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Dr. Griffin

English 12

11 January 2013

Dialectical Journal for Jean Valjean

Jean Valjean		
Quote and Page #	Paraphrase	Analysis
"His knees suddenly bent under him, as if an invisible power suddenly overwhelmed him with the weight of his bad conscience; he fell exhausted upon a great stone, his hands clenched in his hair, and his face on his knees, and exclaimed: "What a wretch I am!" (Hugo 38)	His action of taking the 40 sous from the petit garson makes him fall for which he feels like a bad person for taking the coin.	It sucks that Jean Valjean cannot seem to leave his old habits behind him.
"There is a rich man who does not show pride. There is a fortunate man who does not appear contented" (Hugo 53)	He is saying that even do he is rich he does not show it and that he is a fortunate man but he does not show affection.	Jean Valjean is a good man but he has to hide from other that think of him of only a prisoner.
"Independently of the severe and religious aim that his actions had in view, all that he had done up to this day was only a hole that he was digging in which to bury his name" (Hugo 73)	Even though he messed up in the beginning he finds a way to hide his name by telling lies to everyone.	I feel bad in a way but he put himself in that position.
"It was done; he saw reappearing and living again around him, with all the frightfulness of reality, the monstrous vision of the past" (Hugo 80)	He sees what has happened in the past and he hasn't in a while of trying to erase that part of life out of his mind.	I must be hard to live in the future by hiding who you are but the worst is remembering the past errors.
"At that moment she felt that the weight of the bucket was gone" (Hugo p. 138)	He makes Cossette feel safe that she will not do anymore work for anyone anymore.	Finally he finds Cossette and makes her feel safe for ones.
"Everything around him, this quiet garden, these balmy flowers, these children, shouting with joy, these meek and simple women, this silent cloister, gradually entered into all his being, and, little by little, his soul subsided into silence like this cloister, into fragrance like these flowers, into peace like this garden, into simplicity like these women, into joy like these children". (Hugo 149)	At this point he felt safe and free to where he compare the fragrance the flowers are letting off and the smiles of the happy children running around.	Being patient paid off in the end for he now feels free and not bothered by society which exposes the truth that they know Jean Valjean by.

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