

Chapter-4

The Journey of an Artist

James Augustine Aloysius Joyce, born in Dublin, was an Irish writer who was popularly engaged in short stories, novels, and poetry. *Ulysses* and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* were among the few works that gained enormous popularity. *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* is a novel that does not follow the pattern of a conventional plot. It is an intense moment by moment description of the life of the protagonist, Stephen Dedalus. He is said to be the fictional recreation of James Joyce himself, and so, the novel can be termed to have autobiographical elements. Holding the angle of a third-person narration, the novel develops through a first-person perspective corresponding to the protagonist's character.

Highlighting the characteristics of Stephen Dedalus is a difficult task as the information has to be derived from his personal experiences and perceptions. The entire novel is an elaborate context of his character and how it develops from a child who is shy and timid to a strong and independent adult. The most comprehensive facts are that Stephen is an Irish, Catholic, imaginative, and an extremely artistic young kid. Though timid, he also tends to gravitate towards being self-centered personality at times. The imaginative aspect of his life stands exemplary of his grandeur. The developmental stages of Stephen's character from a shy young kid to a self-dependent and mature adult are presented with some alarming mental confrontations with his past and the present. Often struggling with his expressions, Stephen found his expressive liberation whenever he turned to writing. The characteristic attributes of Stephen hold consistent evolution throughout the novel.

For example, the artist in him took the lead in his early adulthood. The developmental stages of his character can be classified under three life stages.

His Familial Life

When we think of Stephen as a child, we think of his confrontations with Aunt Dante, his fancies of Eileen Vance, discussions revolving around Irish politics that did not make much sense to him, and the fragmented memories of a little boy. It is during this period of time that the artistic ability of Stephen is witnessed.

His Life at School

During his studies, Stephen moved to a new school, from Clongowes to Belvedere, following the financial crisis of his family. Being the eldest among his siblings, he was encouraged the most in his studies. His early school days were mostly spent in being homesick, getting bullied at school, and being lost in his thoughts in the classes. He could never get his head around what was happening in life and was more concerned with his own thought processes instead. During his adolescent years, he began to grow adrift and isolated himself from his father, Simon Dedalus. He developed a consistent embarrassment following his father's incompetence to maintain their financial status. Stephen found himself stuck in a phase of his life, where almost everything would manage to arouse his emotions. Unfortunately, the protagonist often experienced emotions in extremes and failed to exercise adequate control over them. This part of his life proved to be the stepping stone in shaping his character anew. The sinner trying to atone for his actions made Stephen realize that he has been caged in Dedalus, a Greek mythological creature, which ought to be free.

His Life at the University

Going to the university was a hopeless journey for Stephen, primarily because he felt it had nothing worthy to offer. By that time, Stephen had developed his very own ideas of aesthetics and art and wanted to push further down the road by earning a name for him. The friends that he made had their own ideas about life. While Stephen's social behavior was not very welcomed by all, he was unperturbed by it. The university was the first place where the protagonist was shown to be asking for help in the form of an advice. It was here that he finally mustered up enough mental strength to decide that his future lies not within his country or religion, but outside the land that binds him.

All the three stages have different people or companions that directly or indirectly affected his personality and helped him mold into Stephen Dedalus. He transforms into a boy who ultimately makes the decision of leaving behind his family, country, and religion and realizes that his hopes to become an artist were far-fetched pertaining to the constraints he felt. His emotions and actions always swayed between extremes. He quickly shifted from being too grand or too dull.

In the early part of the novel, the readers are given a peek into the toddler environment from the perspective of a little boy, Stephen. He remembers his parents, his uncle Charles, Aunt Dante, wetting of the bed, oil sheet and its smell, the stories of his parents, neighbors and especially, a little girl named Eileen Vance, who he fancies and announces that he would marry her when they're grown-ups. This little announcement brings him a good beating from Aunt Dante, who dislikes the girl simply because she is a Protestant. This little scenario infuriates Aunt Dante and she blurts out some words that are rather fearful for the little Stephen: "O, if not, the

eagles will come and pull out his eyes” (12). In response, Stephen uses these words to create a creepy rhyme:

Pull out his eyes,
 Apologise,
 Apologise,
 Pull out his eyes.
 Apologise,
 Pull out his eyes,
 Pull out his eyes,
 Apologise. (12)

This weird rhyme sheds a little light over his poetic self. Stephen appears to be a shy, meek, and scared little boy. Whenever he is faced with Eileen, his lack of confidence takes over and renders him speechless. As a little boy, he once tried his hand at poetry for Eileen, but was hopeless. There is not much that is told about the childhood spectrum of Stephen’s life. His real journey in the book accelerates directly from the time that he spent in the boarding school.

His journey through the school life is especially a long one. At Clongowes, he exposed his grandeur of escapism as he looms into his own world of thoughts. As compared to other students of his class, he was small and weak, had poor vision, and felt terribly homesick. When lonely, he found solace in his thoughts about home and gained strength from his evening prayers. When Stephen started his journey at Clongowes, a Catholic boarding school, he ended up in the school’s infirmary within days. The incident followed when a bully named Wells pushed Stephen into a cesspool which made him dirty and wet from head to toe. The repercussion of this incident was so bad that he developed a high temperature and took to medical aid at

the infirmary. There, the company of a boy named Athy and Brother Michael made Stephen forget the pangs of homesickness. At the infirmary, the readers catch a glimpse of Stephen's child-like thoughts and imaginations where he even entertains a thought of how sad everyone would be if he died. He even imagined a sad and beautiful funeral for himself and even had a weird dream of Charles Parnell's, who was a leader of the Irish Nationalist Movement in the 1900s. His father once told him to mix up well with his new friends and to never rat on anybody, no matter what. Even after being bullied, he kept quiet showing his strong sense of dedication towards his father's advice. Stephen always exercised little or no concentration in his actions. No matter what the place, time, or situation he might be in, his mind was always wavering. While other kids were busy playing Soccer, his mind was in a land of its own. Even if something managed to grab his attention, he would just wander off thinking something about it.

