

## **Chapter I**

### **Introduction**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

There are some forms of literature, like novel, poetry, drama, and short story. They are all very interesting to read, but the thesis writer decides to analyze a novel because it is interesting and is a long work with a great amount of details in every page. The effect of this detail is that the readers come to recognize the complex reality of a character or event in the story. "For most readers,

the primary attraction lies in the characters whose experiences and adventures in life form the basis of the plots of the stories and the novels in which they appear (Pickering 19).

The thesis writer is encouraged to choose Nathaniel Hawthorne because he was a writer who could prove himself as a writer even though he was in crucial time. Unlike his contemporaries, Poe and Whitman, who usually mingled in the society to get ideas for their works, Hawthorne appeared to have had none of the qualification of a writer. He was just a somber youth who lived in solitude and in contemplation in Salem for a dozen of years or more (Winter 12). Yet, it was these solitary years that made him unique. This period, is the so-called "twelve dark years" (1825-1837).

Throughout these years, Hawthorne opened a negotiation with the world, not the world of actuality in which he lived and moved, but of his imagination, of his deepest sensibility, of what he called "the interior of the heart". He discovered his world of imagination not within the boundaries of Salem, or of Massachusetts, but within the human heart and consciousness; "where sin and guilt reside, where dark secrets were hidden from the peering eyes of men, where deep festering of remorse and conscience worked

to destroy, and where the eternal questions of men never quite found the answers" (336).

Moreover, Hawthorne achieved an unfaltering reputation as an author of short stories, romances, essays and children books from 1825-1837. He is remembered not only for furthering the development of the short story form, but also for distinguishing the novel from the romance. The prefaces to his long works elucidate his theory of the "neutral ground", the junction between the actual and imagery where romance take place (MaGill 1314). Most of Hawthorne's works emphasizes on the effects of events on the human heart rather than on the event themselves, and almost every character that Hawthorne creates experiences some sense of isolation, sometimes from a consciousness of sin, sometimes from innocence itself, or sometimes from deliberate attempt to remain aloof (1317). These are shown in his novels, for example: The Scarlet Letter in which Hawthorne creates Hester Prynne who experiences some sense of isolation after she has done adultery.

Another thing that makes the writer interested in Hawthorne is that he has continued to offer enough complexity and mystery to hold a wide variety of readers. His writing seems to be very simple. Yet the tales are most skillfully contrived: they offer problems and require

intense critical analysis which, once it is performed, suggests that Hawthorne is not a mere tale-teller but a skilled artist who can take his place with the leading writers of the world (Davidson 361). From that statement, the writer can say that Hawthorne's writings appear to be both simple and meaningful, cautious and yet intense, remote and still formidable.

During his lifetime, the profession of writing was so poorly rewarded and Hawthorne himself was so consistently ignored. Yet, aside from the poor payment and lack of recognition, he did not suffer the slow or sudden loss of popularity, which happened to many of his contemporaries, such as Poe and Whitman (Davidson 361). When Hawthorne published Fanshawe (1828), for instance, he did not gain any recognition from the public. This book was a failure for him, therefore, he later withdrew and never admitted that he had written it. This condition was a reverse to the time when he published The Scarlet Letter (1850). This book brought him to his popularity and arouse comments from critics.

Hawthorne only wrote four novels all of which are categorized as allegorical romances. His last novel, The Marble Faun, is said to be more allegorical than three preceding romances (Waggoner 175). According to Holman and

Harmon in their book Handbook to Literature, in a romance, an author is free to write the experience that is close to real life, but also to the remote and exotic places, the exciting and heroic events, and it is referred to the perfect characters, the passionate love, and mysterious of supra natural experience (436). These are shown in his novel, The Marble Faun, which is close to his real life and his own experience when he was in Italy. Italy would seem to present to Hawthorne not only the depth of the past he deemed necessary for the flourishing of a romance, but also a neutral territory, this time completely divorced from his readers' experience (437).

Changing tastes and new methods and institutional pressure on literary criticism also enhanced Hawthorne's last novel, The Marble Faun which is more like a prophetic insight into modern condition. Some of the Marble Faun's major themes: mysterious compulsion, emotional isolation, surveillance, incest, inescapable corruption, seemed to be the themes of the modern life, the touchstone of what the critic Richard Chase termed "the dark center of the twentieth century" (Pearce 350).

The writer is interested in Hawthorne's last novel, The Marble Faun because it is one of his finer works. The book combines an intricate plot, similar to Adam and Eve, with a

mystery and romantic setting. Rather than having a single protagonist and antagonist, Hawthorne creates four characters, each receiving equal attention, and all of them are artists (<http://www.marblefaun.com.htm>). Based on one of the reasons above, the writer is interested in his last novel of which setting is in Rome, Italy. Rome is one of the romantic places in the world and Hawthorne uses this setting for his novel with his own experience for all his characters.

