

Chapter III

Mrs Warren's Reasons and the Consequences she has to bear in choosing prostitution as her profession

There is time in life when one is subjected to very difficult situation and has to make a choice. The choice becomes controversial when it stands against society's concept. People often judge directly every choice that opposes their opinion. Instead of judging the person of making wrong choice, it is better to track the reasons of the choice. In Mrs. Warren's Profession, the main character, **Mrs.** Warren chooses to be a prostitute rather than to be a labor or to be married. In this chapter, the writer intends to reveal what reasons that make Mrs Warren dare to choose prostitution as her profession. Besides that, the writer will also explain the consequences of her choice.

3.1. Mrs. Warren's reasons for choosing prostitution as her profession

In this sub chapter the writer is going to explain there **are** two main reasons that makes Mrs Warren choose to be a prostitute. The first reason is her poor working condition. The second reason is to get better living, respect, and wealth.

Mrs. Warren is a working class woman who lives with her mother, a widow and her three sisters. They live in poverty. Unlike her two half sisters, Mrs Warren grows up to be a beautiful woman. She feels better than her half-sisters in terms of appearance. Her self pride can be seen when she explains about her family to her daughter "Two of us were sisters; that was me and Liz, and we were both good-looking and well made . . . The other two were only half-sisters: undersized, ugly, starved-looking, hard working, honest poor creatures . . ." (Act 11,209) It is obvious that Mrs Warren is proud of her physical beauty which she possesses. Also, she is proud that she is 'more' than her half-sisters. She has something that they do not have. Therefore, in her explanation, Mrs. Warren separates herself and Liz from her two half-sisters. She uses the word "only" to her half-sisters indicates that she underrates them. Mrs Warren wants to show that indeed there is a difference among them. Moreover, **Mrs.** Warren not only dislikes her half-sisters; she underestimates them by listing their short-comings. Her pride in her beauty later also becomes a determinant factor in her decision to be a prostitute.

Even though Mrs Warren comes from the have-nots; still she holds the importance of being respectable firmly. It is due to the fact that she went to

church school with her sister, Liz, as a ladylike airs she gives to herself(210). In the nineteenth century, taking an education gives sense of being a lady. It is considered as honorable thing and very respectable by the society. Since Mrs. Warren wants to be a good and respectable woman, she attends the school as one of the requirement for being a lady. Mrs Warren soon realizes that being a lady is impossible for her because she comes from the low class.

As she grows up, she realizes she has to work to make her own living and to retain her respectability. Unfortunately, the choice of work for women is very limited. It is the direct impact of the Victorian ideology of domesticity and separate sphere that women should be at home. If they have to work by the reason of bringing supplement / additional wages to family, they are allowed to; only in certain area which are considered as “minor profession”. For working class women, they can be either factory laborers, maid, waitresses and end up being a prostitute.

In choosing a job, **Mrs.** Warren is unwilling to be a factory worker, as she has witnessed the dreadful condition of a factory worker’s life through her one half-sister, Anna Jane. The condition is best described in the quotation below :

MRS.WARREN. One of them worked in a whitelead factory twelve hours a day for nine shillings a week until she died of lead poisoning. She [ANNA] only expected to get her hands a little paralyzed, but she died(209).

As a respectable working class woman, Anna Jane follows the society code of respectable working women. She works as a factory labourer, which is the

common work for the working class women. Yet she has to work overtime, and earns very small wages. The working condition and security are so bad that she suffers a lot because of lead poisoning and finally she died. Anna has to pay a very high price for her respectability as not only she has to work hard and receive unreasonable wages, but far more than that, she pays with her own life. In other words, in order to keep respectability, she loses everything, her youth and her life.

Another possible way to be respectable is to get married. In the nineteenth century, women were very respectable if they get married and be a good mother. Still, it does not make Mrs. Warren intend to marry, because she has witnessed how unpleasant is life for a woman which is tied in the marriage institution. The life of Mrs. Warren's other half-sister describes the poor condition of a "respectable" wife and mother.

