

CHAPTER III

DANTES'S CHARACTER CHANGE BEFORE THE DENUNCIATION, AFTER THE DENUNCIATION, AND AFTER THE REVENGE

In this analysis, I am applying the theories of characterization and conflict, together with the key term of revenge. The theory of characterization is used to reveal Dantes's character traits before and after the denunciation, as well as his character traits after the retaliation. I also apply the theory of conflict that influences *Dantes's* character change.

3.1 Before the **Denunciation**

The central character of this novel, Edmond Dantes, is a fine young man who has a good heart and pleasant personality. He works as a sailor to support

his living and his father, the only family he has. Although Dantes is a thorough seaman and accustomed to contend with danger, he shows no rudeness or stiffness in interacting with others. Instead, he possesses good characteristics. He seems to have a promising future in which he is promoted to be a captain and soon marrying his betrothed named Mercedes. This good fortune is not detached from his fine character. Monsieur Morrel, the shipowner, trusts and likes Dantes so much that he nominates him to be the number one person in his ship. Moreover, Mercedes, a beautiful and kind-hearted girl who never lacks admirers, chooses Dantes to be her future husband since she believes in Dantes's good manner.

One of the clearly-seen character traits of Dantes is his calmness. Directly, Dumas writes that calmness is clearly shown in Dantes's appearance. "...his whole appearance bespoke that calmness and resolution peculiar to men accustomed from their cradle to contend with danger" (Dumas 3). Unlike any ordinary seamen's look, Dantes is calm, he is not emotional. He never shows roughness in what he says and does. In interacting with other people, Dantes shows his polite manner and smile. His melancholy smiles prove his calmness and pleasant personality. Smiles are always in his face.

"... added the young man (Dantes) with a melancholy smile, ..."

(4).

“... said Dantes, with a smile” (6).

“Dantes smiled’ (7).

“... answered Dantes, with a smile ...” (13).

Another crucial incident that points out Dantes’s calmness is at the time when he is arrested in the middle of his wedding feast. He does not rebel nor makes any efforts to escape. Instead, he stays calm as his reaction towards the order of his arrest. Dantes merely says, “ Make yourselves quite easy, my good fellows, there is some little mistake to clear **up** that’s all...” (33). Even during his examination, Dantes makes himself easy. In the midst of police agents who carefully watch him, Dantes stands calm and smiling. “ The antechamber was full **of** police agents and gendarmes, in the midst of whom, carefully watched, but calm and smiling, stood the prisoner” (47). He answers every question given by Villefort gently and politely. It is plainly seen that Dantes has a good self-control. Instead of defending himself excessively, Dantes handles everything well during the hard times of his arrest and examination in front of Villefort. This proves his nature of calmness.

Besides being calm, Dantes’s other conspicuous character trait is sincere. His sincerity is seen when Captain Leclere is dying. The captain asks Dantes to hand a packet for Marshall Bertrand at the Island of Elba (6). To fulfil **his** captain’s last instruction, Dantes undoubtedly stops at Elba, seeing Marshall

Bertrand and Napoleon as well. Dantes, who does this to carry on the captain's last wish, sincerely has no idea that it would bring him into trouble. At that time the ruling power in France is in the royalist's hands, whereas Napoleon as the former emperor is isolated at the Island of Elba. It means that anyone who takes side on the former ruler is considered a traitor and would be given a penalty. That is why conversing with the emperor is a dangerous thing to do. This can be detected in Monsieur Morrel's saying to Dantes, "...if it were known that you had conveyed a packet to the marshal, and had conversed with the emperor, it might bring you into trouble" (6). Dantes could be severely condemned if he were caught up seeing and talking with the emperor. Nevertheless, Dantes ignores this life-risk to fulfil his captain's last wish. This signifies Dantes's sincerity.

Another proof showing Dantes's sincerity is that he still considers Danglars and Fernand as his friends although they dislike him. Danglars's aversion to Dantes is shown in the way he talks about and interacts with Dantes. The hate that Danglars harbors for Dantes could be found out from his **look** at Dantes. "He darts at Dantes with a **look** gleaming with hate" (5). It is also said that Danglars is always obnoxious to Dantes (5). He even exerts to influence Monsieur Morrel to dislike Dantes. "...Danglars struggling with the demon of hatred, and endeavouring to insinuate in the ear of the shipowner

some evil suspicions against his comrade...” (9). Dantes senses Danglars’s antipathy to him; nevertheless, he still respects Danglars despite the fact that as shipmates Danglars is uncooperative for he envies Dantes for his successful career. It can be detected from the following quotation :