At one occasion, in a Mathematics class where Father Arnall had two teams competing in speed arithmetic, he lost his focus and started to think over the concept of colors and cosmos, trying to picture himself within the enormous cosmos. Even a world map was enough for him to glide through his thoughts of how insignificant he was in comparison to anything and everything, especially God.

The scene finally shifts from his school to the time when Stephen finally returned home for Christmas. It was the first time that he had the privilege to share the dinner table with his family. Though he was excited, the heated debate between aunt Dante, his father and Uncle Charles in regards to the church's role concerning political matters left him in a confused state since he couldn't comprehend anything. It was the third time Stephen stumbled upon the name of Charles Parnell. Not much

was known except the fact that Parnell was an Irish nationalist hero. The debate did not see a decent ending and his excitement was ruffled in the chaos of that night.

Post his return to school, the absent-minded behavior of the protagonist lingers on. He was seldom present in the gossiping group of his friends. Athy, one of his classmates, gives a theory that some boys were caught practicing some homosexual acts and were punished. Stephen skipped the subject at hand and remembered Eileen, her blonde hair, and white hands. He links them to the two phrases Catholics use to describe the Virgin Mary, “tower of ivory” and “house of gold” (33). During the lesson on writing, he ponders how his teacher never yells, screams, or hits the students and that he broke his glasses and did not have a clear vision. Finally, during a Latin class, when Father Dolan entered the class while Father Arnall was teaching the kids and punishing them for the mistakes, Dolan finds Stephen sitting idle and not writing anything. He was not ready to take an excuse and decided to punish him by hitting him with a pandybat. Because of this unjust treatment, Stephen feels hurt and insulted. The motivation of his peers encourages him into deciding to talk to the rector explaining his side of happening. This action of Stephen turned into a little triumphant spectacle. He was now celebrated as the playground hero by his friends.

Stephen came home to spend some quality time with his family members during the summer break. Constant deteriorating financial conditions of the Dedalus family backed up as the reason for shifting to a new house in a different place called Blackrock. Stephen, having matured a bit, now had a sense of understanding, an instantaneous urge to question things, and deciphering them. The new adolescent age Stephen had stepped into shoved him into turmoil of newly found feelings and emotions.

His vacation days were mostly spent with his grand-uncle, Charles. He spent every morning taking a walk from the marketplace to the park where he was introduced to Mr. Simon Dedalus' friend, Mike Flynn. According to Simon, Flynn was a coach to many notable athletes at that time, but Stephen found it hard to digest judging by Mike Flynn's flabby stubble covered appearance. Simon's motive behind introducing Stephen to Flynn was to make a notable athlete out of him. After calling it a day to his practice session, Charles and Stephen stop at a church where Charles prays fervently. This concept of praying seems difficult for Stephen to grasp.

During the weekends, Stephen accompanies his father and grand-uncle for walks. Surrounded by their conversation about Irish politics and old family stories, he finds himself bored and finds interest in a French novel, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, by Alexander Dumas. Stephen is enchanted by the tall, dark, and mysterious hero who is in love with a woman named Mercedes. He wishes to find a girl just like her for himself, someday. The novel sets the foundation for Stephen's daydreams. Along with his friend, Aubrey Mills, he plays adventurous games fighting imaginary battles and living a life of the character itself. Stephen feels as though he is in a different league from the other boys of his age.

The ever decaying financial state of Mr. Simon Dedalus forces the family to reach a new low. The Dedalus family moved to Dublin. Stephen turned bitter and felt embarrassed at his father's financial failure, which marked the beginning of a feeling of resentment that he acquired, much intensely, towards his father. Stephen experienced more freedom when his father got engaged in trying to fend for the family. Using this newly found freedom, he started to visit his aunt Dante and another elderly relative, but it all went in vain as his conversations with aunt Dante usually led to misunderstandings.

He spent most of his time alone, not wanting to be surrounded by people. One day, he attended a children's party and, predictably so, felt separated as he was unable to mingle with other children. At the party, he was attracted towards a girl named Emma Clery, who later accompanied him into the tram. He had arousing thoughts about her and so he also awkwardly flirted with her because she reminded him of Eileen. He wondered if he should grab her and kiss her, but giving in to the shy nature, he held back. To compensate, he decided to write her a poem. However, his wavering mind could not focus and he turned to write down the names of all his former classmates. Fortunately enough, the list cleared off his mind and he continued with the poem and managed to finish it. He wrote a poem titled "To E-C-" in a Byronesque language dedicated to Emma Clery. The poem turned out to be provocative and only enraged his inquisitive desire for physical love. Stephen began to invest in poetry as an art of escaping the unhappy feelings of his life.

The financial difficulties of the Dedalus family forced Stephen to move from Clongowes to a different school in Dublin, called Belvedere. This new school witnessed Stephen's talent that never made an appearance in Clongowes. Stephen, as we see, turns out to be a remarkable writer and brilliant actor at the school plays and his brilliance at writing also attracted admiration. However, somewhere along the line, his work went a little too far for the strict Catholic teacher, Mr. Tate. His intellect gets him accused of heresy, for which he later apologizes. The time spent in Belvedere made him a strong adolescent. Following the incident in which his essay was criticized by Mr. Tate, he was confronted by three classmates who decided to hit him until he conforms to their idea of regarding Tennyson as a better poet than Byron. Progressively, Stephen developed a spine to confront his immediate problems than just quietly accepting the unjust behavior of his peers.