MRS. WARREN. The other was always held up to us as a model

because she married a Government labourer in the Deptford

victualing yard, and kept his room and the three children neat and

tidy on eighteen shillings a week-until he took to drink ... (209).

Mrs. Warren's other half-sister is married to a labourer and be respectable wife. She dedicates her time serving her husband and the children. **As** a good wife, she has to do all the house chores and fulfill her duty as a mother. Her sister's life is mere a responsibility of matrimony. Moreover, she has to depend on her husband financially for a married woman has no right for owning property. She gets eighteen shillings a week for her duty as a respectable wife and mother, but the money would not last long. Later, she cannot even depend on her husband since

he starts drinking. If a man drinks, he would not care about his wife and his children. In that condition, the wife could do nothing but gets depressed. The writer finds that Mrs. Warren second half-sister also has to pay her respectability by strolling miserable life; functioning as if a maid than a wife, working hard, and living unhappily.

Mrs. Warren witnesses how dreadful being a factory worker and how depressed a woman as a wife is. The life that her two half-sisters has, shades by misery, and drudgery. Every normal people tends to escape from poverty to the wealth and does Mrs. Warren. Having known the terrible condition of her two half-sisters, Mrs. Warren does not want to take the same path as what her sisters have taken.

The other possibilities left are being a barmaid or prostitute. She never thinks of being the latter since Mrs. Warren is brought up to be respectable. She becomes a maid as it is the only possible decent job left “Then I was waitress; **and** then I went to the bar at Waterloo station . . .”(210). Being a barmaid is considered as a ‘honest’ work compared to being a prostitute since it is identical with living immorality. Unfortunately, her experience **as** maid is **also** painful and disappointing. She is forced to work at long hours and receives very insufficient wages. “fourteen hours a day serving drinks and washing glasses for four shillings a week and my board”(210). Mrs. Warren has worked hard; still, she earns too little money. Being a barmaid is not as good as she thinks. Only with four shillings a week at hand, she has to fulfill all her needs; buying food for three times a day and for all her other necessities. Certainly, it is impossible even to

survive with those small wages. Furthermore, it also shows how poor Mrs Warren's condition of life and work. The writer notices that Mrs. Warren lives as badly as her two half-sisters'. She feels that she had to pay the expensive price for her respectability.

Eventhough the working condition is poor, Mrs. Warren still stays on being a barmaid since she thinks that it is the only job she can have if she wants to keep her respectability. **Mrs.** Warren knows that society really despises prostitution **as** a profession. However, her paradigm changes totally when she meets her sister, Liz who chooses prostitution as her profession. She finds all the beauty and comfort of life that is offered in this profession. Mrs Warren is astonished finding Liz coming in a long elegant fur cloak with a lot of sovereigns in her **purse(210)**. She looks so proud of her sister, when she describes to her daughter:

MRS. WARREN. She's living down in Winchester now, close to cathedral, one of the most respectable ladies there. Chaperones girls at the county ball, if you please. No river for Liz, thank **you!** You remind me of Liz **a** little: she was a first-rate business **woman** –saved money from the beginning–never let herself look too like what she was–never lost her head or threw away a chance(210).

Mrs. Warren sees her sister's life is glamorousShe has lots of money and is able to dress beautifully, and she experiences no sufferings of poor living. She witnesses being a prostitute is not **as** bad as she imagine. Her lodging is near high class society that enables her to encounter and make **an** acquaintance with them.

Therefore, even though Liz is a prostitute, she lives a respectable life. Liz keeps her profession from her friends' knowledge that nobody suspects her of being in that profession. For Mrs Warren, Liz's life has become the best picture of being a prostitute. Therefore, Mrs. Warren grasps the chance when Liz offers her to join as a prostitute. "Why shouldn't I do it? The house in Brussels was real high-class: a much better place for a woman to be in than the factory where Anna Jane got poisoned." (210) Mrs Warren compares living place between place where Liz plans to buy a house and the working place where her sister works. She finds life of a prostitute is much more pleasant than of a labourer or a maid. Mrs Warren notices being a prostitute is her only way to survive; it is the chance in stepping out from her present condition and to get respectability without suffer and misery. Therefore, Mrs. Warren agrees to take Liz's offer and live like her sister.