(Monsieur Morrel) : “ ... I shall remain and look over the accounts with Danglars. Have you been satisfied with him in this voyage? “

(Dantes) . “ That is according to the sense you attach to the question, sir. Do you mean he is a good comrade? No, for I think he never liked me since the day when I was silly enough, after a little quarrel we had, to propose to him **to** stop for ten minutes at the Island of Monte Cristo to settle the dispute – a proposition which I was wrong to suggest, and he quite right to refuse. **If** you mean as responsible agent when you ask me the question, I believe there is nothing to say against him, and that you will be content with the way in which he has performed his duty ”.

(Monsieur Morrel) : “ But tell me, Dantes, if you had command of the Pharaon should you be glad to see Danglars remain? ”

(Dantes) : “ Captain or mate, M. Morrel, I shall always have the greatest respect for those who possess the owners’ confidence” (8)

The quotation above points out Dantes's sincerity. When monsieur Morrel, the shipowner, asks him about how Danglars perform his duty, Dantes merely says that Danglars is a responsible agent. He does not fall Danglars down or make Danglars appear bad in front of the shipowner although it is his opportunity to kick Danglars away from the ship. He admits that as a supercargo Danglars does his job very well. Although Danglars detests him, Dantes still shows his respect to Danglars. This proves that Dantes is sincere.

Dantes also shows his sincerity to Fernand, his rival in winning Mercedes's love. Fernand, who desperately wants the love of Mercedes, despises Dantes very much since Mercedes prefers Dantes to him. He regards Dantes as his biggest enemy. He openly confesses his dislike towards Dantes to Danglars. "No, no," said Fernand, restraining him, "stay! It is very little consequence to me at the end of the matter whether you have any angry feeling or not against Dantes. I hate him! I confess it openly" (24). A wicked plan to murder Dantes even comes across his mind. He says about his thought to Danglars one day, "I would stab the man, but the woman told **me** that if any misfortune happened to her betrothed, she would **kill** herself" (22). Dantes does not hate Fernand back, instead, he regards him as his own brother. Politeness and warm friendship are still **shown** in Dantes's manner in conversing with Fernand. Dantes keeps showing his kindness and genuineness

to Fernand. This can be proven in the way Dantes welcomes Fernand, “ ‘Yes!’ said Dantes, and without relinquishing Mercedes’s hand clasped in one of his own, he extended the other hand to the Catalan (Fernand) with a cordial air. But Fernand, instead of responding to this amiable gesture, remained mute and trembling” (18). Dantes also shows his sincere heart since he regards Fernand as his own brother. He mentions it at the time he cordially invites Fernand to his wedding feast. “My wife’s brother is my brother”, said Edmond; “and we, Mercedes and I, should be very sorry if he (Fernand) were absent at such a time” (21). It can be obviously seen that Dantes does not regard Fernand as his rival **or** enemy even though Fernand hates him very much. On the other hand, Dantes always welcomes him cordially. He even regards Fernand **as** his own brother. This proves Dantes’s sincerity.

Dantes is also described as a hardworking person. He does not easily give up in his **work**. It could be clearly seen in monsieur Morrel’s utterance in which he compliments Dantes as a young yet experienced and thorough seaman. “...it seems to me that a sailor needs not to be *so* old as you say, Danglars, to understand his business, for our friend Edmond seems to understand it thoroughly, and not to require instruction from anyone” (5). He continues, “... he **is** young, it is true, but he seems **to** me a thorough seaman and of full experience” (5). Dumas reveals Dantes’s proficiency at the time

when the ship Pharaon just approaches the harbour of Marseilles. Dantes is described as a skilful and experienced sailor.

“ ... for she (the vessel) bore down with all the evidence of being skilfully handled, ... standing by the side of the pilot, who was steering the Pharaon towards the narrow entrance of the inner port, was a young man, who, with activity and vigilant eye, watched every motion of the ship, and repeated each direction of the pilot”

(3).

Dantes himself gives command and watches the anchoring **of** the vessel until everything is completely done (4-5). This shows that Dantes does his work thoroughly and carefully. Dantes's promotion to be the future captain in the age of nineteen is the proof of his hard work. He would probably not be elected to be the new captain unless he shows his integrity and credibility. It is also said that monsieur Morrel as the shipowner is satisfied since Dantes has managed his affair **very** well (7). Dantes works hard, has a strong determination, and does not easily give up in everything he does.

