

## I. Immorality and Stigma in H.G. Wells' *The Invisible Man*

This research work, based on *The Invisible Man* by Herbert George Wells, particularly deals with the tendency to acquire power through invisibility. The Invisible Man of the title is Griffin, a scientist who has devoted himself to research into optics and invents a way to change a body's refractive index to that of air so that it neither absorbs nor reflects light and thus becomes invisible. He successfully carries out this procedure on himself but fails in reverse it again, becoming mentally unstable as a result.

In the novel the writer shows the stigma and brutality of the character with the acquirement of invisibility i.e. power. At first he was a University student, calm and quite, who loves to study but later with the invisibility he gains he starts to think he is superior of all. He steal food from department store and eventually steal some clothing from a theatrical supply shop to fulfill his daily needs. From a former bucolic person he is changed to a thief. He shows his irrational attitude towards his family (father) and the society. He does not pay any attention towards his landlady Mrs. Hall who gave him food and shelter when he needed the most. Rather he betrayed her, shouted on her. Likewise there are many characters who become the victim of his brutal behavior. His brutality comes to an extent when he started killing people.

He is seen as a conflicting character changed by the society, who at first wanted to be invisible and becomes too, later he wanted to be visible. The character seems to be in the condition of to be or not to be. At the beginning when he was visible he thought invisibility is good for him. With his scientific invention, he becomes invisible without knowing the disadvantages of it. Later when he came to realize and wanted to be visible, he becomes busy with his scientific research. For research, he needs peaceful environment and nobody to disturb. He wants loneliness

and not to be disturbed, but many people suspect him, disturb him and make him angry to the point that at the end he was killing people with no apparent reason. He becomes psycho on everyone.

He is changed, from a normal individual to a cruel individual. He does not change by himself though; the people and the society where he was living force him to change. This shows that one should be careful how they treat others, because it can really have an effect on their life. Do good get good the saying fits here.

The harm that the invisible man's exploitation of power causes does not go unpunished. Wells demonstrates the social need for a sense of justice, as the invisible man is eventually captured and beaten to death as he created and wanted to create terror. His death signifies the end of immoral science that is too powerful for man. The invisible man is irrational and always neglected and betrayed. The entire novel is the depiction of science fiction, science without humanity which is immoral. Griffin the main character who becomes victim was questioned, doubted, mistrusted and betrayed by the social codes and rational people of the society. There are many incidents in the novel which signifies that the invisible man had many unfulfilled desires, his abnormal behavior like rudeness, threatening others and making them work for him etc. are disguised desires of the writer's unconscious. His conclusion that he needs to find out the formula to make him visible again shows that he is tangled in the chain of signifiers without getting the signified at all. The hidden desire of the writer to become an accomplished scientist is similar to the human unconscious, always repressed and bound to keep its desires without expression.

The novel was well celebrated as it was written in the time in which the influence of magic and superstition was fading due to the growing impact of the science so it is regarded as the science fiction without adequate psychological insights

which is problematic in this novel. Wells seems to have had no interest in psychological insight or development. He has straight forward moral to offer-science without humanity equals pain and destruction but he makes no effort to investigate or balance his ideas.

In his acclaimed science romance, *The Invisible Man* is full of the Gothic elements. In this novel, H.G. Wells both demonstrates and criticizes man's tendency to become moral or immoral with the acquirement of power. Like many books of the same era, he uses science as the instrument of punishment for the social crimes that have been committed.

The use of science to give man superpower can likewise be found in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Man should not create the invisible man or the invincible man since they are too powerful and this gives them the role of creator which, according to the society of the day, should only be a god's role. He shows how science can accomplish great things and also how it can cause great harm.

Wells' writings can be seen as the transition from theism to Darwinism. According to Jerry Bergman's observation in his essay "H.G. Wells: Darwin's disciple and eugenicist extraordinaire" observes:

Wells' writings also detail his conversion from theism to Darwinism. He said that when he was young he fully believed the proposition that 'somebody [i.e. God] must have made it all', but later began to conclude that 'there was a flaw in this assumption'. Wells was both impressed and influenced by Darwin's ideas, but he at first tried to reconcile them with his faith in the 'simple but powerful concept, implanted by his mother's teachings when he was small, that "somebody must have made it all". . . (116)

Thus, we see the transition of the time from the Victorian belief on theism to the science and technology in Wells' writings as indicated by Bergman.

H. G. Wells brings up many points that are important in a society. He discusses the moral problems of mankind and its reaction to the power science can bring. He criticizes man's hunger for power and science by showing what havoc it can wreak. In the Epilogue he shows how man thinks of himself as moral but cannot make constructive use of the power at his hands. The person finally in possession of the Invisible Man's journals says, "I wouldn't do what he did; I'd just--well!" (218). Wells is saying that we really do not know what to do with the power so we should not bother with it at all.

The novel begins with mysterious arrival of a strange man who has totally covered his body parts; in an inn in Iping as narrated:

The stranger came early in February, one wintry day, through a biting wind and a driving snow. He was wrapped from head to foot, and the brim of his soft felt hat hid every inch of his face but the shiny tip of his nose. He staggered into the Coach and Horses an Inn in Iping, more dead than alive. (21)

The stranger was the invisible man that is discovered a bit later in the novel as the people around him start to be suspicious to him.