In the beginning of her career, Mrs. Warren is helped by Liz. She explains the condition to Vivie:

MRS. WARREN. Liz was saving money than to take a house for herself in Brussels, and she thought we two could save money faster than one. So she lent me some money as a start; and I save steadily and first paid Liz back, and then went into business with her sister as her partner (210).

The writer can see a mutual business relationship happens between Mrs. Warren and Liz. Liz gives her money to begin her business; on the other hand, she helps Liz to collect the profit to purchase a house. She knows that they will be able to collect more money if they work together as "two are better than one".

Therefore, she helps Liz with one purpose that is to gain as much money as she could. It is obvious that Mrs. Warren works seriously for it. She does not spend the money she gets uselessly; rather, she saves it steadily. Her way in using borrowed money from her sister so responsibly reflects her serious intention. Liz's success really has spurred her spirit and strengthened her will to work.

Yet, Mrs Warren knows she **has** taken a morally wrong choice. However, she decides not to be bothered by it.

MRS WARREN. I stick to that: it's wrong. But it's **so**, right or wrong; and a girl must make the best of it. But of course it's not worth while for a lady. If you took to it you'd be a fool; but I should have been a fool if I'd taken to anything else (212).

The writer can see that Mrs. Warren does not deny what she has been doing is considered morally wrong. Still, she has to do it all the same. It is coherent with Grein mentions that Mrs. Warren wholeheartedly accepts **the** conventional morality although she is regretfully compelled to transgress it (178). Moreover, Mrs. Warren knows that it is not decent job for **a** lady; yet, she does not belong to one. She realizes herself **as** a working class woman not **as** a lady. The writer concludes she is not only can see the reality of her life but to improve it. She knows it is her only way to get out **from** poor life and she has to make best of it. The writer also assumes Mrs. Warren begins to defend her trade by comparing to other business as it is stated in the next quotation :

MRS. WARREN. Liz and I have to work and save and calculate just like other people; elseways we should be as poor as any good—for

nothing drunken waster of a woman that thinks her luck will last forever(211).

It is obvious that Mrs. Warren wants to utter her voice concerning her trade; that is also requires effort in doing so. She has to work hard collecting money like in other business. She not either steal other's properties or make harm of other. She considers prostitution **as** a business. It is actually the same with the other business, in the way she gets money; by saving and calculating money. It also implies that **Mrs.** Warren justify her trade that it is not a problem for her to doing so.

As Mrs. Warren enters the world of prostitution, she finds her life begins to change slowly but surely to a better one. Financially, she is able to **earn** and save money. She begins to enjoy having money; taste the comfort and pleasure from it. Socially, she is able to encounter important and respectable society. With **the** money she **gains**, she climbs up from a low class to a middle class even to high class. She is no longer a poor half starved girl, rather a beautifully dressed well-fed woman.

Having involved in prostitution for years, Mrs. Warren grows up to be an expert in it. **Mrs.** Warren continues to work in profession, but in the bigger **scope** **as** a successful business woman in that famous profession. She becomes the manager of brothels in big cities in Europe. Being **an** international manager, enables her to gain many things that she *can* not afford in her formal work, such as respect, money to give first-rate education for her daughter and to support luxury living.

The profit she gets from brothels brings lots of money which enables her to provide high standard of living which includes education of her daughter. Vivi, Mrs. Warren's daughter **has** been living with someone paid to take charge of her along her life. Mrs. Warren has given her daughter a comfortable life in which she fulfill all her living necessities satisfactorily for plenty of money that *can* make things smooth also, the money could provide her daughter a first-class education at Cambridge. Mrs. Warren successfully brings her daughter up to be a respectable woman through her education. **Looking** at the condition of her daughter, Mrs. Warren is proud of being a mother. **A** mother that can give her daughter contented life and give expensive education.

MRS. WARREN. How could you keep your self-respect in such starvation and slavery, and what's a woman worth? What's life worth? without self-respect! Why I am independent and able to give my daughter first-rate education when other women that had just opportunities are in the gutter? Because I always knew how to respect myself and control myself^{72 12}).

