

Pride and Prejudice

Marriage plays an important part in this book. "It is a truth well known to all the world that an unmarried man in possession of a large fortune must be in need of a wife," and vice versa. Women, no matter what kind of position she has in society, need a husband. However, the ultimate purpose of seeking a husband differs from individual to individual. Some are dedicated to searching for true love, while some just want to find a haven of life.

Take some characters in the book for example. Obviously, Mrs. Bennet is a typical woman that thinks of marriage, to some degree, as deals. She is always concerned about her daughters' marriage. Some may say that is due to her love of her daughters. I agree, but in my opinion, I think most of her motivation comes from the benefit brought to their whole family through the marriage. We can tell this from her attitude toward Mr. Collins and Mr. Darcy. At first, her attitude toward both of the gentlemen is rude, for she considers Mr. Darcy proud and thinks Mr. Collins a bad guy to snatch Mr. Bennet's fortune. Nevertheless, after knowing Mr. Collins' intension to marry one of her daughters, her attitude suddenly changes. She even forces Elizabeth to marry him. As for Mr. Darcy, when she learns that Elizabeth is going to marry such a wealthy man, in her heart, Mr. Darcy is no longer proud; instead, he becomes an adorable and agreeable young man. Mrs. Bennet's marriage is also a deal, which makes Mr. Bennet regretful all his life.

Charlotte is another woman that marries for the sense of security, even though she doesn't love her husband. She turns out to be the one who gets married to Mr. Collins. Some may consider her tricky, but to me, she is only practical. She makes the decision on account of careful consideration. When Elizabeth visits the couple, to her surprise, she finds out that Charlotte seems happy and cheerful with such a companion. She also observes the secret to Charlotte's happiness is to ignore Mr. Collins' shameless speeches and to praise him as much as possible. Though Charlotte makes a decision that most of sensible people would not approve of, still I think her strategy in dealing with her marriage is wise.

In contrast to the two people mentioned above, Elizabeth will not marry only if she really finds her Mr. Right. If there were none, she would rather remain single all her life. Fortunately, Mr. Darcy loves her deeply enough to conquer all the obstacles, and eventually, they become a loving couple. Though it takes them quite a long time to figure it out, I believe it is worthwhile.

As for my own value of marriage, I think marriage will not exist without love. A harmonious marriage should build on love, trust, and tolerance. So, like Elizabeth, I will not marry without finding my true love. However, whether people get married for whatever reasons, there is no right or wrong. Cherishing your partner and keeping all the promises you have ever made to your companion is the only thing to do!