Before he made himself invisible, he was an albino. His name was Griffin, and he was living in a rented place, where he would conduct his experiments. He kept getting pissed off at his landlord, who was constantly bothering Griffin. With the landlord always around, Griffin was always afraid that someone would figure out how he was making things transparent. He thought that becoming invisible was a utopian idea, and he didn't want someone stealing his idea. Griffin was so stuck on his

invention that he didn't take the time to think the whole thing out. He comes across as a nervous character at this point in the story.

The landlord made him very angry and he decided to run the experiment on himself. Once he was invisible, he destroyed his machine. He burned the house down because he was very angry. As he walked the streets he was leaving muddy footprints. Some boys saw the footprints and the ghostly feet that made them. Immediately, the boys drew a crowd and started chasing the feet. This made him cautious, and he realized that it was not going to be easy to stay invisible.

He needed clothes and shelter, so he went to a department store where he thought he could steal clothes after they closed. He needed to be visible to get his money and his books. His plan didn't work so well and he had to leave with nothing. He finally got some clothes by knocking out the owner of a costume shop and stealing what he needed. Griffin is still a nervous character, but now he is becoming a little violent and angry.

Griffin decided that he had caused enough commotion in this town, and decided to go to Iping. Once in Iping, he got all his books and his chemicals. He was staying in an Inn called the Coach and Horses. The people were pestering him endlessly to see what was hidden under the wraps covering his face. They were so persistent that he became angry and left. Some of the citizens tried to follow him, but he took off his clothes and started beating people up. He changed to a very violent character because the people would not let him be. Toward the end of the book the Invisible Man went to Port Stowe where he met a man who betrayed his trust and tried to capture him. This was the last straw. He started killing and hurting people for no reason.

In *The Invisible Man*, H.G. Wells both demonstrates and criticizes man's

tendency to become moral or immoral with the acquirement of power. Like many books of the same era, he uses science as the instrument of retribution for the social crimes that I have been committed. Through invisibility, the Invisible Man gains triumph over science and from this, great power; he can steal, kill, and abuse anybody without fear of being caught, as he describes, "It's useful in getting away, it's useful in approaching. It's particularly useful, therefore, in killing" (183). He also acknowledges the shortcomings of his invisibility, such as making sound and being easily imprisoned once caught vulnerable qualities which eventually lead to his downfall.

The Invisible Man breaks into many people's homes, stealing money, and leading eventually to physical abuse and killing. When faced with power, such as invisibility, man becomes immoral and is willing to do anything for personal gain and enjoyment. The Invisible Man's nemesis, Kemp, brings up the immorality by saying, "But-! I say! The common conventions of humanity" (175). The Invisible Man just reinforces his arrogance by rebutting with, "Are all very well for common people" (175). He believes there is nothing wrong with doing anything for his own survival since he is superior. He also brings the situation one step further with his reign of terror, which he describes as, "Not wanton killing, but a judicious slaying" (133) He now wants to have complete control over everybody through terror and wants to start "the Epoch of the Invisible Man"(197). This shows his complete thirst for power.

The harm that the Invisible Man's exploitation of power causes does not go unpunished. Wells demonstrates the social need for a sense of justice, as the Invisible Man is eventually captured and beaten to death as he created and wanted to create terror. If the Invisible Man had stayed sane and went without punishment then people would have believed that terrible actions might be worth doing. His death also signifies the end of the immoral science that is too powerful for a man. The rational

and moral implications of the science are anticipated but Wells is aware of the psychological aspect that the human desires and ambitions are always suppressed in the society and the invisible man is the true outcome of the suppression in the society he is born.

The novel *The Invisible Man* heralded a variety of criticisms as it drew the attention of a large number of critics from the very beginning of its publication in 1897. Many critics were shocked by its appalling content that radically rejected the convention of the fiction of the time. So, the novel has been examined in various planes by the various critics.

The first and the obvious feature of the novel is the fictional genre of Science fiction in which it has been written. But many critics doubt the novel crosses the barrier of the Science Fiction too and it inclines more to be a fantasy. Scholar Mary E. W. Skorburg in her dissertation in Skidmore College remarks:

The novel has fired the imagination of many people of all the ages and will continue to do so as long as the mind of man continues to retain the ability to think hypothetically. Although *The Invisible Man* is more “a work of fantasy” than a science fiction, it deals with the hypothetical asking if one could be invisible, what then? It is on the same that Alfred Alder builds his theory of individual psychology. (85)

Skorburg appreciates this work not for having utility to the common people but for broadening the human imagination eternally.

Another critic Craig E. Engler after reading the book questions the utility of science to society and humanity as a whole. He opines:

The Invisible Man is a cautionary tale of scientific hubris, written in 1897 by one of Science Fiction’s master story-tellers while other

scientific romance stories of the time were concentrating on explaining to readers what science could do to society; H. G. Wells was exploring what science could do to society. The tale of the invisible man is a case in point, a story that starts out as a mild mystery and builds to a terrifying ending that question both science and humanity at the same time. (15)

Regarding the historical context of late nineteenth century and the construction of the invisible character like Griffin with logically impossible hypothesis Frank Wells in his “Introduction” to *The Invisible Man* writes:

Griffin stumbles by an accident of his own intelligence upon the solution of that impossible hypothesis, that a man can be invisible. Invisibility he achieves without a cloak, that magic cloak that gives its wearer the invisibility and, presumably, its wearer obliges by making the cloak invisible too. Griffin reaches the power, the dream of power that thought of invisibility conjures up in his mind, by relentless labour; the invisibility that is his reward is real . . . . He achieves the logically impossible . . . (14)

In his observation, Wells successfully locates the portrayal of the world of fantasy and magic crossing the barrier of the rational conclusion in the novel. The novel portrays impossible hypothesis and its success by the means of the action of the invisible man, Griffin. There is no practically justifiable logic but the logic is forcefully yoked with imagination giving it the metaphysical, surrealistic, magical tone. The novel was well celebrated because it was written in the time in which the influence of magic and superstition was fading due to the growing impact of the science. The novel, thus, marks the transition of the age from Victorian to the Modernist era.



