

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

A Radical Introduction

Frankenstein is not merely a story about how upper-class customs and European religious beliefs and secular education produce monstrous men like Frankenstein and are therefore responsible for creating their monstrous creations. Neither is *Frankenstein* a story about the 'possible' dangers of science and technology. *Frankenstein* represents an absolute condemnation of science and of what it accurately portrays as the unsustainable, suicidal and psychopathic nature of European civilization – and civilization generally.

Dr. Frankenstein is not merely an eccentric man, he represents the cold, deluded, dangerous kind of man who has lost all connection to Nature and Life and knows only how to promote Death. Dr. Frankenstein represents every man and woman who believes in modern science, and by modern science I mean science devoted to promoting profits instead of life, actually death instead of life. As the evidence reveals, modern science is determined to produce a treeless, lifeless world of commodities, infrastructure, machines, robots, and both domesticated and laboratory-altered lifeforms that – like Frankenstein's monster, *will* harm humanity.

Radical Topics

0. Discuss how, like his creator, Frankenstein views the world and all living things as objects to be possessed and never released ... not through death, especially.
1. Discuss the conflict between Nature and technology or science.
2. Discuss evidence that Frankenstein's life was very unhealthy and that his behavior conflicts with Nature, the creative forces of Nature especially, and that his interest in the supernatural and science only leads to misery and destruction. Considering discussing his home life, his friendships, his marriage and his work.
3. Discuss the influence of books on Frankenstein and Clerval.



5. Discuss the influence of religion on Frankenstein. He frequently mentions God, he imagines a Heaven on Earth on the North Pole, and you might find parallels between him and both the Bible's God and Jesus.

6. Discuss the role of class in *Frankenstein*. How are poor and rich people portrayed?

7. Explore the possibility that the narrator lives in a world of lies – about his childhood, his parents, his wife, and his hopes and beliefs.

100. Choose passages and analyze them. Almost any passage should inspire some analysis.

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