By this time, Stephen had grown smart enough to understand some shortcomings of his father and also couldn't bear his sense of nostalgia. On the train to Cork, where Simon was hoping to auction his remainder of the property, Stephen witnesses his father drinking and looming over the memories of past. After reaching Cork, they visit Queen's College where Simon tended to his medical studies. While they roam in the anatomy theatre looking for Mr. Simon's desk, Stephen notices the word 'foetus' scribbled on one particular desk. This word awakens the anguish in Stephen's head as he concludes that he is not the only one with all these dark fantasies inside his head. Still looming over his past memories, Mr. Simon decides to render forth some advice on life. He tells Stephen how he should always socialize with gentlemen, but it makes Stephen angry and unsympathetic towards his melodramatic father. He begins to feel a sense of detachment from his father after being unable to identify with his unnecessary nostalgia. Stephen is embarrassed with his father's crumbling personality and wishes to make his own personality and be something entirely different from Simon Dedalus.

His acting skills displayed at the school plays were admired, but his long-lasting habit of wandering off in his imagination yet lingered. At this age, he acts just like any other teenager. He gets angry easily and his interest in the opposite sex is at its peak. At the school, Stephen had an amazing talent for writing and was putting it to some good use by winning prizes. The prize money of thirty-three pounds that he received for his essays was spent on his family. But soon after bearing the over-expense, he feels discontented and finds his mind flowing back to the adventurous memories of *The Count of Monte Cristo*. He feels alienated and dissociates from his family. He would often escape from the house for evening walks towards center Dublin, the brothel district. There, he encountered a prostitute who seduced him and

he “surrenders himself to her, body and mind” (80-81). This action turns out to be one of the significant turning points of his life.

After his first sexual encounter or as Joyce says “his first violent sin,” he became more regular with his visits to prostitutes. His studies took a back seat and even while studying, he would think of his actions. Once, while solving a mathematical equation, he was reminded of the fact that his sinful actions have distanced him from God. His religious sanctum is broken and he finds it hard to pray. He feels like a less pleasant person with the loss of self-control. It was, as though, the violation of one rule has painted him with all the ‘seven deadly sins.’ He felt contemptuous towards almost everything and everybody. He would scorn churchgoers for their hypocrisy but was, somehow, unaware of his own hypocrisy. Though separated from the church community, he was still fascinated by the Latin rituals and believed in Virgin Mary. His fascination was, however, paralleled by the question of the subsequent presence of religious awe and sexual desires in one’s mind. This dubious state of mind tears him apart between his religious touch and his sexual desires, for the two opposing personalities cannot co-exist.

Further, he began to feel immense pleasure in the idea of damnation and the consequences he would face for committing a sin. He ponders over such complex religious matters whenever he found himself in idleness. More so, during his class, he would always baffle the Rector with questions pertaining to complex religious notions. In December, when the Rector arrived in the classroom, he announced that the school will be holding a three-day retreat in the honor of St. Francis Xavier, who was the patron saint of the college, and that Father Arnall will be delivering sermons on all the three days. This is the phase that rocked Stephen to his core. Fear of the punishment for actions that he committed brought a change in him within a few days.

The sermons that Father Arnall delivered during the retreat caught Stephen's utmost attention. Every day, Father Arnall spoke at length about the various methods of torment in hell and the just punishments meted out by God.

The First Day: Inevitability of Judgment

The presence of Father Arnall proved to be a challenging slot for Stephen as Father Arnall, being the Rector of his previous school, reminded him much of his childhood. Father Arnall commenced with the appraisal of the boys who decided to follow St. Francis Xavier's footsteps and then swayed the course of his words to the God and said that God gave many opportunities for confession and repentance for the sins committed while there is still chance. He would waver between "God, the Merciful" and "God, the Just." The sermons felt as if they were specifically for Stephen. While walking home with the classmates in the evening, Stephen mulls over the thought of him committing the sin of flesh with numerous prostitutes. He thinks of the meal he ate and hallucinates that it had turned him into a greasy creature. All the dirty plates gross him out. His sins seemed too dark and he was scared to confess to God who looked fearsome, while Virgin Mary seemed too pure. Here, his mind takes him to the memory of Emma, who seemed approachable. Further, he felt Virgin Mary reaching down to him to render a helping hand. His sensitive and imaginative nature, though subdued for some time, resurfaced under the fear of damnation.

Second Day: Physical Torments of Hell

On the second day of the retreat, the sermon began with the fearsome words: "Hell has enlarged its soul and opened its mouth without any limits" (94). Father Arnall gives horrific details and talks about the physical torments of hell. It is the

second time that Stephen prospects death. He creates a picture of dead bodies crawling with worms and rats.

Even in grave fear, Stephen's ability to create vivid images based on Father Arnall's words seems remarkable. He drifts on to picture his reasons for damnation. He randomly thought about his feelings towards Emma, a packet of pictures that he hid in the chimney, and the foul letters he left out in public. These past actions of Stephen mortified him and he perceived that he would be doomed for eternity. The enthralling description of hell and the physical and psychological tortures, that a sinner shall face, engulfs Stephen. His deepest fears were, now, almost at an arm's distance. He could feel the crowded hell, the dark atmosphere, foul smell, horrid screams of pain, and the raging inferno as the Father's words formed lucid images inside Stephen's mind. The sermons prove to be the tools that enable the readers to take a peek into the fearful soul of Stephen. The characteristic metamorphosis Stephen goes through after the sermon is notable. The introspecting protagonist is still to be nudged. As Father Arnall continues with the sermon on the second day, he speaks of the physical and psychological tortures, and it made Stephen depart with a shaking fit as if he had been touched by a ghostlike entity. He leaves the chapel horrified and feels guilty to confess all his sins to God. He apologizes for his inability to confess inside the college chapel as his shame was too grand to handle.

