

# Darcy as Saviour and Supreme Personality along with his Patience towards Love and his Contrast with Elizabeth Whose Relations is Source of Different Loves and Justifies the Title of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice

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**Abstract:** *Jane Austen was born in Hampshire in 1775. Her father was a clergyman and she was the final but one of a family of eight children. England was undergoing a swift change in Jane Austen's life span. The financial system was changing from farming to an industrial one and the refined world of the 18th century was giving way to a new one. Yet Jane Austen's novels hardly reflect all this. This was because she lived a protected life in southern England, which remained undeveloped. The England of her novels was motionless that of 18th century stylishness and easy living. Thus Jane Austen's world was a closed world in which a very small amount of the total population participated, and this is the earth her novels reflect. Rank distinctions were very inflexible and were divided thus: the land-owning nobility and the matured gentry; the new wealthy industrialists; the workers and the labourers. Pride and Prejudice is set wholly in the context of the higher classes (eg. The Bingleys, the Darcys, Lady Catherine de Bourgh). The Bingley sisters look down upon the Bennets, because they are not as wealthy as they are, while they have huge respect for Mr. Darcy because of his income of ten thousand pounds for each annum. The occupations of this group were largely communal: dinner parties, balls, and a daily encircling of trivialities - visits to friends, a few family tasks which were considered well enough for them, etc.*

**Keywords:** resolves, vulgarity, rudeness, civility, judgement, immoral, conceited, pride, prejudice

**Appearance of Darcy:** Fitzwilliam Darcy, when seen from the exterior appears to be arrogant and solemn, in keeping with his great pride. He contrasts brusquely with Elizabeth by lacking all weightlessness of touch. A noble with ten thousand pounds a year, he rapidly attracts criticism at the ball because of the distant contempt he shows to the touring company at large, and earns Elizabeth's anger by purposely insulting her. His insolence and pride are defensive: that contrary to appearances, he is fundamentally shy, too serious by nature for the unsuitable behaviour of society, too sincere in his judgments to be able to make the pleasant display of them that comes naturally to a fraud like Wickham. Initially we notice Darcy as Elizabeth sees him (and she is very prejudiced), but we are afterwards given more and more evidence of his true nature, culminating in the indication of Mrs. Reynolds, the housekeeper at Pemberley, who speaks of him as an ideal master and proprietor, an first-rate brother, a reproduction of good nature and bounty.

**Nature of Darcy:** For now, the natural good taste of Pemberley itself is a influential witness to the kind of man Darcy really is. In the end, Elizabeth has to admit not only that he has been fairer to Wickham than he deserves, but also that his part in bringing about a parting between Bingley and Jane was not hateful, but done out of a concern for his friend in the justifiable belief that Jane was not in love. Darcy resolves the shame of Lydia's elopement by a sensible marriage-settlement, and does so clandestinely, though once the secret is uncovered; it confirms the deep honesty and loyalty of his love for Elizabeth. He has come a long way in self-knowledge since he offended Elizabeth by his condescending proposal. His pride, but not his self-

esteem, has been humbled. He, like Elizabeth has come to understand they are equals, as people; that his family, like hers, is not excused from vulgarity (Lady Catherine and Mrs. Bennet are very comparable by nature). Both of them see through stupid red tape and conventions; both take pride in their judgment; both dislike rudeness and, most importantly of all, both of them come to see through appearances and to split the same moral outlook. There is some reality in Elizabeth's claim that her attraction for Darcy resulted from his being unwell of civility, of defence, of officious notice from women like Caroline Bingley; he comes most living in dialogue when challenged by Elizabeth's humour, but is rather unbending and wooden as a character. Like Elizabeth, we have hopes that, in return for the 'judgment, information and knowledge of the world' he brings in wedding, she will succeed in her attempt to get him to unwind and laugh more at himself.