Another thing which makes The Marble Faun interesting is because the novel is a complex and excellent work of literature. Despite its length and slight difficult reading, it holds the reader in suspense. It has a simple plot on the surface: three young American artists and one younger Italian Count meet in Rome. While here, the Italian becomes smitten with Miriam and falls in love with her. Miriam, however, has a horrible past. One evening her persecutor approaches her and Donatello pushes him off the cliff which results in the death of the persecutor. Hilda witnesses this, and her pure soul becomes darkened. Donatello, once the young bubbly faun, is transformed into a lethargic and depressed adult. Kenyon and Hilda are young friends, but Kenyon desires more than being friends. In one section he "steals" a cast of Hilda's hand by looking at

it. In the end, Kenyon finally wins the love of Hilda, Donatello and Miriam live together to suffer in their misery. Finally, after the narrative is over, the after word provides an update from Kenyon and Hilda to the reader ([http://www. Marblefaun.com.htm](http://www.Marblefaun.com.htm)).

The other reason why the writer chooses Hawthorne's work is because of the way he treats his characters that have done something wrong. When one reads the novel, perhaps s/he will blame the characters because of the wrong doings they have done, but Hawthorne will not. He even sympathizes them. In The Marble Faun, one will say that Donatello has to be responsible for the murder which he has done with Miriam, but Hawthorne seems to cover it by making the story of the murder so natural that it is impossible to decide whether Donatello is really responsible for the murder or not. It is like what Waggoner wrote in his book that Hawthorne was more interested in guilt as a necessary human condition than he was in any specific sinful act. So he treats the central action in The Marble Faun in such a way that it is just as impossible to decide that Donatello is really responsible for the murder he committed (Waggoner 165).

More particularly, the thesis writer is encouraged to analyze the character change of the main male character in

the novel, Donatello. The Marble Faun is the novel which tells about Donatello and Miriam who are in love. Donatello is a pure and naïve person who never does a sin and Miriam has a black background which always haunts her. Miriam has a persecutor who always follows her wherever she goes, Donatello gets jealous and kills him based on his instinct which is like an animal and also because Miriam's eyes bid him to do it. Killing the persecutor which is his first sin makes him realize his wrong doing and it makes Donatello feel depressed and guilty. He does not know what to do and he must face the consequences of being haunted by his sin and guilty feeling which result in his character change. Hawthorne wants to show to his readers and check whether or not the conscience after doing sin in the novel still works until nowadays. So, the thesis writer decides to analyze the character change of the main character in this novel.

### **1.2. Statement of the Problems**

As a model who resembles to Faun of Praxiteles, the main male character, Donatello, is pure and innocent. He lives in the rural area and has a character like that of an animal who cannot differ good from evil. But later after he kills Miriam's persecutor, he changes. So, the thesis



writer is curious to know what factors make him change and what kind of change he has gone through.

### **1.3. Purpose of the Study**

Through this study, the thesis writer wants to prove that the change of Donatello is caused by some factors. She also wants to find out the kind of change that happens to Donatello.

### **1.4. Importance of the Study**

The thesis writer finds that many people nowadays sometimes are ignorant about their conscience after they have done a sin. They are not responsible for what they have done. Therefore, through her thesis, the thesis writer hopes that the readers can see the consequences of a sin which can change someone to be a better person. The thesis writer also hopes that her thesis will encourage the students to analyze Nathaniel Hawthorne's other works, to make a character analysis as their topics for he is an expert in dealing with characters. Hence, she also hopes that her analysis could help the readers to comprehend the drastic change of the main male character in The Marble Faun just because of the 'wrong love'.

### **1.5. Scope and Limitation**

The novel, The Marble Faun, has four characters that can be discussed, but the thesis writer's scope of discussion is Donatello, the main male character. He is the character who has an important role in the novel and then undergoes a permanent change. The thesis writer will focus and limit her analysis on Donatello's character's change through the help of literary devices characterization and conflict. Other characters such as Miriam and the persecutor will be mentioned in the analysis but will not be analyzed. She will discuss their role as long as their actions support the main male character in the process of his change.

### **1.6. Methodology**

The thesis writer reads the novel well to understand and get the ideas of what to analyze in the novel. Then she makes a library research such as collecting data, information, sources and critics about Hawthorne's biography and about the novel that can support the study. Then she makes a review from the materials related to her study. Furthermore she uses literary approach for her analysis. In this literary approach she uses the literary theories, they are, characterization and conflicts. These

theories are important as the devices to analyze the factors that change Donatello, the main male character.

### **1.7. Organization of the Study**

The thesis writer divides this thesis into four chapters. The first chapter introduces the background of the thesis that shows the importance of studying Hawthorne's The Marble Faun. The second chapter consists of literary theories related to the problem that will be analyzed in the thesis. The analysis of The Marble Faun begins in the third chapter. In this chapter, the thesis writer wants to analyze the change in Donatello and also the conflicts that Donatello faces. In the last chapter, the thesis writer concludes all which have been discussed in the previous chapters.