Josh Lacey, pointing out the weakness of Wells' inability to penetrate into the psychological insights criticizes Wells in following words:

However, the problem is deeper than familiarity; Wells seems to have had no interest in psychological insight, or development. He has straight forward moral to offer science without humanity equals pain and destruction but he makes no effort to investigate or balance his ideas. He favors realness over complexity. He prefers action to thought. The jokes are lame and much of his writing is careless. (20)

Lacey charges the writer of being apathetic to the psychological insights and the subjective aspects of the character and only relying upon objective details of his actions. Critically considering Lacey's criticism, the psychological analysis of the character conducted in this research.

After the consideration of the Wells' critics, the psychological analysis of the novel seems necessary and very revealing for the examination of the novel. The 'careless' writing of Wells', in the terms of Lacey, itself is the projection of the unconscious of the writer. The text has been analyzed from various perspectives by large number of critics before. Keeping the earlier criticisms into consideration this research attempts to read the novel from Freudian and Lacanian perspectives.

This research thus employs Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalytic criticism to read the novel. As the Invisible Man is irrational and always neglected and betrayed, he will be examined in similar lines of the Freud and Lacan's psychoanalytic assumptions of human unconscious. The novel is regarded as the Science Fiction without adequate psychological insights which is problematic in this novel. To come out of the problematic and derive the logical conclusion that the novel is significant contribution to add to the psychoanalytic literature, contending the critics, is the major

goal of this research.

According to Freudian model of psychoanalysis, human unconscious is similar to the Invisible Man, always repressed and it is bound to keep its desires without expression always trying to materialize them under the dictatorship of ego. The Invisible Man is also questioned, doubted, mistrusted and betrayed by the social codes and the rational people like Mr. Hall, Mrs. Hall, Dr. Kemp, Mr. Henfrey, police officials and the people of the society and is dictated by them.

This thesis gives the general introduction of author, text and topic in the first chapter. For the same, the first chapter is Immorality and Stigma in *The Invisible Man*. This chapter explores the immoral and inhumane nature of the character Griffin. The second chapter is the Exploration of Unconsciousness which analyses the invisible man as the projection of the writer's unconscious, the daydreaming of the writer along the line of Freudian formulation that the creative writing is the daydreaming of the writer. The claim of the research is invisible character of the novel is the projection of the unconscious aspect of the human mind. The last chapter concludes this research with a suitable finding.

## II. Exploration of Unconsciousness in *The Invisible Man*

H.G. Wells's *The Invisible Man* projects a character named Griffin who represents, on the one hand alter ego, on the other it shows the mental struggle of Griffin to achieve the goal. The protagonist who, from a normal intellect, becomes abnormal, his desires and solution, rational and irrational attitude towards people foregrounds the psychological views.

The novel opens in the setting of English village of Iping in West Sussex. The setting is significant for psychoanalytic reading of the novel as it is associated with solitude, as the secluded place as the main character of the novel approaches in the village with the "desire for solitude" (31). It can thus, be seen as the realm secluded from the busy and rule-governed life of the town, the symbol of human unconsciousness. The events happened there after the arrival of an Invisible Man, create tension in the place that can be read as the mental struggle inside human psyche. Though, the place is regarded as a secret and secluded place by the central character, it is also dictated by the social codes and thus, it provides no relief to the Invisible Man. He is invisible and the invisibility is the representation of the human unconscious but the setting cannot hide him forever.

The curiosity and fear start up in the inhabitants when the mysterious stranger arrives to stay at the local inn. The stranger wears a long, thick coat, gloves; his face is hidden entirely by bandages, large goggles, and a wide-brimmed hat. The stranger is extremely reclusive and demands to be left alone, spending most of his time in his room working with a set of chemicals and laboratory apparatus, only venturing out at night. From the very beginning of the novel, the Invisible Man has been depicted as an enigmatic figure that has covered every inch of his body. The writer portrays him as a mysterious figure, from the point of his intervention to the respectable English

society represented by the inn named 'Coach and Horses'. He is narrated as:

He was wrapped up from head to foot, and the brim of his soft felt hat hid every inch of his face but the shiny tip of his nose; the snow had piled itself against his shoulders and chest, and added a white crest to the burden he carried. He staggered into the "Coach and Horses" more dead than alive, and flung his portmanteau down. "A fire," he cried, "in the name of human charity! A room and a fire!" (21)

The Invisible Man is, thus, veiled like human unconsciousness and his arrival in the inn can be seen as the approach of the unconscious mind to the territory of ego and super-ego represented by the norm-bound inn and the English society. He is aware of the social codes and manners of the society and exploits them. He knows that if he demands the fire and food in the name of human charity, he will get them instantly. Thus, he uses his rational, ego-dictated words like 'human charity' to fulfill his urgent needs instantly.