Third Day: Hell's Tortures and the Separation from God

The third day, taking a break from the sermon, the students attended their English class. After the class, some students went to the chapel for a confession, but Stephen could not muster up enough strength to confess his sins to the priest. In his sermon, on the third day, Father Arnall talks about the spiritual tortures a sinner faces.

He categorized it under four categories. Firstly, the pain of loss after being separated from the God, secondly, the pain of conscience, thirdly, the pain of extension which states that the reward for every sin will be paid in full, and lastly, the pain of intensity. In the end, Father Arnall shows the only light of hope for attaining salvation, and that is to ask for forgiveness from the Almighty. The lucid hell still lingered around him as he tried to pray. The same night, he tried to sleep but the impossibly horrid images that he had built in his front had taken a toll on him. He rushed out of his room and wandered the streets of Dublin. Finally, he found a church where he could confess to all his crimes in anonymity. After he did confess his sins, he felt as if the world around him was less fearful and he decided to live a life of piety. His perception of everything, be it food, or flowers changed and he wore a humble and beautiful robe. This is in contrast to the beginning where he was disgusted by the dirty dinner plates. The three days of pure horror for the protagonist changed him. The horrors of hell that Stephen experienced in his dreams, everything being a lucid figment of his imagination, changed him from what he considered to be a sinner to a man trying to make amends for his past notoriety. In the wake of fear of hell and the awaiting horrors after the life, Stephen enrolled himself in self-imposed tortures, seeking atonement. After the transformation from the sinner to the monk, Stephen devoted every minute of day-to-day life to the God and prayers. The amount of dedication Stephen puts is exactly opposite to what he had done before. He was a boy, whose mind was never in its place and always wandered here and there, but now, he worships three times a day every day, and carries a rosary with him all day long. He started to accept all the virtues of Christianity without questioning, something that was nearly impossible, given his previous state of mind. He is now trying to live a life that may prevent him from committing sins and help him to atone for the ones that he

had already committed in the past. He dejected his body and mind from all that may distract him from the prayer and his life of piousness. He was simply trying to deny himself any of the sensory pleasures.

He tried to tame his senses. He looked down as he walked through the roads of Dublin, avoided glances at women, observed all the holy fasts by avoiding the pleasure of food, kneeling down at the church during prayers, but something that he could not do was hold his temper when someone would disturb him during his prayers. He was unable to understand why he wasn't perfect yet. He sometimes felt the urge to go back to his previous self. He felt no behavioral changes and was not much compassionate towards his family or friends, and even began to question the religious virtues.

Stephen displayed tremendous willpower and dedication in order to tame his senses. Impressed with Stephen's religious dedication, the Rector invites him to a meeting at his office to discuss the possibilities of his vocation and proposes Stephen with the opportunity to engage in the priesthood. Stephen confesses to the Rector that he had once considered becoming a priest. Soon, the idea of living the life of a priest did not appeal to him. He realized that the emotions he had acquired throughout his life would rather fail him as a priest. He apprehended that the monotonous lifestyle is not what he wished to transpire. Stephen's desires of independence and freedom came forth to be overwhelming and he decided to walk past it. His troubled thoughts followed him throughout, and as he reached home, he heard the tiresome news that the Dedalus family shall move again to a new place as the financial crunch strikes again. He spends some time with his family and comes to cognizance that he simply wants to be free from the constraints of a family, the hopelessness, and poverty.

Stephen deemed that there lies an optimistic future for him, somewhere, if he joins a university for higher studies.

Hoping for an opportunity of getting an admission, Stephen waited for his father and tutor to come out of the university. He grew impatient and left for a walk, and neared a beach where he encountered his school friends. They invited him to swim in the water with them, but he was conscious of his half-grown body and declined the offer. They announced his arrival with the following words: "Here comes the *Dedalus!*" (62). He decided that he would live up to his name and become 'the great artificer,' and soar above the religious and cultural restraints to live his life as an artist that he was meant to be. When he walked further, he faced a girl of his age, whose beauty entangled him and a profane sense of joy overtook him. He saw her as a piece of art and realized that he should live his life to the fullest regardless of the errors.

Here, he accepted his own nature, and the offer of becoming a priest seemed like a leash to hold him back, and he recalled the story of a mythical character, *Dedalus*, who fashioned a pair of wings for himself to fly off the island that had kept him a prisoner. Stephen felt that he must also fly off the land that he is attached to, in order to achieve his life's calling, of which he is not yet aware.

While Stephen was studying in the university, his mother feared that he would change. She was, in fact, correct in thinking that Stephen's behavior would change. Stephen had grown tired of the monotony around his life. He was no longer the model scholar, and he was even unperturbed when his father addressed him as a "lazy bitch of a brother" (138). Frustrated and angered, Stephen leaves the house and starts walking through the rainy Dublin morning. As he grows older, it is noticed that Stephen's thoughts mature and are now more concentrated towards aesthetics and art

inspired by Aristotle and Aquinas. He felt that a university is a place that offers knowledge not more than what he already has. He had attained maturity, but was unable to concentrate as his mind still wandered off. He lived in his own world of questions and ideas, but this time, he thought in a more profound way. He kept himself occupied with the concept of words, their Latin derivatives, and how to use them in order to create a beautiful piece of poem. His ultimate goal with accord to the words was to “create his own aesthetic philosophy.”

His philosophy of aesthetics, just like his personality and character, was still in its developmental or formative stage. He gradually shed his attributes and characteristics of the younger self, and his professors and friends brought about a new, shining artist in his persona. The university had nothing to offer him, and the lectures did not interest him. During the lectures, his mind would wander off. He would even be termed anti-social and anti-democratic. He shared his theory of aesthetics, unlike others who indulged in discussions of politics and nationalism. Stephen’s poetic senses elevated to an all-time high. The theory of aesthetics that Stephen gave was greatly influenced by Aristotle’s *Poetics* and the works of Thomas Aquinas.