**Anger and hate are two garlands of love:** Elizabeth and Darcy have to first conquer the obstacles within their own selves viz. of pride (in Darcy) and prejudice (in Elizabeth) before they can become appropriate marriage partners. Elizabeth is good-looking and intellectual, Darcy is rich and striking. But both have to increase self-knowledge. This is because Darcy is proud and will not modest himself while Elizabeth is quick in her judgement and infuriated at Darcy's haughty outside. Darcy's childhood makes him vacillate in proposing to Elizabeth because of her lower social rank but he does so in spite of himself, because he is attracted by her lively mind, loving nature and attractive appearance. He believes that Elizabeth will admit him because he is so better. But she feels affronted by his condescending

behaviour and rejects him. Darcy is seen only through the eyes of Elizabeth and other people in civilization - it is at the end that we learn of his kindness to Wickham and of his good standing among his employees. It is also at the end that we learn of his views at crucial points in the story. The proceedings which occur towards the end ultimately help Darcy and Elizabeth to resolve their mistakes and accept each other for what they are. Thus their wedding is founded on warmth and thoughtful and not on blind whim.

**Contrast of others love:** Austen contrasts other weddings against the story of Elizabeth and Darcy. Charlotte's wedding to Collins is a cooperation she makes because she is twenty-seven, plain, and has no forecast of making a good marriage. So she marries Collins who is lesser in intelligence, only for the place he offers. Lydia and Wickham have married on the basis of fleeting attraction on her part and mercenary aim on his. There appears to be little attachment between them and the outlook does not seem to be a very pleased one for them. Mr. and Mrs. Bennet obviously have a mismatched marriage. They have nothing in ordinary because Mrs. Bennet is a self-centred, vain, and immoral woman who attracted Mr. Bennet because of her good looks. He married her though she was poorer to him in brains, and now regards her with disdain which he does not try to hide. The only other marriage which is likely to be a happy one is that of Jane and Bingley because they are both fundamentally good-natured and have authentic affection for each other. But they are both too unreceptive and gentle and lack the vigour that is seen in the relationship between Elizabeth and Darcy.

**Appearance vs reality:** Fitzwilliam Darcy, when seen from the exterior appears to be self-important and solemn, in keeping with his great arrogance. He contrasts brusquely with Elizabeth by missing all lightness of touch. An aristocrat with ten thousand pounds a year, he rapidly attracts criticism at the ball because of the aloof disrespect he shows to the company at large, and earns Elizabeth's bitterness by deliberately offensive her. His rudeness and self-importance are defensive: that contrary to appearances, he is essentially shy, too serious by nature for the frivolities of society. Like Elizabeth, we have hopes that, in return for the verdict, information and knowledge of the world' he brings in marriage, she will succeed in her effort to get him to unwind and laugh more at himself. While Elizabeth is the icon of prejudice in the novel, Darcy embodies the factor of pride, which is clearly established in him from the very beginning of the book.

**Elizabeth dislikes for Darcy:** His narcissistic ways make him disliked and misunderstood, even though he is envied for his good looks and wealth. Elizabeth takes a meticulous disliking to him for his haughty impoliteness when he initially says that he is not interested in her at the ball. When she learns that he has advised Bingley not to pursue a relationship with Jane, she is further incensed at the man. It is not startling, therefore, that when Darcy proposes to Elizabeth; he is turned down, especially since his offer was made in a conceited and condescending manner. Elizabeth's rejection jolts his pride and sets him on a track of self realization.

**Conflict for him between head and heart:** Darcy's love for Elizabeth is plainly a conflict for him between head and heart. He thinks he should not love her since of her lower social position and her ridiculous family; but his heart is attracted to her beauty, her feeling, her independence, and her liveliness. When he proposes to her the first time, he is sure that she will accept. Because of her rejection, Darcy undergoes an alteration from an bankrupt aristocrat to a kind, down-to-earth soul.

**Title is related with pride of Darcy and prejudice of Elizabeth:** Pride and Prejudice was first printed in 1797 under the title "First Impressions". It was later revised and available under the title "Pride and Prejudice" in 1813. In the novel, first impressions do play a significant part: Elizabeth is misled in her ruling and estimation of both Darcy and Wickham. At the perceptible level, we see that Darcy embodies arrogance – he is crazed by family pride. As Wickham tells Elizabeth that he has a "filial pride", in his "father and brotherly pride in his sister Georgiana". Darcy himself says that his arrogance consists in caring for none beyond his own relatives circle, thinking mean of all the rest of the world. There is no doubt that Darcy is a superior man. Nothing can explanation his remark about Elizabeth, "... tolerable but not handsome enough to tempt me" nor, indeed, the statement that "my good opinion once lost is lost for ever". His first facade is insolent and we tend to agree with Mrs. Bennet's complaint that "He walked here and he walked there, fancying himself so very great".