The Invisible Man quickly becomes the talk of the village as his abnormal activities start to offend the locals. He makes them angry interfering with their normal, routine life. He is guided with the pleasure-principle as he becomes pleased causing terror to others with his rude activities. We begin to see his rudeness and dominating attitude to others. He behaves rudely with the owner of the inn, Mrs. Hall and refuses to talk to her and respond her queries and he demands to let him remain lonely. His rude manner is highlighted as he commands the reputed lady and the innkeeper, Mrs. Hall, to bring the matches to light the pipe as if she is a worker for him. She compels to obey him with fear and the greed of money she charges from him. She grows suspicious to him as he never shows his body parts. He continually wants to evade the acquaintance with the people. The way of conversation and the

manner of the Invisible Man can be seen in the instance narrated as:

“Will you get me some matches?” said the visitor, quite abruptly. “My pipe is out.”

Mrs. Hall was pulled up suddenly. It was certainly rude of him, after telling him all she had done. . . . “Thanks,” he said concisely, as she put them down, and turned his shoulder upon her and stared out of the window again. . . too discouraging. . . his snubbing way had irritated her . . . . (27)

This extract highlights the rudeness of the Invisible Man, his apathy to behave as a man of the society and he is making his presence irritable. He just wants the reputed lady to fulfill his need without caring for courtesy or gratitude which is the major virtue of the people in English society. The value of the rational behavior has been trifle and useless for him.

The tussle between the conscious and the unconscious is visible in the given instance. The instinct of the Invisible Man is always directed towards the controlling the conscious, the ordinary people living with their rational judgments. Mrs. Hall is curious and conscious of his covering all the parts of the body but the topic of the operation and bandage makes him angry. He wants to avoid meeting with the people and he wants to remain in solitude, undisturbed. It is highlighted in conversation narrated as he says, “My reason for coming to Iping . . . was . . . a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work” (31). Not only the solitude but he also wants to remain in “darkness” that symbolically refers to human unconscious. It is seen as he clarifies his condition in disguised way, “Necessitates a certain retirement. My eyes are sometimes so weak and painful that I have to shut myself up in the dark for hours together. Lock myself up. Sometimes now and then. Not at present,

certainly. At such times the slightest disturbance, the entry of a stranger into the room, is a source of . . . annoyance to me. . .” (31-32).

The man is unwilling to let the people know about his invisibility and wants to remain in the dark, and solitude. Though, he sometimes behaves in a rational way, it is just for the fulfillment of his desires with disguised symbols and words as he is censored by the Conscious aspect of the psyche, the social codes. Thus, he is the disguised embodiment of the human unconscious full of rude, barbaric desires, unfulfilled ambitions and animal instincts.

The appearance and the behavior of the Invisible Man are strange and mysterious and due to these, people who have come into his touch start to hate and doubt him. The owner of the inn, Mrs. Hall, wonders about his strange condition first as his body is bandaged all over and even the presence of other people annoys and irritates him. She thinks of some terrible accident he might have probably met. Mr. Teddy Henfrey, clock mender, is sent to the room occupied by the strange man by Mrs. Hall. He tries to start a conversation with him, but the stranger becomes angry and tells him to finish the job quickly and leave. He shows doubt of the disguise when he meets Mr. Hall. It is observed in the narration:

And he proceeded to give Hall a vivid description of his grotesque guest. “Looks a bit like a disguise, don’t it? I’d like to see a man’s face if I had him stopping in *my* place,” said Henfrey. “But women are that trustful where strangers are concerned. He’s took your rooms and he ain’t even given a name, Hall.”(33)

With his rude behavior and the tendency to avoid the company of others, the stranger is regarded as asocial being. He is unconcerned to the social codes and morality. His apathy to the moral and social codes actually originates from his unconscious desires

not to be exposed before the society in his actual form. So the invisibility is veiled and maintained by him secretly with the veil of rude behaviors.

The ego of the Victorian males that regards women as enigmatic, and dismisses them as insignificant and repressed in the society is clearly indicated. Thus, the affinity between women and the repressed desires has been established. Women are regarded not exactly conscious parts of the society like the men. Thus, the society has been presented structurally as the representation of the human mind. Mrs. Hall has been trustful to her strange guest and her trust is also questioned by Mr. Henfrey charging the women as general as he says, “women are that trustful where strangers are concerned” (33).

He stays in the inn without paying the charge of his accommodation. Thus he violates the social codes, the realm of conscious. Mrs. Hall asks her for the payment of the service that further makes him angry. It is highlighted in the following conversation between them:

"Why wasn't my breakfast laid? Why haven't you prepared my meals and answered my bell? Do you think I live without eating?"

"Why isn't my bill paid?" said Mrs. Hall. "That's what I want to know."

"I told you three days ago I was awaiting a remittance—"

"I told you two days ago I wasn't going to await no remittances. You can't grumble if your breakfast waits a bit, if my bill's been waiting these five days, can you? (64)

The invisible man didn't pay the money on time so he didn't get his breakfast, rather paying the bill he was showing his ruthless behavior to Mrs. Hall. He shows his irrational behavior towards his own landlady.

The local people and the customers of the inn curiously listen to the

conversation. They are the embodiment of the ego and super-ego, the conscious parts of human mind because they are rule-bound, bound with the codes of the society, as they keep their vigilant . The conscious is, thus, haunted by the unconscious represented by the Invisible Man. In his anger, he threateningly shows his invisibility to Mrs. Hall and the customers of the inn and inflicts terror upon them. It is highlighted as:

"You don't understand," he said, "who I am or what I am. I'll show you. By Heaven! I'll show you." Then he put his open palm over his face and withdrew it. The centre of his face became a black cavity. . . . she screamed loudly . . . Then he removed his spectacles, and everyone in the bar gasped. He took off his hat, and with a violent gesture tore at his whiskers and bandages.