Besides calm, sincere, and hardworking, Dantes **is** also naive. **It** does not mean that he is stupid, but he is lack **of** wisdom. Dantes is proven to be naive by an event in which Villefort examines him. He is asked whether he has enemies whom he suspects to be the mastermind **of his** plight. Dantes naively

replies, “ ‘ I have enemies?’ ... my position is not sufficiently elevated for that...””. When Villefort presses him more by inquiring if Dantes might excite jealousy of someone, Dantes merely answers,

“ You are right; you know men better than I do, and what you say may possibly be the case, I confess; but if such persons are among my acquaintances I prefer not to know it, because then I should be forced to hate them" (49)

The quotation above indicates Dantes's naivety for he feels no one dislikes him. He does not notice that he has arisen envy of Danglars and Fernand due to his fortunate life. In addition, Dantes's naivety could also be plainly seen when he is imprisoned in Chateau d'If. Dantes is unable to comprehend the reason for his plight. This drives him confused and mad. Why he is imprisoned is still obscure for him. “ He clung to one idea – that of his happiness, destroyed, without apparent cause, by an unheard – of fatality ... “ (92). This passage detects that Dantes must have an innocent and tender heart for **not** accusing anyone to be the cause of his ruination. He suspects no one stands behind his incarceration. Dantes does not realize that behind all this is the men whom he regard as his own friends. His nineteen-year-old age tells that Dantes lacks **of** wisdom. **He is** ingenuous, showing innocent heart and childlike simplicity. He never thinks of prejudice nor pretence.

3.2 After the Denunciation

Accused as a Bonapartist agent by an anonymous letter written by Danglars and Fernand, Dantes is imprisoned for life. He, in an instance, loses all the hopes of his promising future without knowing who is responsible for his complete undoing. The misery that Dantes bears after he is denounced gives an impact on his character.

During his incarceration, Dantes begins to doubt the existence of God, whom he heartily worshiped before. His inability to comprehend his precarious condition leads him deeper into darkness and confusion. He undergoes an inner conflict in which he doubts his own faith in God. His faith says that God exists and always loves him. However, his misery tells that there is no God **who** could help him out of his suffering. Dantes passes through all the stages of torture natural to prisoners in suspense. He, at first, is sustained **by** the feeling **of** his innocence which brings him hope (91). However, he goes mad and becomes more certain that God does not exist. “Rage supplanted religious fervour. Dantes uttered blasphemies made his jailer recoil with horror, dashed himself furiously against the walls of his prison, wreaked his anger upon everything ...” (92). This passage proves that Dantes has gone mad and does not believe the existence of God.

Dantes's disbelief of God's existence could also be seen in his effort to commit suicide. The torture he gets in the prison makes him fragile and easily give up. Being totally in despair, Dantes begins to reflect on suicide. Dantes makes a firm determination to end his life.

“ Dantes said, ‘ I wish to die,’ and had chosen the manner of his death, and fearful of changing his mind, he had taken an oath to die” (93).

“ Two methods of selfdestruction were at his disposal. He could hang himself with his handkerchief to the window bars, or refuse food and die of starvation” (93).

Dantes feels so desperate that he makes a resolute oath to die. This signifies the character change in Dantes. Before he is denounced, he is a hardworking person who is determined and does not easily give up. Now, after misfortune comes to him, he becomes **so** weakened and fragile that **he** wants to commit suicide.

Nevertheless, Dantes's oath to commit suicide is later broken by the existence of another prisoner, Abbe Faria. The thought **of** escape and a **companion** rejuvenates Dantes. **He** acquires much **of** worldly knowledge from Abbe Faria. Furthermore, it is Abbe Faria who aids Dantes in deducing **who** is responsible for his incarceration. Vengeance is instilled **in him** after he **figures**

out the plotters of his devilish circumstance. Dantes undergoes an inner conflict in which he is encountered by the two options; whether to pay back his enemies or to let them go free. “ He cried out, and staggered against the wall like a drunken man; ... and said, ' I must be alone, to think over all this' ” (117). His good character traits prevent him of taking revenge. He is not used to quarrel with and hurt other people. However, thinking of his misery along this time, Dantes desperately desires to retaliate.

