a blend of modernistic with conventional standards. Roark tried to explain that an office should be built for the purpose of running an office. He said that each and every building should be built with a purpose. when he did not get commissions, he did not bend . Instead he closed the office and worked in a granite

quarry. He did not want to compromise himself for anyone sake.

Dominique Francon is the daughter of Francon & Heyer company. The company is the reputed one. But she was not in good terms with her father. she always acted against him. she worked as an columnist in Wynand magazine. she used to write article on interior designing and decoration. she attacked and expressed the poor quality of her father's work in architecture. she did not like the interference of her father in her career as well as in her life. she loved Roark so passionately and got hurt when his talent is not recognized by the world . She married Peter Keating who is just opposite to Roark. She wanted to punish herself in the world which is not allowed Roark to exist. She is also an independent thinker and displays it in making decisions and never got influenced by anyone.

Peter Keating wanted to become a painter . But his mother wished him to become an architect. So he took the field of architecture and studied in the same institute with Roark. He did not like Roark because of his unique talent. He tried to destroy people who kept good records in studies. The quality of destroying people continued in the company where he worked as a designer. Such a vile quality he possessed. He was too happy for Roark's expulsion from the college. He got two offers after his graduation. one is for higher studies with scholarship . The other is a job offer. He got confused which choice to be taken as final . only his mother insisted him to pick out the job offer. These incidents showed him that he is not fit to act on his own . He is a man of highly dependent.

Catherine Halsey is a lover of Peter Keating . She is very submissive and meek. she is an honest and modest girl. She is also a dependent on her uncle . she wanted to go to college . when his uncle interfered her not to pursue the course. she blindly obeys her uncle' s word.

Thus the story displays different characters who acted dependently and independently based on the situation and circumstances.

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