For a moment they resisted him. A flash of horrible anticipation passed through the bar. (67-68)

A series of mysterious burglaries occur in the village in which the victims catch no sight of the thief. Those mysterious activities of the Invisible Man can be examined as the barbaric, irrational manifestations of the repressed desires. The mystery of burglary can be seen with the instance of the burglary in Mr. Bunting's vicarage:

They heard the chink of money, and realized that the robber had found the housekeeping reserve of gold—two pounds ten in half sovereign altogether. At that sound Mr. Bunting was nerved to abrupt action. Gripping the poker firmly, he rushed into the room, closely followed by Mrs. Bunting. "Surrender!" cried Mr. Bunting, fiercely, and then stooped amazed. Apparently the room was perfectly empty. (53)



The burglaries are assisted by the invisibility and irrationality of the Invisible Man and they suggest the transgression of the boundary of the conscious by human unconscious. Further, the fulfillment of the material desire of Invisible Man with his power of invisibility and mystery has been successfully depicted in the novel.

The people start to become the victim of the aggression and assault. The person who is assaulted by the Invisible Man is Mr. Hall. He had already grown suspicious to the personality of the Invisible Man as his suspicion was fuelled by the doubt of Mr. Henfrey regarding the disguise of the strange man. The tendency of the repression of the human desires in the realm of unconscious is visible when Mr. Henfrey wishes for the intervention of police, the law or the conscious realm to check out the abnormal, asocial behavior of the Invisible Man. When he felt the rude behavior of the Invisible Man, he leaves disgusted, out of his room, saying, and “If the police wanted you, you couldn’t be more wrapped and bandaged” (33). On the day of the delivery of his luggage, the Invisible Man comes outside the room and he is bitten by the dog of Mr. Fearenside. Out of the sympathy, Mr. Hall followed the wounded man to the room. To his surprise, he just saw a “handless arm waving towards him” (37). He was then suddenly attacked by the unknown invisible force as narrated:

. . . he was struck violently in the chest, hurled back, and the door slammed in his face and locked. It was so rapid that it gave him no time to observe. A waving of indecipherable shapes, a blow, and a concussion. There he stood on the dark little landing, wondering what it might be that he had seen. (37-38)

The attack of the Invisible Man is the force exerted by the unconscious over the conscious part of the human psyche. The invisible force is the unconscious and it does

not occur to Mr. Hall what actually has attacked him. The disguise of the invisible, irrational man is very clever disguise as he is veiled behind the seemingly rational things like books. The luggage has been described as:

There were a couple of trunks indeed, such as a rational man might need, but in addition there were a box of books big, fat books, of which some were just in an incomprehensible handwriting and a dozen or more crates, boxes, and cases, containing objects packed in straw, as it seemed to Hall, tugging with a casual curiosity at the straw glass bottles. (36)

The invisibility of the man is thus given the socially acceptable turn by the conscious psyche of the writer and the character. This process is very similar to the ‘displacement’ of the socially unacceptable images into socially acceptable ones, in the process of the manifestation of the repressed libidinal and ambitious desires in dream or in the work of art.

He is narrated as an atheist, not following the Christian codes as seen in the narration, “The stranger did not go to church, and indeed made no difference between Sunday and the irreligious days, even in costume. He worked, as Mrs. Hall thought, very fitfully” (43). The writer thus, presents the scientific way of life in opposition to the Christian theology. The reliance of the man on the science and technology over religion has been portrayed by the writer as he believed upon the scientific reasoning being the student of science himself. The portrayal of accomplished scientist who discovers the chemical to be invisible is the portrayal of writer’s repressed desire to be the accomplished scientist, his unwillingness to be dictated by the dogma of Christianity which cannot be justified by rationality, and his unflinching faith upon the Science and technology to lead human beings to the position of superman.

The unwillingness to show himself in public in daytime and continually work alone inside the room make the Invisible Man a secluded man. He fears the revelation of his secret invisibility and he has no friends. To help himself from such seclusion he starts to talk to himself as narrated, "His habit of talking to himself in a low voice grew steadily upon him, but though Mrs. Hall listened conscientiously she could make neither head nor tail of what she heard"(44). His language is vague and is not understood by Mrs. Hall suggests the language of the unconscious is neglected and unheard to the conscious. This habit of talking to oneself is the expression of the unconscious. The owner of the inn listens carefully but she can't grasp the meaning of such monologues at all. Thus, conscious part of the human psyche is unable to understand the language of unconscious and represses the unconscious wishes by censoring them.

The Invisible Man is guided with the attraction of both the instincts. As Freud states that the instincts are the ultimate cause of all behavior. The two basic instincts are "Eros(Love)" and the "destructive or death instinct". The purpose of Eros is to establish and preserve unity through relationships .On the other hand, "the purpose of the death instinct is to undo connections and unity via destruction" (18). The two instincts can "either operate against each other through repulsion or combine with each other through attraction".The invisible man wants to live at any cost and to pay for his accommodation in the inn, he involves in the burglary in the Mr. Bunting's vicarage in Iping in the dawn, early in the morning. He escapes because of his invisibility and pays for the accommodation in the inn. He has incessant love for his life. But, he is possessed with irrational, barbaric, destructive instinct as he enjoys the terror he is able to inflict upon the people.