As mentioned by Garry C. Collins, vengeance emerges from hidden and unexpressed anger. One may want to avenge against someone because he has been beaten or his happiness has been taken away from him. The agony that Dantes has endured arises anger in his heart, thus triggers a feeling of terrible hatred and vengeance in his heart towards the men who are responsible for his misery. Dantes has changed from a man who was calm and sincere to a man who is revengeful. Dumas writes about Dantes's resolution to take revenge,

“During these hours of profound meditation, which to him had seemed only minutes, he had formed a fearful resolution and bound himself to its fulfilment by a solemn oath” (117).

“ No, I want to live; I shall struggle to the very last; I will yet win back the happiness **of** which I have been deprived. Before I die I must not forget that I have my executioners to punish ...” (140).

By this quotation, it can be detected that Dantes undergoes a character change. From a person who was kind-hearted, calm, and sincere to everyone, Dantes has turned out **to** be a revengeful man. Dantes is strongly determined to reprise and make his enemies suffer.

Now that Dantes has possessed an astonishing knowledge and intelligence, he changes to be a new man. Not only is he revengeful, but also cunning. His naivety is not shown anymore. He becomes **tricky** and ingenious. His cunningness is shown in the way he implements his revenge. **As** said by Campbell, to revenge is not an easy matter to execute; it requires careful planning and subtlety (153). Dantes elaborately plans his revenge. He changes disguises to smooth the implementation of his vengeance.

Dantes attacks Danglars through financial channel since now Danglars **has** become a baron and a banker. He plans to make Danglars bankrupt. He gives a false information in which he tells that there is a political chaos in Spain. **He** bribes the telegraph man to send the false news (497). **He** knows that Danglars saves his money there. **As** the result, Danglars sells all his Spanish bonds avoiding bankruptcy.

-- Because Don Carlos has fled from Bourges, and has returned to Spain ... The baroness did not wait for a repetition; she ran to her husband, who immediately hastened to his agent and ordered him to sell at any price. When it was seen that Danglars sold, the Spanish funds fell directly -- (498).

Danglars feels that he is fortunate having sold his bonds in Spain. Nevertheless, the news is later proven to be false. -- The king (Don Carlos) has not left Bourges, and the Peninsula is in the enjoyment of profound peace. **A** telegraphic signal, improperly interpreted, owing to the fog, was the cause of this error -- (498). This makes Danglars lose a million francs. -- The funds rose one per cent higher than before they had fallen. This, reckoning his loss, and what he had missed gaining, made the difference of a million to Danglars -- (498). Dantes is satisfied hearing about Danglars's loss. He creates such a trickery scheme to make Danglars bankrupt which shows his cunningness,

The next trap planned by Dantes to ruin Danglars also proves that he is cunning. By introducing Andrea Cavalcanti, an escaped convict, to Danglars, Dantes plans to humiliate Danglars publicly. He presents Cavalcanti as a young rich and noble man who seeks for a wife. -- ... but Cavalcanti is an original who does nothing like other people. I cannot help thinking that he has brought his son to France to choose a wife "(527). Dantes is certain that

Danglars will plan to marry his daughter with Cavalcanti in order to get much fortune.

Dantes : “But do you wish to marry Andrea, my dear M.

Danglars, that you are asking so many questions?”

Danglars : -- Ma **foi** ... it would not be a bad speculation, I fancy, and you know I am a speculator -- (529).

-- I prefer M. Andrea Cavalcanti to M. Albert de Morcerf -- (529).

Dantes arranges this to publicly humiliate Danglars. At the time of his betrothal with the Danglar’s daughter, Cavalcanti **is** arrested. Danglars just finds out that his future son-in-law is a murderer. This saddens his heart and makes him humiliated in Front of Parisian society.

“ ‘ But who then is Andrea Cavalcanti?’ asked Danglars in amazement. – ‘ A galley-slave, escaped from confinement at Toulon.’ – ‘ And what crime has he committed?’ – ‘ He is accused,’ said the commisary with his inflexible voice,’ of having assassinated the man named Caderousse, his former companion in prison ...’ ” (746).

Not only is Danglars disgraced publicly, but **he** also loses his **daughter** and wife. He feels that as a calamity for him. His wife and Eugenie, his only daughter, have left him because they cannot endure the insult happens to them

(785). Danglars now has to live by himself in the midst of his grief of being insulted and broke. Dantes succeeds to avenge one of his enemies because of the trickery scheme he has created.