The writer can see that Mrs. Warren is proud of her achievement. She believes her success is derived her abilities in keeping her self-respect. Being a prostitute brings her enough money to retain her self-respect either as a woman or a mother; a woman that can be independent to dress herself well and a mother that can satisfied the needs of her daughter. It is also clear there is pride in doing something that other mothers cannot do. Her abilities in making the difference strengthen her that she is really different from the others. She feels more worthy

than the other women. Since **Mrs.** Warren holds the position of manager of international brothels, she is in the position of power and wealth. She is also a skillful manager. As a manager, there are lot of challenges and problems that have to be overcome and settled. **Mrs.** Warren finds no difficulties in handling every single case including the girls in her 'houses'.

Being a professional manager, enables her to gain respect. She gets the recognition from her business partner, Sir George Croft. To **Mrs.** Warren's daughter, he explains :

CROFT. Your mother has a genius for managing such things. We've got two in Brussels, one in Ostend, one in Vienna, **and** two in Budapest, of course there are others besides ourselves in it; but we hold most of the capital; and your mother's indispensable **as** managing director (224).

Croft is a member of high society and very respected. He is described as a gentlemanly combination of the most brutal of city men, sporting man, and man about town (184). He praises her genius in managing the business so well. He acknowledges and appreciates **Mrs.** Warren **as** a professional business woman. The writer can see that **Mrs.** Warren earns respect from a respectable man like Croft. Besides that, Croft is not ashamed of being in the business. **As** a partner, **Mrs.** Warren is treated equally; treatment that never be obtained when she **was** a waitress. Gaining respect from others make **Mrs.** Warren proud of her abilities as a professional business woman. She considers herself worthy since she can 'make' something. Her business instinct, her capability **as** a manager, and her competence

in legitimating illegitimate business is recognized and valued by others. She finds that in her former work, her effort in working is not valued unlike the present one.

Gaining money and respect, convinces Mrs. Warren of her own abilities, she is proud of herself rather ~~than~~ feels ashamed of.

VIVI. My dear mother: you **are** a wonderful woman. You are stronger than all England. And are you really and trully not one wee bit doubtful-or-or-ashamed

MRS. WARREN. No: I never was a bit ashamed really. I considered I have a right to be proud of How we manage everythings so respectably, and never had a word against us, and how the girls were so well taken care of. Some of them did very well: One of them married an ambassador (213).

It is clearly seen that Mrs. Warren is proud of what she had done. There is no need for her to be ashamed since she does not only employ **the** girls but also provides them a good place to live in, and dresses ~~them~~ beautifully. In fact, she helps them to make **a** better living. She tries to justify her business in telling Vivi how well she has treated the girls who were working for her. However, it should be noted that **Mrs.** Warren actually **is** exploiting those **girls**. She treats them well not **because** she concerns with their well being, but as a commodity. She furnishes them for her own sake and profit.

Her decision in **keep** doing the business is strengthened by her revelation of her wickedness of the society especially the respectable ones. Being a manager of brothels enables Mrs. Warren to build a relation with high class society. It

opens her eyes to see bitter reality of the society that many of the **high** class and respectable men takes part in the business and gets profit from it. She exposes that the big people, clever people, and the managing people do as she does and think what she thinks (243). Mrs. Warren begins to see she is not only the one who does wrong, but everybody does what morality considered to be wrong. That revelation is also admitted by Croft himself when he speaks to Vivi.

CROFT. Why the devil shouldn't I invest my money that way ? I Take the interest of my capital like the other people: I hope you don't think I dirty my own hands with the word.. . . Come ! You would not cut the Archbishop of Canterbury, I suppose . . . have a few publicans and sinners among their tenants. Do you remember your Croft's scholarship at Newham? Well, that **was** founded by my brother, D.M.P. He gets his 22 percent out of the factory with **600** girls in it . . . do you expect me to turn my back on 35 percent . . . No such fool ! If you're going to pick and choose your acquaintances on moral principles, you'd better clear out of this country, unless you want to cut yourself out of all decent society (Act III, 226).