One morning when the innkeepers pass the stranger's room, they enter in

curiosity when they notice the stranger's clothes are scattered all over the floor but the stranger is nowhere to be seen. The furniture seems to spring alive and the bedclothes and a chair leap into mid-air and push them out of the room. Later in the day Mrs. Hall confronts the stranger about this, and the stranger reveals that he is invisible, removing his bandages and goggles to reveal nothing beneath. The fantasied portrayal of the writer of the strange events caused by the invisibility of the strange man can be seen scattered throughout the novel. The writer is obsessed with the action of the invisible character and he doesn't pay attention to the proper emotional development of the character. Later, we come to know the Invisible Man as Griffin, a brilliant student of science with the ambition to achieve power unrivaled to others.

Due to the strange incident of moving chairs and springing bedclothes, Mrs. Hall flees in horror. The police attempt to catch the stranger, but he throws off all his clothes, becomes totally invisible and escapes. The English society can be examined as the ego and super ego attempting to repress the animal instinct, the repressed desire attempting to capture the Invisible Man. The police, law etc. can be read as the embodiment of the ego and superego, the conscious parts of the human psyche which continually attempt to control and repress the socially unacceptable desires to the abyss of unconscious, imposing the restriction upon the expression of the irrational desires.

The Invisible Man flees to the downs, where he frightens a tramp, Thomas Marvel, with his invisibility and forces him to become his assistant. Together with Marvel, he returns to the village where Marvel steals the Invisible Man's books and apparatus from the inn while the Invisible Man himself steals the doctor's and vicar's clothes. But after the theft, Marvel attempts to betray the Invisible Man to the police, and the Invisible Man chases after him, threatening to kill him. His possession of

Marvel, a tramp, to be his assistant is the instance how powerful the human unconscious that dictates and determines the action of conscious part of the human psyche.

Marvel flees to the seaside town of Burdock where he takes refuge in an inn. The Invisible Man attempts to break in through the back door but he is overheard and shot by a black-bearded American, and flees the scene badly injured. He enters a nearby house to take refuge and dress his wound. The house turns out to belong to Dr. Kemp, whom the Invisible Man recognizes, and he reveals Dr. Kemp his true identity — Griffin, a brilliant medical student with whom Kemp studied at university.

The fight between the conscious and unconscious parts of the human psyche is seen embodied in Dr. Kemp and the Invisible Man as we notice both were the output of the same university. University, like the society, can be seen analogous to the human mind in which both the rational and irrational, conscious and unconscious, Dr. Kemp and Griffin exist. The Invisible Man approaches to his fellow, classmate Dr. Kemp who was visible, material and practiced the moral, rational aspect of science. In contrast, Griffin, the Invisible Man practiced the immoral, irrational desires of human unconscious and derived pleasure inflicting the pain upon others. He approaches Dr. Kemp with irrational, threatening way to the utmost surprise of the doctor. He frightens him with his irrational dealing. Dr. Kemp frantically desires to get himself free of the invisible person who takes him in control with the means of violence. As we observe in the narration:

A frantic desire to free himself took possession of Kemp. The hand of the bandaged arm gripped his shoulder, and he was suddenly tripped and flung backwards upon the bed. He opened his mouth to shout, and the corner of the sheet was thrust between his teeth. The Invisible Man

had him down grimly, but his arms were free and he struck and tried to kick savagely.

"Listen to reason, will you?" said the Invisible Man. . . ."Lie still, you fool!" bawled the Invisible Man in Kemp's ear. Kemp struggled for another moment and then lay still. (123)

Griffin knows well how the rationality functions and so, he controls Dr. Kemp invoking the terror in him showing the rational side that he could be killed anytime if he attempts to escape from his control. The power of invisibility turns victorious over the consciousness momentarily in this instance.

The invisible man explains to his old friend Kemp that after leaving university he was desperately poor. Determined to achieve something of scientific significance, he began to work on an experiment to make people and objects invisible, using money stolen from his own father, who committed suicide after being robbed by his son. The poverty fuels his ambition to become very rich person by any means. His desire to be all powerful and rich by any means is irrational and with his rigorous devotion to science he is able to gain the power of invisibility that is misunderstood by him as his invincibility. He abuses his power to gain pleasure acting as per the demands of his unfulfilled desires. His irrational barbaric side is visible as he lacks compassion even to his father and mercilessly robs him.

Griffin experimented with a formula that altered the refractive index of objects, which resulted in light not bending when passing through the object, thereby making it invisible. He performed the experiment using a cat, but when the cat's owner, Griffin's neighbor, realized the cat was missing, she made a complaint to their landlord, and Griffin wound up performing the invisibility procedure on himself to hide from them. Griffin theorizes part of the reason he can be invisible stems from the

fact he is albino, mentioning that food becomes visible in his stomach and remains so until digested, with the bizarre image passing through air in the meantime.

He burns the boarding house down to cover his tracks, and save him from being followed; he feels a sense of invincibility from being invisible. However, reality soon proved that sense misguided. After struggling to survive out in the open, he steals some clothing from a dingy backstreet shop and takes residence at the Coach and Horses inn to reverse the experiment. He realizes the danger in his invisibility and attempts to make him visible again, that marks the victory of the reason, the conscious over the irrationality and unconscious desires.

In Lacanian sense, we see nothing can fulfill the lack of human subjectivity that is created after a child's separation from his/her mother's body when s/he enters into the linguistic phase. Griffin's attempt to fulfill the lack by discovering the formula of invisibility and making him the most powerful man fails to fulfill the void of his subjectivity as he soon understands the limitation of invisibility. He experiences the lack till his death. His conclusion that he needs to find out the formula to make him visible again shows that he is tangled in the chain of signifiers without getting the signified at all. His discovery of the formula of invisibility is his attempt to fulfill his psychological void in his subjectivity.