Another proof of Dantes's cunningness is the way he avenges Fernand. Fernand, who has become a count and has attained considerable wealth, is destroyed through political channel. Dantes searches **for** Fernand's weakness by telling Danglars to write to his correspondent in Yanina in order to investigate Fernand's fault. -- Well, write to your correspondent in Yanina, and ask him what part was played by a Frenchman named Fernand Mondego in the catastrophe of Ali Tepelini -- (530). Finally it is discovered that Fernand obtains all he has got illegally. Dantes finds out that Fernand was in the service of and raised to the rank of governor-general by Ali Pasha of Yanina. However, he betrayed his benefactor by surrendering the castle of Yanina, killing Ali Pasha and selling the wife and daughter of Ali to the Turks. Fernand was given enormous wealth by the Sultan of Turkey and gained a prestigious position in France (669). Dantes disgraces him by revealing publicly the spot concealed by Fernand in which he murders Ali Pasha to achieve his position now.

Fernand is taken to the court to be judged. He is so frightfully pale being reminded of his sin in the past (679). At first he denies all the accusation, but

Dantes sends Haydee, Ali Pasha's daughter, to be the witness against Fernand in the trial. She proves that it is Fernand who commits the betrayal.

-- Well, I fortunately recognise you! You are Fernand Mondego, the French officer who led the troops of my noble father! It is you who surrendered the castle of Yanina! It is you who, sent by him to Constantinople, to treat with the emperor for life or death of your benefactor ..It is you who sold us, my mother and me ... -- (685).

Fernand trembled and is terrified hearing the admission of Haydee. He has no proof to defend himself.

-- Each word fell like a dagger on Morcerf, and deprived him of a portion of his energy; as she uttered the last, he hid his mutilated hand hastily in his bosom, and fell back on his seat, overwhelmed by wretchedness and despair -- (685).

As the result, Fernand is proven to be wrong and found guilty. He is convicted of felony, treason, and conduct unbecoming a member of the House (686). Fernand loses his career position and becomes a convict because of Dantes's cunningness.

Dantes's plot to get even with Villefort also points out his cunningness. He makes inquiries of Villefort's culpable deed to be used to ruin his political career, as well as his whole family. Dantes discovers a spot upon Villefort's

past life. From his servant named Bertuccio, Dantes knows that Villefort has committed a crime, that is burying his newborn baby alive (353). However, the bastard child is saved and later becomes a smuggler and a murderer. Dantes uses the child, who is known as Andrea Cavalcanti, to publicly ruin Villefort. He introduces Cavalcanti into the Parisian society although he knows that Cavalcanti is a smuggler (503). His plan goes well as Cavalcanti commits another crime, that is a murder. The culprit is brought to a trial, and the procurer is Villefort, his own father. At this trial Villefort is humiliated since Cavalcanti reveals to the public that he is Villefort's son.

(The president) : "Repeat your father's name".

(Cavalcanti) : "... I will tell it-he is named Villefort" (826).

Villefort cannot deny the confession of Cavalcanti. "... I acknowledge myself guilty of all the young man has brought against me..." (828). This revelation will cause him lose his position as the king attorney. Dantes's cunningness to take revenge on Villefort makes him disgraced publicly and loses his political career.

Besides cunning, Dantes is also proven to be merciless in dealing with his enemies. He shows no mercy in exacting his revenge. He wants his enemies suffer as what he has experienced. Dantes shows his merciless heart when he ruins his enemies' lives. Danglars's calamity in which he loses his family and

all his money, and is disgraced publicly does not bring enough satisfaction for Dantes. He wants Danglars to endure Danglars the pain of dying of starvation. To implement his plan, Dantes orders Luigi Vampa, a famous Roman bandit, **to** kidnap Danglars and make him suffer. Danglars is not given any food, but he has to buy it with high price. Thus, he loses all his money in a couple of days. He really suffers from starvation and is dying of hunger. “On the fourth, he was no longer man, but a living corpse.” (865). Danglars’s misery does not satisfy Dantes. It is Danglar’s death wanted by Dantes. This is a proof of Dantes’s mercilessness,

Furthermore, his devoid of pity is pointed out when he deals with Fernand’s family. He intends to kill Albert. Fernand’s son, who is unguilty. He believes that Albert must also be vanished if he plans to retaliate Fernand. He utters that he will make Albert suffer, and mentions his intent to kill Albert **(696)**. Prevented by Mercedes to kill Albert, Dantes challenges Fernand to duel with him. However, Fernand commits suicide because he is left alone by his son and wife. “. . . he uttered the most dreadful sob which ever escaped from the bosom of a father abandoned at the same time by his wife and son” (720). Dantes lets Fernand shoot himself to die, and this proves that Dantes does not have mercy in reprising his enemies

