

KEY WORDS

Redemption, salvation, freed, liberated, rebirth, acts of atonement, compassion, transmutation

Scrooge Stave 5

HIS REDEMPTION

- Scrooge in stave 5 has clearly **embarked on his pathway of salvation and redemption** as he is **indoctrinating** himself with the teachings he learnt from the ghost of Christmas yet to come: **"I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future!"**. The repetition emphasises his persistence to ensure this change is permanent.
- Scrooge's elation at the chance to live the life he once wished away is highlighted through the triple simile **"I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy"**.
- "I am as light as a feather"** is the antithesis to his the simile in stave one of him being **"as hard and sharp as a flint"**. The **juxtaposing similes** highlights how Scrooge feels he has been **liberated**, now feeling "light", from the burdens of carrying his once "own low temperature".
- The **religious simile** **"happy as an angel"** highlights how Scrooge feels that his **redemption** has **led him back to the path of God and faith**. He was previously described as a **"sinner"**, embodying the 7 deadly sins. Yet, his redemption has led to his restoration of religious morals- these being **imperative** to Victorian society.

COMPARISON

Scrooge's most poignant change in his transformation is his regret for holding such ignorant Malthusian views. Dickens was critical of Malthusian views, coming from poverty himself, he was aware that the poor were not lazy and instead the rich were actually perpetuating this poverty. Thus, Scrooge's realisation of the damaging effects of holding these views is a tool Dickens uses to emphasise his strong political message for the need for social reform

HIS REBIRTH

- Scrooge's infantile language in stave 5 indicates his rebirth. He calls himself **"quite a baby"** and **"as merry as a schoolboy"**.
- As both a **"baby"** and **"schoolboy"** connote **innocence and youth**, Scrooge is showcasing how through him **repenting for his sins**, he has regained his youthful innocence and ability to see the world in an untainted light.
- As being a **"baby"** is the start of life, this signifies that Scrooge has been reborn as he has gone from an **"old sinner"** back to the most innocent form of human life- he has had the ultimate rebirth.
- The **idea of rebirth is salient in Christianity**. It is believed that a rebirth indicates that a person develops a **strong personal and emotional connection with God**. It also holds significance as Jesus Christ was reborn to **provide salvation for mankind**. This could perhaps suggest that Scrooge's **rebirth will provide salvation** and relief for others.
- His religious rebirth is clear as he now actively seeks **solace** (comfort) from God as **he relieved with his chance at redemption**: **"He went to church, and walked about the street"**. The **syntax** (word order) of church being first highlights how he has now understood the importance of religious teachings and how it provides an integral moral foundation to an individual.



THE WEATHER

- The weather is **constant pathetic fallacy** and reflection of Scrooge's **stagnancy/progression**.
- 'fog' a symbol of institutionalised oppression, and Scrooge refusing to seek clarity in the reasons of his misanthropic ways, is no longer existent in stave 5: **"No fog, no mist; clear, bright, jovial"**.
- This could be symbolic for how if **parsimonious** (stingy) upper class individuals changed, alike to Scrooge, then **institutionalised oppression would be eradicated and society would live in harmony**- London would not be governed by greed but instead love.

COMPARISON

Scrooge adopted Malthusian views towards the poor, having attitudes towards them that lacked any humanity: "decrease the surplus population". His willingness to give to the less fortunate shows his humanitarianism towards the vulnerable lower classes- he has realised his infatuation with money was hollow and didn't help those who were in need

ACTS OF ATONEMENT (MAKING AMENDS)

- Scrooge becomes **altruistic and benevolent**- his acts of atonement towards the Cratchits are exemplary of this: **"I'll send it to Bob Cratchit's"**- as Scrooge **symbolises social reform**, his **transmogrification** (change in a surprising way) in attitudes to the poor resembles how easy social reform would be for society if all individuals took accountability for their selfishness.
- Dickens uses Scrooge as a **microcosm of the upper class** to make them reflect on the immense positive impact it would have on society if everybody **adopted a collective social conscience- the deprivation of the lower classes can be alleviated** with the help of upper- class members.
- Dickens highlights that the uniting of the lower and upper classes, consequently eliminating social ills, would make society seem more alike to a family then segregated groups of people. He shows this through scrooge taking on a **paternal role** of being a **"second father"** to Tiny Tim.
- Dicken wanted society to recognise and tackle what **Disraeli** (prime minister in the 1800s) called **"the two nations"**- the rich and poor. He believed that the **social remedy for society is compassion and empathy**- without this society would continue to **victimise and deprive** the people who needed its help the most.



TOPIC SENTENCES

Scrooge embarks on a pathway of redemption and salvation as he adopts a new liberating outlook on life. His elation with being provided a second chance highlights his transmogrification as he shows no resemblance to the misanthropic miser depicted in stave 1.

Scrooge's rebirth is salient. He is presented as being reborn into an innocent state of existence, eager to learn and love, juxtaposing his obstinate earlier presentation. As his rebirth has religious allusions, it reinforces how his rebirth has brought him closer to religion and God.

Altruism and benevolence become poignant traits to Scrooge's character by stave 5. His displays acts of atonement, particularly to the Cratchits, highlighting the ease for society to be united when the upper classes take action.