He explains to Kemp that he now plans to begin a Reign of Terror (The First Year of the Invisible Man the First), using his invisibility to terrorize the nation with Kemp as his secret confederate. It is his another attempt to fulfill the psychological lack. Realizing that Griffin is clearly insane, full of barbaric, destructive instinct, Kemp has no plans to help him, instead he alerts the police. When the police arrive, Griffin violently assaults Kemp and a policeman before escaping, and the next day he leaves a note on Kemp's doorstep announcing that Kemp will be the first man killed in

the Reign of Terror. Kemp remains cool and writes a note to the Colonel, detailing a plan to use himself as bait to trap the Invisible Man, but as a maidservant attempts to deliver the note she is attacked by Griffin and the note is stolen.

Just as the police accompany the attacked maid back to the house, the Invisible Man breaks in through the back door and makes for Kemp. Keeping his head cool, Kemp bolts from the house and runs down the hill to the town below, where he alerts a navy that the Invisible Man is approaching. The crowd in the town, witnessing the pursuit, rally around Kemp. When Kemp is pinned down by Griffin, the navigator strikes him with a spade and knocks him to the ground, and he is violently assaulted by the workers. Kemp calls for the mob to stop, but it is too late. The Invisible Man dies of the injuries he has received, and his naked and battered body slowly becomes visible on the ground after he dies. It can be viewed as the victory of the conscious mind to keep the unconscious checked properly. The death of the invisible man is because of his strong desire to become invisible same like Hamlet who becomes the victim because of his strong feeling towards his mother, the queen.

Later it is revealed that Marvel has Griffin's notes, with the invisibility formula written in a mix of Russian and Greek which he cannot read, and with some pages washed out. This indicates that the language of the human unconscious is not understood by the conscious side of the human psyche and it is relegated deep down to the unconscious with repression.

The formula of invisibility written in the mix Russian and Greek letters can be seen as the expression of the human unconscious in Lacanian sense. For Lacan, human unconscious is structured like the language and it is unable to fulfill the lack of human psyche. It is just the chain of signifiers and no signified or the meaning to fulfill the lack is possible in the language.



### Daydreaming of the Writer

It is very useful to examine the writer's portrayal of the Invisible Man as the act of daydreaming of the creative writer as Freud sees the creative writings as daydreaming. For Freud, a literary work is equivalent to a daydream. Like a daydream, the literary work contains its fantasy, the fulfillment of an unsatisfied wish and thus, improves on an unsatisfactory reality. In this novel, Wells' portrayal of the character with invisibility and irrationality can be seen as his daydreaming as we cannot term the character as the character as similar to the normal human being. He is abnormal, invisible and largely irrational. Threatening, robbery and the use of the other characters to fulfill his desires by the Invisible Man suggest that he is the construction of the writer's imagination and the unconscious longing to veil his unacceptable desires. *The Invisible Man* is the product of writer's fantasy, the substitution of the childhood play of the writer himself in disguised forms. To analyze how writer's work of art, dream and desires are interconnected, it is very useful to derive on the observation of Marie Bonaparte as she observes in her book *The Life and Works of Edgar Allan Poe*:

Works of art or literature profoundly reveal their creator's psychology and their construction resembles that of our dreams. The same mechanisms which, in dreams and nightmares, govern the manner in which our strongest, though most carefully concealed desires are elaborated, desires which often are the most repugnant to consciousness, also govern the work of art. (209)

As we examine the novel, we can read it as the depiction of the psychology of the writer. His creation of Invisible Man suggests, there are many unfulfilled, invisible desires in the unconscious of the writer. The abnormal behaviors of the Invisible Man like rudeness, threatening others and making them work for him, breaking into the houses etc. are disguised desires of the writer's unconscious. His failure to achieve the greatness as a

student of science has been disguised in the portrayal of the Invisible Man who is actually the man with great obsession in scientific experiments. His name is Griffin. The clear division between the conscious and unconscious, moral and immoral, rational and irrational, visible and invisible can be seen in the conversation that introduces the Invisible Man.

"Griffin," answered the Voice. "A younger student . . . who won the medal for chemistry." . . . .

"I am Griffin."

Kemp thought. "It's horrible," he said. "But what devilry must happen to make a man invisible?"

"It's no devilry. It's a process, sane and intelligible enough—"

"It's horrible!" said Kemp. "How on earth—?"

"It's horrible enough. But I'm wounded and in pain, and tired... Great God! Kemp, you are a man. Take it steady. Give me some food and drink, and let me sit down here." (123-124)

Many things are clarified by the conversation. The first part of the conversation gives the readers the insight into the scientific background of the Invisible Man. He is the student of chemistry who has adopted the negative side of the science and thus, has made himself the villain but, unlike him, Dr. Kemp serves the society with the scientific knowledge he acquires from the university. Griffin is irrational, immoral and invisible while Dr. Kemp is rational, moralistic and visible. Thus, the writer clearly represents his psychic reality that like university, like the society, human mind is divided into the rational and barbaric, the conscious and unconscious.