Genuinely concerned about Stephen’s growing isolation, his classmate named Davin tried to talk him into the Irish patriotism, but he scoffed the idea saying that Irish people had a tendency to betray their heroes or leave them for another, remembering the sad happening with Parnell, who was betrayed by the church of his own country. Though Davin said that Stephen was a true Irishman, there was no hard line patriotism in Stephen, as shown in the novel. Stephen projects his growing will to break free of the land that he thought confined him. He developed a strong independent aura for himself, and a classmate Temple idolized him for this.

He turned his inclination towards sharing his ideas with others. He would always find a friend who would oblige to his theory of aesthetics. Stephen had a friend named Lynch, who was more like a disciple than friend, and with whom he shared his theory of aesthetics, explaining him the meaning of “pity” and “terror” that even Aristotle left undefined. Stephen had become more open and confident as compared to what he was in his adolescent years. He, now, expressed his thoughts and ideas more openly and explained his theory of aesthetics to his friend Lynch in a step-by-step formulation. His lengthy explanation was interrupted when he saw Emma Clery in the university. As he is faced with her, the thought of poetry and beauty flows through his mind and he again tried to write a poem for her. He wrote a villanelle in her honor, the six stanzas of which had a multi-dimensional image of her. She was his intention of worship as well as the temptress of his desire.

Back at the college library, Stephen spent his time gazing at the birds that seem to be calling him to fly with them and leave behind the prison land. In the college, he appeared to be one of the most popular personas unlike his school days. Outside the library, while Stephen, Temple, and Cranly were indulging in an argument, Stephen saw Emma leaving the library and greeting Cranly and ignoring him. It made him feel utterly jealous.

As life didn't offer anything interesting to Stephen, he felt dejected with his family and had second thoughts about participating in the Easter rituals, since he didn't identify as a Catholic anymore. Stephen told Cranly about the unpleasant conversation he had with his mother in the morning. He told Cranly that his mother wanted him to take part in the Easter rituals, but he did not feel attached to his religion. He asked Cranly for an advice, who suggested that Stephen should agree to attend the Easter rituals to tend to his mother's love, and moreover, it also posed no

harm to anybody. For him, the advice felt like compromising his integrity. This is the first incident where Stephen is shown to be asking for help from one of his peers. Stephen told Cranly that he is planning to leave everything and everyone behind, in order to pursue his dreams of becoming an artist. He states, "I will not serve that in which I no longer believe, whether it call itself my home, my fatherland, or my church" (191). This was his declaration of artistic and spiritual freedom, and freedom from all that imprisoned him. The level of maturity Stephen had achieved now made him want to break free of what felt like a prison. He hoped to leave Ireland, even if it meant losing his friends and family. The need for independence in his mind made him fearless, and he was willing to take risks and make mistakes, even if that mistake opened the gates of hell.

Near the end of the novel, the readers get a chance to peek into the diary entries of Stephen before he prepares to leave Ireland. The first diary entry, dated March 20, briefed about his last conversation with Cranly. The entries that followed later were confined to his feelings for his family, friends, countrymen, and religion as he was stepping closer and closer to bidding them farewell. The diary records show that even though Stephen wanted to break free of his life, he was still attached to it by a thin, but strong thread of emotions. He encapsulated each encounter of his daily life in his diary. The entry, dated April 15, contained descriptions of his meeting with Emma, the girl he fancied and was able to talk to without any hesitation or shyness. He gained enough strength not to be socially awkward around women. The university, though bland for him, gave him a free environment to let his mind run amok, which furthered his fascination for language and mythical creature, Dedalus, the creature who crafted a pair of wings to fly off the island of his corporeal prison. The evening before his departure, Stephen writes about his mother's prayer that

Stephen may “learn . . . what the heart is and what it feels” (196). Stephen's final entry in his diary, dated April 27, invokes his mythical namesake, Dedalus. He asks his “old father, old artificer” (233) to assist him in the pursuit of his artistic future. As he left Ireland, he invoked the mythical creature, Dedalus, as the symbolic representation of his freedom.

In the end, it is noticed that Stephen restricted the diary entries till the time of his departure from Ireland. Here, the narration changes to a first person perspective and is extremely different from what it was in the rest of the book. Stephen stopped using the quotes or poetic phrases of other ancient writers and illustrated his ideas in his very own diction. His patriotism is depicted in the lines: “to forge in the smithy of my soul the uncreated conscience of my race.” (196)

Stephen's life is a simple depiction of a complex journey of a boy who evolved from a weak, shy kid to a strong-willed and mature adult, and one who was willing to take necessary steps in uncertain fields to explore and improve as an artist that he seeks to become. Living up to his name, Stephen became the Dedalus of the Greek mythology, leaving his life behind in Ireland.