From the quotation above the writer finds many of those who are known as the respectable, invest their money in the business like **Mrs.** Warren does. Even Croft's brother, the respectable member of parliament is also involved too. It is in-line with what Shaw has exposed in his preface that prostitution is not only carried on without organization by individual enterprise in the lodging of solitary

women . . . but organized and exploited as a big international commerce for the profit of the capitalist like any other commerces, and very lucrative to great city estates including Church estate, through the rents of the houses in which it is practised (147). Mrs Warren is convinced that doing the business of prostitution is not a problem since all the respectable people also did the same.

Afer all, her comfortable life she has, her chance to gain many things that she never can obtain before and supported with the revelation of life of respectable people strengthen **Mrs** Warren to keep herself in the profession.

MRS WARREN. I must have work and excitement, or I should go melancholy mad. And what else is there for me to do? The life suits me: I'm fit for it and not for anything else. If I didnt do it somebody else would; ~~so~~ I dont do any real harm by it. And then it brings in money; and I like making money(Act 111,244)

From the quotation above, the writer assumes **Mrs** Warren's decision to keep in doing her profession is to have a better living, respect, and wealth. **Mrs** Warren **does** not only work as a demand of make a living but she works for enjoyment. She likes to work and make money.

The **writer** can conclude basically there are two main reasons for **Mrs** Warren in choosing prostitution as **her** profession. The first one is her poor working condition and then the second one is to have a better living, respect, and wealth.

3.2. The consequences of choosing prostitution as her profession

In the previous sub chapter, it has been discussed how Mrs Warren's life as a prostitute is surrounded with comfort, wealth, and social respect. Yet, Mrs Warren's decision in choosing prostitution as her profession brings consequences concerning her relation with her daughter. Firstly, her profession as a prostitute and then a manager of international brothels forces her to live separately from her daughter. Also, Mrs Warren loses respect, loses rights and then loses affection from her daughter. Finally, she has to face a bitter reality that is the separation from her daughter relationship. The first and direct consequence of choosing the profession soon felt by Mrs Warren when she has a daughter. She does not stay with her daughter; rather, she separates Vivie far away from her by placing her in a boarding house of her life. Mrs Warren's attitude can be revealed in a conversation between Vivie and her mother's old friend, Praed:

PRAED. Now your mother's life has been -er-I suppose you know-

VIVIE. Dont suppose anything, Mrs Praed! I hardly know my mother.

Since I was a child I have lived in England, at school or college, or with people paid to take charge of me. I have been boarded out of my life. My mother has lived in Brussels or Vienna and never let me go to her. I only see her when she visits England for a few days. I dont complain: it's been very pleasant; for people have been very good to me; and there has always been plenty of money to make things smooth. But dont imagine I know anything about my mother. (Act 1, 183)

It is obvious that Mrs Warren puts her daughter ~~far~~ away from her since Vivie was very young. She never allows her daughter ~~to~~ come to visit her. That Mrs Warren prohibits her daughter to go to her indicates there is something she **wants** to hide from Vivie. The writer assumes **Mrs** Warren does not want her daughter to know about her mother's profession. Deep inside her heart, Mrs Warren actually could not deny her conscience even though she refuses to admit it. She realizes what she does is considered as morally wrong and her profession is regarded to be an indecent job. Mrs Warren does not want to give bad impact to her daughter if she finds out about her mother's profession. It shows her awareness of her daughter's future.

As a mother, Mrs Warren attempts to give the best for her daughter. She pays the first rate education and provides her daughter's needs financially. In short, she gives an easy and comfortable life for her daughter. It shows that she **cares** and loves her daughter in a sense she tries to give her daughter all the best she can buy. She thinks that by doing such things she has fulfilled all the daughter's needs and it is enough to compensate for her absence in her daughter's life. Mrs Warren never realizes; though, that she loses very essential part for the mother-daughter relation, that is the precious time for togetherness. A relation based on money instead of affection is actually brittle because it creates a mystery for Vivie.