Besides, another proof that detects Dantes's pitilessness is when he plans to vanish Villefort's family. Dantes intends to kill not only Villefort, but also his family. Dantes knows that Villefort's wife is greedy and will banish anyone who has the right of the inheritance so that her son, Edward, will receive it. Thus, Dantes teaches Madame de Villefort to make poison. (424). He is certain that the poison will be used by her to destroy Villefort's family. Finally, Madame de Villefort commits suicide after she poisons her son, Edward, to die with her. "Madame de Villefort **was** dead...the child was dead' (832). Villefort, who cannot bear this grief, goes mad (834). Dantes is signified to be merciless by letting the death of the innocent one, Edward.

3.3 After the Revenge

There is character change shown in Edmond Dantes before and after he is wrongfully denounced by his enemies. Dantes who used to be calm, sincere, hardworking, and **naïve** has turned to be a man who is doubtful of God's **existence** easily gives up, revengeful, cunning, and merciless. The misery and anger instilled in his heart make him a different person. However, Dantes's character changes again after he takes revenge. The retaliation he does influences his character traits.

Carrying out his carefully wrought vengeance, Dantes successfully reprises his enemies. Dantes is supposed to be satisfied for his victorious

revenge. However, his retaliation leaves him empty rather than fulfilled. “And the terrible toll he takes of those who wronged him leaves him empty rather than fulfilled’ (Dumas introduction). The retaliation burdens him rather than satisfies him. It is clearly seen in his utterance,

“This burden, almost as heavy as a world, which I had raised, and I had thought to bear to the end, was too great for my strength...”

(703)

“Vengeance may be a meal best eaten cold, but cold meats do not satisfy him” (Dumas introduction).

Dantes is supposed to be contented with his successful revenge, however, he feels burdened and empty. Dantes’s dissatisfaction of his revenge urges him to think over his deed, whether it is right or not.

The summit of Dantes’s disillusionment of his avenge is the death of Edward, Villefort’s son. It makes him rethink about his oath to take revenge. He feels he has done too far in taking revenge. “Monte Cristo became pale at this horrible sight; he felt that he has passed beyond the bounds of vengeance,..With an expression of indescribable anguish he threw himself upon the body of the child, ...- (833). Looking at the dead body of Edward, Dantes feels sad and his heart is softened.

Dantes seems to be wiser after the revenge he has taken. His wisdom is shown by his realization that he does not have the right to avenge. Edward's death instills a sense of guilt in Dantes. He feels that his deed is unjustifiable since he causes the death of the innocent one. He realizes that what he has done is wrong.

“Since the death of little Edward a great change had taken place in Monte Cristo. Having reached the summit of his vengeance by a long and tortuous path, he saw an abyss of doubt yawning before him ... He thought he must have made an error in his calculations if he now found cause to blame himself” (844).

-- ‘I cannot have deceived myself,’ he said; ‘I must **look** upon the past in a false light. What!’ he continued, ‘can I have been following a false path? – can the end which I proposed be a mistakend end ? ..The reason why why I am now dissatisfied is **that** I have not a clear appreciation of the past ’” (844).

The above passage points out that Dantes has become wiser. He used to be controlled by his anger in what he does, but now he is more sensible and precautious in what **he** does.

Moreover, after the revenge Dantes becomes merciful. His heart is softened and his anger does not control him anymore. It is detected by his

deed towards Danglars. Dantes forgives Danglars by not killing him. He lets Danglars live. "...your life is safe; the same good fortune has not happened to your accomplices... And now eat and drink: I **will** entertain you tonight. Vampa, when this man is satisfied, let him be free" (866). Dantes realizes that it is not his right to end Danglars's life. He merely makes Danglars regret and repent from his faults. This indicates that Dantes already forgives him by sparing his life and shows his merciful heart

Besides wise and merciful, Dantes also becomes humble after the retaliation. It is only God, he believes, has the right to punish man. This can be seen in his letter to Maximilian. He admits himself "a man, who like Satan thought himself for an instant equal to God, but who now acknowledges with Christian humility that God alone possesses supreme power and infinite wisdom" (875). He realizes that although he has power, proficiencies, and wealth, he is not justified to reprise his enemies. He eventually believes that the right to punish man is in God's hands. His admission that he is nothing, but God has the supreme power, signifies his humility.