The portrayal of the Invisible Man as the disguised man is the act of the daydreaming of the writer himself. He belongs to the late Victorian society and the society is on the verge of transition. People's beliefs upon the god and witchcraft were

waning and England was entering into the age of industrialization. People had started to regard science and technology with unbound optimism. In such age, the writer daydreams that with the help of the science and technology people could become invisible in the coming days. Further, Wells himself is the student of science and he has the unconscious desire to attain the powerful position by the means of science. His desire to accomplish something great has been represented in the disguise of the Invisible Man. So the Invisible Man is the symbol of the unfulfilled wishes of the writer. So, the novel can be seen as the psychobiography of the writer, the biography of the writer's psyche. As Abrams defines the psychobiography, "The term psychobiography designates an account of the life of an author. . .that focuses on the subject's psychological development, relying for evidence both on external sources and on the author's own writings" (250). The psychic condition of the writer who also is a former science student has been presented by the means of the Invisible Man along with the sociopolitical situation of the society in the novel.

As Freud asserts in his *Collected Papers Vol. IV*, since it is impossible for a writer to fulfill the repressed desires the writer looks for the alternative disguise of his desires and "by a certain path he actually becomes the hero, king, creator, favorite he desired to be, without pursuing the circuitous path of creating real alternations in the outer world" (19). In this Freudian line of thought we can claim that the Invisible Man is the projection of the unconscious desire of Wells to excel in his scientific career and attain the supernatural quality of the Invisible Man. The repressed desires of Wells repressed since his student life have been manifested by the means of his creation of the Invisible Man. Wells' willingness to become a hero, the scientist par excellence, has been disguised in the form of his invisible character.

Oedipus Complex in *The Invisible Man*

Oedipus Complex plays vital role in Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis. It

sheds light upon the formation of human subjectivity in a child and plays the major role in the psychological development of a child. Discussing the Freudian concept of Oedipus Complex, Habib writes, “As infancy progresses, sexual development undergoes the Oedipus complex: the boy focuses his sexual wishes upon his mother and develops hostile impulses toward his father” (575). When we examine the portrayal of the Invisible Man in the novel, we see Oedipus Complex successfully employed by the writer.

The Invisible Man is poor and he wants money desperately. We see the lack of money haunting the psychology of the Invisible Man. Money symbolically refers to the lack, the lack caused by his separation from the mother’s body. While describing his action after his discovery of the chemical, the Invisible Man says to Dr. Kemp that the first thing he did was to rob his father. Robbing his father leads his father to commit suicide. It is highlighted in the conversation between them: "Money," said the Invisible Man, and went again to stare out of the window. He turned around abruptly. "I robbed the old man—robbed my father." "The money was not his, and he shot himself" (140).

This instance of robbing and creating the background for the father’s death is the clear portrayal of the Oedipus Complex in the Invisible Man. Money stands for his mother’s body which the Invisible Man wants to possess from his father at any cost. His hatred to his father is apparent as he says, "I did not feel a bit sorry for my father. He seemed to me to be the victim of his own foolish sentimentality. The current cant required my attendance at his funeral, but it was really not my affair” (147). It shows that his relation to his father is full of hatred and his invisibility gave him power to kill his father that would not be possible if he was visible.

He does not lament about the death of his father. He is a foolish, sentimental old man for him. Though there are not much detail about his father and his relationship in the novel, the available instances justify the Oedipus Complex of the character.

### III. Daydreaming and Fantasy in *The Invisible Man*

After the discussion and analysis of *The Invisible Man*, the researcher comes to the conclusion that H. G. Wells by focusing on attitudes, behavioral change of the character by acquiring invisibility and his repulsive nature the novel examines the human unconscious. The failure of the writer to become a successful scientist after his college education has resulted in the depiction of *The Invisible Man*. So it becomes the psychobiography of the writer and his time. Also, the novel becomes the daydreaming of the writer due to his handling of fantasy in the name of scientific discovery in the portrayal of the Invisible Man.

In the Freudian line of thought, the research also discusses the depiction of the invisible character as the daydreaming of the writer. Since the writer himself is not a success in his scholarship to achieve something great and become a great scientist, his ambition becomes an unfulfilled desire repressed in his unconscious. He wants to fulfill the repressed desires and ambition by fantasizing it in the character of the Invisible Man, achieving the pleasure from his writing. The invisible character is the projection of the writer's unconscious that is disguised in the embodiment of the invisible character.

The invisible character is the portrayal of human unconscious is the long debated section of this research. The Invisible Man is a mysterious force that creates tension from the very beginning of the novel. He loves seclusion and behaves rudely with the other members of the society of the small village of West Sussex, named Iping. In the quest for seclusion, he disturbs the tranquility of the village. He is rude in his behavior and his tendency towards the people is commanding and threatening. The people in the society represent the conscious part of the human psyche and they believe what is logically justifiable. The strange, rude, abnormal behaviors and appearance of the Invisible Man is not logically justifiable to them. So,

they start to see the Invisible Man with curiosity and the sense of awe. The intervention of the Invisible Man to the society can be seen as the intervention of the human unconscious to the territory of the human ego, the conscious part of human psyche.

The Invisible Man is not only rude but also immoral and barbaric. He threatens Mrs. Hall, the owner of the inn where he is getting the shelter showing his invisibility in the anger of not getting the meal as per his order. He robs the vicarage of Mr. Bunting, he forces Mr. Marvel to work for him when people know the reality of his being invisible. He discloses to Dr. Kemp how he became invisible and his identity is revealed as Griffin. He makes his intention to terrorize the people clear and discloses that his own father became the first victim of his invisibility. Thus, the Freudian model of Oedipus Complex has also been justified. The irrational, barbaric side of the human unconscious has clearly been revealed by the writer in the embodiment of the Invisible Man. Thus, the novel is more a fantasy and daydream than an acclaimed Science Fiction.

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