Another consequence Mrs Warren has to bear for choosing the profession is losing respect **from** her own daughter. That Mrs. Warren and her daughter live

far away and rarely meet each other, just makes a gap between them. The gap, which is being ignored later on, causes a serious quarrel. After many years of never meeting each other, Mrs. Warren comes to visit Vivie. She tries to get closer with her daughter **by** purposing her plan to spend more time together with Vivie. It is **Mrs.** Warren's attempt to redeem her absence in her daughter's life. However, Vivie rejects it for she has her **own** way of life. Mrs. Warren gets angry and begins to assert her power **as** a mother. Yet, she is very shocked ~~with~~ Vivie's rough reply. It is best described in the following quotation:

MRS WARREN [*Violently*] Hold on your tongue. [*Vivie works on, losing no time, and saying nothing*]. You and your way of life, indeed! What next? [*She looks at Vivie again. No reply*]. Your way of life will be what I please, **so** it will. [*Another pause*]. . . Do you know who you're speaking to, Miss?

VIVIE. No. Who are you? What are you?

MRS WARREN. [*rising breathless*] You young imp!

VIVIE. Everybody knows my reputation, my social standing and the profession I intend to pursue. I know nothing about you (Act 11, 206)

It is clearly seen that **Mrs. Warren** is very angry with Vivie. She feels annoyed that her daughter pays no attention to her mother. When **Mrs.** Warren talks to her, she keeps on working. Her daughter's indifference towards Mrs. Warren shows how Mrs. Warren does not get respect from her daughter. A child who respects their parent will give thoughtful attention for her parents' feelings. **As** an older woman

and also a mother, Mrs. Warren thinks that she deserves to be treated with respect in the way her daughter speaks or behaves to her. Mrs. Warren is really annoyed that Vivie dares to defy her as if she is nobody. She is unable to bear Vivie's statement, which is full of sarcasm. The writer notices that Mrs. Warren is very insulted while Vivie questions her reputation, and social standing. Besides, from Vivie's statement Mrs. Warren sees how her daughter is not thankful for everything she has done. Therefore, Mrs. Warren could not bear her furiousness that she tries to threaten Vivie.

MRS. WARREN. Take care. I shall do something. I'll be sorry for
after, and you too

VIVIE ... *[Looking critically at her mother]* You want some good
walks and a little lawn tennis to set you up. You are shockingly
out of condition you were not able to manage twenty yards uphill
today without stopping to pant, and your wrists are mere rolls of
fat. Look at mine *[She holds out her wrists]*.

MRS. WARREN. *[after looking at her helplessly, begins to whimper]*

Vivie – (206)

Again, from the quotation above, the writer can see that Mrs. Warren has lost respect from her daughter. She fails in her attempt to threaten Vivie as Vivie is not a child who is afraid of threats. She even begins to contrast the physical strength between her and her mother. To stress her mother is only bluffing. Vivie shows that she is stronger compared to her mother. Vivie even mentions that her

mother is old and weak. Realizing her words have no power over Vivie, Mrs. Warren feels powerless.

Another consequence Mrs Warren has to bear or choosing the profession is she loses her **rights as** a mother over her daughter. Vivie's ignorance about her own mother make her questions whether Mrs Warren is really her mother

MRS WARREN [*pitiously*] Oh, how *can* you be so hard on me? Have I no **rights** over you **as** your mother?

WE. Are you my mother?

MRS WARREN'S [*appaled*] Am I your mother! Oh, Vivie.

VIVIE. Then where are our relatives? My father? Our family friends?(206).

Basically, Vivie knows nothing about her mother. Even though she has **a** mother, Vivie never experiences having **a** mother in her life. She is eager to know who her family is and who her mother is; therefore, she wants to dig it up from her mother. The writer can see Vivie's anxiety has spurred on her questioning her mother. Mrs Warren is stunned by Vivie's question for Vivie does not only deny Mrs Warren's **rights as** a mother but also doubts **Mrs Warren as** her own mother.

