

# The Corruption of Ambition

The tragic tale of Frankenstein was written and published in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is a tale of ~~how~~ a man's life being crushed by his ambition. Mary Shelley conveys ~~the message~~ the notion of ambition being a corruptive force by using the effects of ambition on Victor Frankenstein, his downfall due to ambition and his regret for his ambition.

~~Victor Frankenstein was an ambitious person, even from childhood.~~

Mary Shelley conveys the idea that ambition is a force that changes people. Within the Novel, Mary Shelley describes how Victor changes during his ambitious scientific work. He becomes antisocial, goal driven and slightly delusional. This is evident through his negligence of his family and fiancée and by the fact that he ~~is~~ blatantly ignores his sickness and health to create the creature. Of course, Victor doesn't understand that he's changed, or that he ~~is~~ become addicted to his ambition. However, it is after these events when he asks Walton "do you share my madness? Have you drunk also of the intoxicating draught?" This quote embodies Victor's epiphany that his ambition of creating life changed him and made him sick and twisted. The word "madness" is a clear sign that explains ~~that~~ <sup>how</sup> Victor has reflected on his actions for his ambition and finds that all he sees is a lunatic ignoring all forms of scientific moral conduct, ~~and~~ attempting to create a new life form out of dead body parts. This presents the notion that ~~victor's~~ ambition ~~and~~ drives people to madness and ~~becomes~~ transforms them into inhuman beings who would ignore anything to make the ~~ends~~ <sup>end</sup> justify the ~~end~~ means. Furthermore, the phrase "intoxicating draught" ~~presents the idea~~ uses visual language to present the image of ambition being a ~~poisonous~~ poisonous yet addicting drink. This idea explains that ambition ~~is~~ a poisonous force that ~~it~~ makes people



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sick and leads to their doom. Moreover, ~~or~~ the quote also conveys the idea that ambition is addictive, forcing people to continue poisoning themselves and striving for their goal without their knowledge. Within her lifetime, Mary Shelley watched as people she knew and loved, died and suffer as they attempted to satisfy their ambition. In the end, Mary Shelley attempts to explain how ambition is a corruptive force that changes a person and ~~ends with their~~ only subsides with the person's ~~down~~ downfall.

The moment when Victor Frankenstein achieves his ambition is the moment his life starts to fall into disarray and when he begins his slow and nightmarish ~~downward~~ descent into hell. Mary Shelley uses the novel of Frankenstein to explain to the audience that ambition is a corruptive force that begins a person's descent into their personal <sup>nightmare</sup> ~~hell~~. Shelley utilises Victor's tragic tale from the moment he creates the creature to display this. For example, straight after he creates the creature, he falls ill, suffering under nightmares and the reality of what he has done. It is from ~~the~~ this moment, that begins a chain of tragedy for Victor and his descent into depravity. Within the novel, Victor quotes that Sir Isaac Newton avowed that ~~he~~ "felt like a child picking up shells beside the great and unexplored ocean of truth." This analogy almost perfectly reflects the process of ~~science~~ scientific discoveries. The phrase "great and unexplored" signifies how little of the world human beings truly understand and how much we have yet to uncover. However, the term "Ocean" implies ~~that~~ that while <sup>humanity</sup> ~~we~~ ~~doesn't~~ ~~know~~ doesn't know much about the world, if we were to blindly delve into the unknown and unexplored "ocean of truth" then we would drown. This is exactly what Victor Frankenstein did. By blindly following his ambition, Victor dove straight into this metaphorical ocean of knowledge. It was only when Victor had created his creature did he realise that he had started drowning. Surrounded by the unknown, Victor quickly sank



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deeper and deeper following every tragic event and death of his loved ones. Furthermore, this idea of drowning also ties in with ~~his~~ ~~downside~~ death and demise. Near the end of the book, Victor struggled to escape his downfall by hunting down the monster, however, by then, it was too late, he had already sunk too deep. Mary Shelley uses this analogy to explain to her audience that ambition is a corruptive force that will end up dragging you down into the depths of a personally created ~~hell~~ ~~hell~~. Mary Shelley also explains how it is from this hell, that the person will only start to regret everything they did ~~to~~ to satisfy their ambition.

The ~~book~~ novel Frankenstein is similar to a guide ~~or~~ or warning. By writing it, Mary Shelley attempts to convince her readers that ~~ambition is bad~~ being ambitious, and ambition itself is something that people will eventually regret. While Mary Shelley uses much of Victor's suffering to convey the harsh consequences of ambition. She also utilises his regret of his actions to speak directly to the readers. It is here, where Mary Shelley actually creates her strongest point and warning about ambition. After Victor's downfall and suffering, he ends up reflecting on his actions ~~to~~ ~~to~~ to satisfy his ambition. Mary Shelley uses the quote "Learn from me, if not by my precepts, at least from my example how dangerous the acquirement of knowledge is." It is within this quote that Mary Shelley almost directly talks to the reader. The phrase "Learn from me" demonstrates both his and Mary Shelley's desire for people to stop digging their own <sup>graves</sup> ~~graves~~ by being overly ambitious or following their ambitions. Furthermore, the term "if not by my precepts, at least from my example" uses an emotive plea for the readers to <sup>truly</sup> ~~truly~~ understand Victor's tragic tale and take heed from it about the corruptive influence of ambition. Moreover, the word "dangerous" implies that ambition doesn't only stop at ~~poisoning~~ poisoning the

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afflicted <sup>person</sup> but also places danger upon their loved ones, friends and family. For example, because of his ambition, Victor was indirectly responsible for <sup>the death of</sup> his younger brother William, family friend Justine, best friend Henry Clerval and beloved fiancée Elizabeth. Mary Shelley ~~experienced many of the pain~~ bore witness to many of her loved ones' downfall from their own ambition. This may or may not have been a reason for her publication of this novel. However, what is known for sure is that ~~Frankenstein is a novel~~ ambition is presented as ~~some~~ a corruptive force that people end up regretting taking.

Ambition is a corruptive force. Especially the large ambitions of greedy people, and Victor Frankenstein was a greedy man with an ambition of massive proportions. Mary Shelley ~~uses this~~ creates his story to tell a cautionary tale about the way that ambition twists a person, corrupts their surroundings and creates such repentance and sorrow within a person. By utilising Victor's tragedy, Mary Shelley conveys ~~the~~ clear message about her thoughts on the corruptive nature of ambition.