The character of Stephen speaks for the humanistic theories laid down by Maslow and Rogers. The life of Stephen starts from being a weak, innocent child to somebody who finds the confidence within to stand up to his true nature and become the artist he always desired. Stephen's character is a positive example of how a character develops naturally and sometimes passively. By passivity, it is meant the reaction of a human being to its environment. Psychology has, far and long, explained how the environment of a person shapes the personality. The concept of nature and nurture is not new to scientific studies. Considering Maslow's hierarchy theory and Rogers' ‘theory of self’ as the focus of the present research work, it can be concluded

that Maslow focuses on the nature of the person and Rogers on nurture. Maslow talks about the innate abilities and desires of a person, and Rogers talks about the surroundings of the person that shapes the core traits. The surroundings include the childhood or adulthood experiences, socio-economic conditions, physical conditions, and others. All the external circumstances (nurture) and internal psychological processes (nature) together are responsible for the formation of the core personality of a person. As the person becomes more mature and gains more experience in life, the nature of the person also grows and develops, and as the nature of the person is developed, the relationship between the nature and the experiences also changes and the changing dynamics of the combination of the two leads to the development of new personality traits or modification of the current ones. The personality of a person cannot be concrete over a life time, but is relatively stable. As a person continues with his life, new experiences bring a change in him on a psychological level, thereby resulting in changes in the personality. It has been rightfully quoted by the ancient Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, that “the only constant in life is change.” Let’s dive right into the character of Stephen. Every life experience has shaped the persona of Stephen to a great extent.

The childhood of Stephen has been a rocky one. He was a shy and meek child, who lacked love and was sometimes reprimanded by his aunt. Because Stephen’s expression of love and joy were met by such cruel acts, he chose to stay quiet and became a shy child. The traits of shyness are often followed by alternative means of expression. For Stephen, those means were poetry. To express, love, and share are the innate desires and motives of a human being. Stephen was not provided with space to be creative and expressive. As a result of this, he became scared and shy as a child. His needs for expression gave rise to an artistic streak in him and he began to find

refuge in his poems. Because Stephen lacked confidence due to his surroundings, he sorted ways to fulfill that lack within him. His driving and motivating factor was to get rid of feelings of under-confidence.

There is an evident amalgamation of Maslow's and Rogers' theory. Rogers focuses on the unconditional love and acceptance that should be provided to a person in the childhood days for the healthy development of psyche. Maslow, on the other hand, focuses on the motivating factors that drive and make a person behave in a certain way. Stephen's actions of seeking refuge in creating poems is a result of the absence of love and acceptance in his childhood and the motivating innate desire to compensate for the feelings of low confidence. In a nutshell, it can be said that because Stephen's childhood lacked love, it gave rise to feelings of shyness in him. His Aunt Dante had reprimanded him when he tried to share his feelings about his love for a Protestant girl. Here, a young Stephen, who is trying to make an innocent expression of his feelings, was met by cruel acts of being hated and beaten up. This made Stephen felt caged and made him step into a hole of unworthiness. It is obvious that a child's mind tries to rationalize the surroundings. When a child is met with cruel acts, it tends to blame itself. Rogers, therefore, emphasizes a lot on the importance of positive unconditional factors. This was the point from where Stephen started growing with lack of confidence because in his childhood, he was not positively regarded or given adequate love. Due to this, a feeling of shyness cropped up, and he had to look for other ways to express. Hence, the artistic streak manifested itself in him.

Stephen's time at Clongowes was also not a pleasant one. He felt weak, shy, and awkward most of the times. It can be deduced that his shyness stems from his childhood home where he feels unaccepted and unloved. He was often bullied at

school and on one occasion, he got admitted to an infirmary because he had a high fever. Even after being treated so badly, Stephen never ratted out his classmates. This trait is the trait of obedience. He was a lost child, but an obedient one. His father's strict persona always encouraged Stephen to be righteous and religious. As a submissive child, he would always do as told and never question. This is another trait that is accompanied by shyness because of an unloving childhood. The person often becomes weak to stand up for himself and thus, falls prey to others who ill-treat or bully him. Such personalities cannot raise their voice against the ill-treatment and they often fail to take good care of themselves. Stephen quietly accepted being bullied as he was taught to never rat out and was shy because of his environment at home. Here, Rogers' theory can be applied to describe the development of Stephen. Stephen grew up to be a weak child in his school, one who was not able to retaliate. This weakness stems out from the cruel acts of beating by his aunt which resulted in him not being able to take a stand for himself. He feels that he needs to give an outlet to his feelings and wanted to express his innate thoughts. He is seen getting lost in thoughts of his own sad funeral which definitely is a way to express his emotions and feelings about the incident at that point in his life. According to Maslow, there are innate desires and thoughts that are always persistent in a human being. Stephen's desire was to be more expressive in nature, but he could not find friends or family members to listen to him. He could not speak for himself because of his shy nature. He wanted to be heard. Stephen found an outlet to his expressions by being lost in his thoughts. He makes his own bubble and does not concentrate well in his studies, and often gets lost in the clouds of his never ending thoughts. In one such incident, he was wrongly accused by his teacher and beaten up for not paying attention in class but in reality, his glasses were broken. He feels insulted and humiliated for no fault of his.

He has an urge to question the authority, but curbs it. It is his friends that motivate him to go forward and complain. Here, it is again mentioned how the environment of a person can lead to certain dispositions that were not possible earlier. He didn't have the courage to stand up against the injustice that had happened to him. The Stephen that we know would have either accepted the insult and humiliation and buried it deep in his heart or would have taken it out in the form of poetry, but he felt a bit courageous because his peers snubbed him and motivated him to go forward with the complaint. In contrast to his actual personality, he went forward and stood up for justice and complained to the head-priest. Here, the readers witness the wonders of Rogers' theory. When a person is put in an accepting and motivating environment, the person develops positive feelings and emotions in the self. This is how positive traits are developed. In this situation, the positive trait developed in Stephen is courage, courage to stand up to injustice. After this little incident, he was able to taste victory and triumph. This little victory in his life was a turning point because he showed confidence and became somebody who could take care of himself. Here, Stephen can be seen developing new traits and thought processes. He is no longer a passive reactor to the environment. He is, rather, actively responding to it. He took a decision for himself and stood up for it. Also, another motivating factor that helped Stephen to take this step was his own inner voice. He felt insulted by the acts of his teacher who was unjust to him. This feeling of insult created a feeling of shame in him. His desire, at that moment, was to get rid of the feeling of shame and replace it with the feeling of victory. Therefore, according to Maslow, Stephen's motivation arose because of the environmental conditions he was put into. In his little victory, Stephen is seen gaining a sense of confidence as he becomes a playground hero in his school.