Responding to Mrs Warren's demand for her **rights as** a mother, Vivie exclaims her protest which implies the criticism towards her mother. It is exemplified in the following quotation:

VIVIE. You claim the rights of a mother: the **right** to call **me** fool **and** child; to **speak to** me **as** no woman in **authority** over me at college dare to **speak** to me; **to** dictate my way of life; **and** to force on **me**

the acquaintance of a brute whom anyone **can** see to be the vicious sort of London man about town. Before I give myself the trouble to resist such claims, I may as well find out whether **they** have real existence(207).

Having questioned about her mother and her family, Vivie also criticizes her mother's right in exercising her rights over her. She dislikes her mother's treatment toward her and her patronizing way over her. According to Vivie, her mother **is** merely a stranger; therefore, she refuses to acknowledge her mother **rights** over her. Vivie thinks that a stranger does not have the right to interfere in her life. Thus, Vivie's reaction reveals that Mrs Warren has lost her life as a mother.

Besides losing respect and rights as a mother, Mrs Warren has to bear another consequence that is losing affection from her daughter. Long distance relation made it difficult for Mrs Warren to express her love and affection. There is no affection between mother and daughter. It can be seen from the way Vivie treats her after the bitter quarrel:

VIVI. . . Well, that's enough for tonight, at what hour would you like breakfast, is half past eight **too** early for you ?

MRS. WARREN [wildy] My God, what sort of woman are you ?

VIVI [**cooly**] The sort the world is mostly made of, I should hope. Come

[taking her mother by the wrist, and pulling her up pretty resolutely] :

Pull yourself together. That's right.

MRS. WARREN You are very rough with me, Vivi.

VIVI Nonsense, what about bed? It's past ten.

MRS. WARREN [passionately] What's the use of my going to **bed**, Do you think I could sleep?

VIVI Why not ? I shall.

MRS. WARREN : You ! You have no heart(208)

Mrs Warren is completely shocked by her daughter's indifference. Mrs Warren wonders Vivie has no compassion for her. Even though Mrs Warren has shown sadness, her daughter does not care for her. Mrs Warren feels neglected by her daughter, the one who she loves so much **and has** sacrificed for. For many years she has worked hard for her daughter, providing an **easy** life, living separately for her daughter's own sake, but what she gets is not worth the **sacrifice** she has gone through. As a mother, Mrs Warren hopes that her daughter will love her as a mother or at least respect her as the woman. Unfortunately, what she gets is far from she could ever imagine. Mrs Warren loses affection from her daughter.

In order to get her daughter affection and love, Mrs Warren tells her past. Listening to her mother's story, Vivie assumes Mrs Warren has left the profession. Then, Vivie accepts her mother's explanation coolly, saying : "You have got completely the better of me tonight . . . Let us be good friends now"(214). However, after Vivie finds that **Mrs** Warren is still in the business, the mother-daughter quarrel becomes more intense. She feels being **tricked** by her mother who does not tell her whole story. Mrs Warren in this time is again subject to the rejection her daughter. Vivie is determined to go in her own business **and** to be among her own friends and let her mother go with her own. In fact, she wants to break up the mother-daughter relation(242). **Mrs** Warren who just comes to meet Vivie

at her office in Chancery Lane is puzzled with her daughter's statement. She is deeply shocked that Vivie suggests the separation. She then attempts to change Vivie's thought of her and her business.

Mrs Warren silenced for a moment, looks forlornly at Vivie, who waits, secretly hoping that the combat is over. But the cunning expression comes back into Mrs Warren's face; and she bends across the table, sly and urgent, half whispering.

MRS WARREN. Vivie: do you know how rich I **am**?

VIVIE. I have no doubt you are very rich.

MRS WARREN. But you don't know all that that means: you are too young. It means a new dress everyday; it means theatres and balls every night; it means everything you like, everything you want, everything you can think of. And what are you here? **A** mere drudge, toiling and moiling early and late for your bare living **and** two cheap dresses a year. Think over it. [*Soothingly*] You're shocked, I know. I can enter into your feelings; and I think they do you credit; but ~~trust~~ me, nobody will blame you: you may take my word for that.

VIVIE. So that's how it is done, is it? You must have said all that to many a woman, to have it so pat.