The recount comes at Hansford public figure, which is the peak of Darcy's pride and Elizabeth's prejudice. In this scene, Darcy lays his proud spirit at her feet and learns what she thinks of him. He admits that he remained sightless to the faults of Lady Catherine and Miss Bingley and was thinking mean of those below him in social standing. Elizabeth feels that Darcy is all pride. Having been narrow-minded against him by his rejection to dance with her, she wilfully misinterprets all his utterances, all his deeds. Her intolerance clouds her habitually clear judgment and she listens to Wickham's inclined account of Darcy with full belief and declares Darcy to be 'abominable' (thoroughly unpleasant). Blinded by chauvinism she rejects his proposal.

It is at Rosings that their procedure of self-discovery starts. At Netherfield Park, Elizabeth's family – her mother and her sisters have seemed rude and ill-mannered. At Rosings, Darcy is uncomfortable by the offensiveness of his aunt Lady Catharine and realizes that modification of manners is not the control of the best. His lesson is complete by Elizabeth's denial of his proposal and her rejection makes him realize his vanished pride. This excessive love for Elizabeth services him to write a clarifying letter to Elizabeth. Elizabeth's moment of self-awakening comes on delivery of Darcy's letter. Learning the truth about Wickham, she realizes her own sightlessness and prejudice in judging Darcy and Wickham on mere first impressions.

However, to say that Darcy is conceited and Elizabeth is prejudiced is to tell but half the story. The fact is both Darcy and Elizabeth are arrogant as well as prejudiced. The novel makes clear the fact that Darcy's smugness leads to prejudice and Elizabeth's prejudice stems dominance and

modification and this leads him to have a general prejudice against people beneath him in the social ladder. Elizabeth's prejudice on the other hand stems from his pride. Both bear from the faults of pride and prejudice, but they are also the required defects of advantageous merits: self-esteem and astuteness. It is true that Jane and Bingley are not the part of the matter of Pride and Prejudice but their love is an important tie in the novel and without it the story cannot be complete.

### **Contrast with Elizabeth**

Pride and Prejudice is brought brightly to life by a gallery of different and contrasting characters. Jane and Bingley are simpler and, less complicated than Darcy and Elizabeth because mentally they have no great. Less gorgeous than her sister Jane, whom she loves without envy, Elizabeth is much more forceful and independent than a twenty-year old lady of her times would be. She is annoyed with pretensions and conventions, but at the same time, she understands the worth of decorum and good taste.

She is her father's preferred, having innate his wit and intelligence. Her lively playful nature makes her good-looking, well-liked by women (eg. Her aunt and Charlotte Lucas), and much well-liked by men. Her judgment is not as correct as she imagines, and once her pride is injure, as it is by Darcy cutting comments at the ball, it is poorly clouded by prejudice in which she constantly persists, in the belief that she is being clever. For all her intelligence and insight she makes bad mistakes of judgment. She lets Wickham's etiquette and appearance bias her against Darcy. She allows her own pride to narrow-mindedness her against him.

All through the novel, Elizabeth's encounters with Darcy are a battle of mature minds. Elizabeth's speeches, crackling with irony, filled with pep, and displaying lively humour, exerts a compelling pull on Darcy. He recognizes that she is a woman endowed with sense and receptivity. Elizabeth's main flaw is an embellished prejudice. Her first negative sense of Darcy at the Nether field ball, Wickham's tall story about him, and Darcy's influencing Bingley against Jane fuel her prejudice. She spends most of the novel truly disliking her expectations husband. When Darcy proposes to her the first time, she does not even give them suggest serious thought before turning the man down. Fortunately, Darcy is strong-minded and does not give up on Elizabeth.

Elizabeth is an honest personality, both to others and to herself. Once she realizes the truth about Darcy, she admits her false prejudice against him and regrets her previous denunciation of him. In fact, she even admits to herself that she is in love with Darcy, but she is sensible enough to think that she no longer stands a chance with him. When she learns that Darcy has saved Lydia from disgrace, she swallows her remaining pride and states her approval to Darcy. His response is to ask for her hand in wedding once again. This time, a much wiser Elizabeth eagerly accepts.

### **References:**

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