When Stephen returned to his home during holidays, he was a changed man. He was able to form his own opinions, have personal thoughts, and make choices for himself. Stephen started feeling different from the boys of his age. He discovers that he feels more secure, safer, and excited in his thoughts than he feels in real life. His father tries to engage him in sports, but he chooses to bury his face in books and discover the joy of being lost in his world of thoughts. All this sheer confidence stemmed from being away from home and being in school instead, surrounded by people who could support him and let him be confident.

When Stephen's family moved to Dublin because of the deterring financial conditions, he started growing distant from his father. He felt ashamed of him and also had unfamiliar and negative feelings towards him. These feelings stem from his childhood days, when he did not feel accepted and loved. At that time, Stephen blindly followed his father's orders because he had no confidence in himself, but the day he started combating low confidence and started thinking more about his own self, he started feeling alienated from his father. His father also gave a hard time to him in his childhood by not providing the boy with unconditional positive circumstances and so, he is now reciprocating his deep hidden feeling by being distant. Because of this separation, Stephen enjoyed more freedom to be himself.

The next incident in Stephen's life that deserves mention is his attraction towards Emma Clery. He was physically and romantically attracted to her, but could not gather courage to ask her out. This lack of confidence again comes from an ugly experience that he had in his childhood when he was lambasted for being expressive. Again, Rogers' theory explaining how positive regard can shape a personality gets proven. Even though Stephen has grown confident in himself, he is still combating shyness when it comes to women and especially, when it's about the woman he likes.

As always, in order to express, he resorts to writing down his feelings and thus, pens down a poem for Emma. Emma reminds him of his young love towards Eileen. He could never gather courage to go up to Eileen and talk his heart out. This has created a void in Stephen's heart. The emotional need of getting involved with a woman was never fulfilled for Stephen and due to this, needs and desires arise in his heart. Now, according to Maslow's 'hierarchy of needs' theory, Stephen needs to fulfill his desires and satisfy his innate needs. He always knew that his intent was to become an alternative person as he could never relate to the boys his age. Therefore, reading unconventional books and venting out all his emotions and desires through poems was perfect for Stephen. He could express himself through the world of poetry, but he could never do that for himself in reality. Stephen was a meek child until he was wrongly accused by the priest. He received motivation from his peers who coaxed him to go ahead and do a courageous act. On the other hand, he never received motivation to open up his heart to a woman and so, he could not combat his shyness when faced with women. Here, it can be seen how every situation in the environment has a directed effect and not an all-round effect. Even though some of Stephen's desires, like that of being confident and bold, were fulfilled, but in some cases, he was still a shy boy who sought refuge in poems and writing, all the while getting lost in his thoughts.

In his new school, Belvedere, Stephen was brimming with thoughts and ideas, but struggled as he had no means to express them. He had reached a state in his life where all the other parameters were not at all important. Parameters like food and biological needs, belongingness with parents, or esteem needs did not matter the most to him. The only thing that mattered was to give an outlet to his inner talent. He was obsessed with sprouting his talents and becoming the artist he always desired. When a

person feels a lack of something in his life, all his behaviors and dispositions are directed towards fulfilling that lack. For instance, if a man is hungry, he will not look for a romantic relationship at that moment. A hungry man only wants to fill his stomach with food. His primary thought process is about earning or gaining food and all his dispositions are directed towards getting that food. This is exactly what Maslow talks about in his theory. A lack gives rise to a need, which in turn gives rise to an instrumental behavior that is directed towards fulfillment of that need. Stephen's behavior in his new school bears testimony to this theory. He has clearly established himself as a talented writer who loves the poetry he writes and the thoughts he surrounds himself with. What he needs is an expression of that talent. He needs to manifest that talent and this lack of manifestation makes him turn into a brilliant artist and actor in his new school. He turns out to be terrific at writing and brings himself a lot of laurels for his theatre acting. This development is because of a systematic and complex dynamic between Rogers' and Maslow's theories. Rogers' theory explained how Stephen gained that confidence, whereas Maslow's theory explained how he used that confidence to fulfill his needs. When Stephen feels accepted and becomes popular in his new school because of his brilliance at work, it can be noticed that he also becomes strong when it comes to defending himself. He was attacked again by the bullies in his new school, but in contrast to his previous behavior, he retaliated and stood up for himself. Here, a new environment that is accepting for Stephen gives him the confidence he was looking for. He has become a man who can make choices for himself, and can successfully manifest his thoughts and stand up for himself only because his environment favored him to do so. The nurture plays such an immense role in making Stephen the writer he is today, but his life, his agony, and the road to

his ultimate destination does not end here. There are many hardships awaiting Stephen that will pave the way to his ultimate destiny.

Stephen was not only shy, but also an emotional child who could not find an outlet to his emotions in his childhood. The emotionality of the character persists in his adulthood, also. He grows nostalgic in his new school and tries to maintain contact with his father. This particular act shows innumerable emotions contained in his heart and a desire to vent them out. Because of his unloved childhood, he is unable to form a connection with his father. He does feel the lack of emotional bonding as mentioned in the third stage of Maslow's 'hierarchy of needs' theory and so, tries to confront his father, but all his efforts go in vain when he realizes that he is a very different character from his father.