MRS WARREN [*passionately*] What harm am I asking you to do? (*Vivi turns away contemptuously. . .*) (243)

Mrs Warren in her desperate tries to bribe Vivie with her wealth but is refused by Vivie. It is vividly clear that Mrs. Warren cannot persuade Vivie since her daughter is not at all attracted with her offer. Even though Mrs. Warren has depicted a long and brief explanation about the power of having money, Vivie holds on to her will to be separated. Moreover, **Mrs** Warren's persuasion makes Vivie understand more about her mother. Vivie sees how her mother uses wealth to buy something she wants. In this case, her decision is the one Mrs Warren wants to buy. That Vivie replies satirically indicates she is different with other women ; since she cannot be bought by money.

Vivie is still consistent **with** her decision to be separated with her mother. On the other hand, Mrs Warren, cannot accept it for she feels that she has **been** treated unfairly. It is described in the following quotation:

MRS WARREN. Oh, the injustice of it ! the injustice! The injustice! I always wants **to** be a good woman. I tried honest work; and I was a slave-driven until I cursed the day I ever heard of honest work. I was a good mother; and because I made my daughter a good woman she turns me out **as** if I was a leper. From this time forth, so help me Heaven in my last hour, I'll do wrong **and** nothing but wrong. And I'll prosper on it.

VIVIE. Yes; it's better to choose your line and go through with it. If I had been you, mother, I might have done as you did; but I should not have lived one life and believed in another. You are the

conventional woman at heart. That is why I'm bidding you goodbye now(246).

It is clearly seen that **Mrs** Warren could not bear her anger. She has *tried* to be a good mother, bringing up her daughter well, giving the best for her, but in the other hand, her daughter rejects her and proposes a separation. The writer also gets the idea that finally Vivie can understand her mother very well. It is clearly seen when she describes her mother as a conventional woman. Vivie find out **Mrs** Warren knows exactly that prostitution is as indecent job and it is not right to do *so* ;however, she still lives *on* it. Vivie notices for many years **Mrs** Warren could not escape **from** her conscience. Therefore, she justifies **it** by what she considers as good deeds as with good deeds such as giving scholarship to school, taking girls in her "houses" with care, and providing a comfortable life for her daughter. It is obvious that **Mrs** Warren always tries to be a good and 'respectable' woman. Vivie thinks **Mrs** Warren cannot stand her feet on two boats and it is better to choose one of them: to be a good woman by leaving the profession behind, or keep in doing the business without **any** regret. Vivie leaves the choice to **Mrs** Warren herself. **Mrs** Warren then chooses the later which makes Vivie sure to have the separation.

VIVIE. I am right, am I not?

Mrs WARREN [taken aback] Right to throw away all my money?

VIVIE. No: right to get **rid** of you? I should be a fool not to! Isn't that *so?*

MRS WARREN [*sulkily*] Oh well, yes, if you come to that, I suppose

you are. But Lord help the world if everybody took to doing the right thing! And now I'd better go than stay where I'm not wanted.

[She turns to the door] Good bye.

VIVIE. [*matter-of-factly*] Goodbye(247).

There is a bitter separation between **Mrs** Warren and her daughter. Mrs Warren is very dissatisfied since her daughter never appreciates what she has sacrificed for. Mrs Warren thinks her money she has provided for her daughter's upbringing, education is all useless. She loses the most valuable thing that is her own daughter.

From the analysis the writer wants to show **Mrs** Warren's reasons for **choosing** prostitution as her profession is strongly related with the social **condition** and the contrast life of Mrs Warren's sisters. The very limited choice of profession compels working class women to live in extreme poverty and to work in unimaginable bad working condition. After comparing the life between her half-sisters and **her** own sister, Liz, **Mrs** Warren decides to choose to be a prostitute as Liz does. Being a prostitute and then a manager of brothels enable Mrs Warren to gain wealth, social respect, and power. However, taking that indecent job make **Mrs Warren** bear the consequence **such** as living separately from her daughter, losing respect, affection, and rights as a mother. The worst is rejected **by** her own daughter.