Looking at it objectively, it can be said that Stephen's need for belongingness could never be fulfilled because of his unloving and insensitive family. It means that he always felt a lack of an emotional bonding. All his behaviors that he performed, like gaining confidence, overcoming his shyness, getting involved with elders and joining them on the dinner table, frequent visits to his Aunt Dante, trying to talk and walk with Simon, spending time with his grandfather, and following his father's orders even though he does not resonate with them, are all actions that come out of his lack of belongingness. Stephen could never feel fulfilled at this stage in his life with his family because he never received a reciprocation of love from them. Even in his poems, sadness permeates. Even after receiving recognition from his schoolmates and doing wonders in his writing at school, he felt a tinge of sadness that he tried to reduce. The reason to reduce his sadness was his innate motivation to get rid of the feeling of lack of belongingness in his life. For that reason, he tried to maintain contact with his father and spend time with him. Soon, it all went out of the window

because he could never understand his father's ways. His father turns to be an alcoholic and Stephen finds it difficult to understand the workings of his father's mind. Accordingly, the lack in Stephen's life persists and he grows more detached from his father.

By now, it is clearly understood how Stephen leads his life. The environment plays an immense role in his life. Everything that happens in his life affects him immensely. He grows into a confident man, confident in his craft and writing. He is talented and doing well for himself, but he is still sad about the lack he feels in his life. At this point, he wins laurels for his hard work and earns some money that he gives away to his family to reduce their financial strain. Being an emotional person, Stephen shows a beautiful side of his personality when he innocently tries to help his family. Even though he feels that everything seems to be going great, he somehow feels sad. To reduce his sadness and understand his thought processes, he chooses either to wander off in his thoughts or take long walks alienated from everybody. Being isolated is another way in which introverts are able to find peace within them. For characters like Stephen, who have a difficulty to associate with people around them, isolation and solitude comes as a relief. So, Stephen's reasons for being away from everybody also come from the lack of association and belongingness with others. This sadness and lack in his life leads to another major incident that changes his life.

Stephen starts visiting prostitutes to fulfill his need of belongingness. It must be mentioned that the need for physical contact also comes under the category of physiological needs in Maslow's 'hierarchy of needs' theory, but this need sprouts when a person has reached an age of maturity. Before a person becomes mature, only the needs of hunger and sleep are accounted for physiological needs or the first stage

needs of Maslow's theory. Here, it is witnessed that Stephen has reached his peak for interaction with the opposite sex. Therefore, as much as this interaction comes under the third level of Maslow's theory, it also accounts for the physiological needs which are placed in the first level in the pyramid described by Maslow. If the incident involving the prostitutes was a one-time thing, it would have been treated as a mistake or an insignificant event in his life, but what makes it a life-changing event is that he visits the prostitutes regularly. This signifies the lack of belongingness in Stephen's life. This is another refuge that he opts for in order to feel fulfilled. It is worthy to understand how the environment plays a big role in it. If in Stephen's childhood, his Aunt Dante had approved of his affection for the protestant girl, he would have never ended up with prostitutes. Another milestone in his life could have been a better relationship or connection with his father. Had his father not imposed his ideas on Stephen and instead provided him with an environment where he could easily express himself rather than witnessing a gloomy alcoholic father, he again would not have visited prostitutes. Childhood has an immense impact on the personality and dispositions of a human being. Rogers has, time and again, explained the phenomena and importance of unconditional positive regard and acceptance. If Stephen had been accepted the way he was by his parents in his childhood, he would not have turned out to be a sad, though brilliant artist. He would have found his way to become an artist in a healthy way. In Psychology, the aim is to help individuals become their best forms in the healthiest way possible. Humanists have also worked hard to prove that the innate basic nature of a human being is to reach its maximum potential and be happy. Happiness is the core need of a human being. Whenever we are sad, we don't feel fulfilled which leads to a lack in our lives. That lack makes us do things in a peculiar way. That lack ignites needs and desires in our lives systematically and here

comes Maslow's theory in action. All other thoughts in our mind then become directed towards fulfilling those needs created by the lack. And to our surprise and wonder, that lack and non-fulfillment originally stems from our childhood when the child is not treated the way he or she is supposed to, and here comes Rogers' theory into play.

Stephen frequented the prostitutes every now and then because he was trying to fulfill that want or desire in life. He did it not because he enjoyed it immensely, but out of his innate desire to get rid of the lack. This can be proved by analyzing the after-effects of such acts. He felt guilty for his acts and referred to them as sins. He never enjoyed these sexual acts and involved in them out of need. This enhanced the feelings of shame and guilt in him. The successive series of dispositions and thoughts revolve around his confusion between 'to do' and 'not to do.' He does it and then hates it. Stephen, in his childhood, was also religiously inclined. As he was always nurtured by his father to attend religious prayers and rituals, he started wondering if he had done the most evil sin and broken the trust of the lord. It can be noticed that Stephen's actions that were influenced by the environment now create a division in his mind which affects him immensely. Wherever he went, he was haunted by the thoughts of having committed a sin. He feared the punishment for his sins and his fears came to light when the school teachers announced that a three day workshop would be held to teach the religious tenets. Stephen dreaded to take this workshop because he had realized the degree of his sins but, at the same time, he wanted to get rid of the feelings of shame and guilt bubbling within him. He felt extremely ashamed of his acts and so, his primary need was to get rid of these feelings. Here, it is clearly evident that all his other needs like the needs for esteem, belongingness, security, and food are not significant for him anymore. He has reached a higher state wherein he

wants to become his best self and pay for his sins. He wants to show resentment for his past actions and repent for his deeds. He regrets what he has done and wants to change. This realization brings a drastic change in his life. It has already been discussed that personality is not a concrete property and is subjected to minimal or drastic changes. Throughout Stephen's life course, his personality changed slowly, but when he understands the depth or seriousness of his actions and fears the god deeply, he changes drastically. The readers witness the transformation from a young boy who could not sit without getting lost in his thoughts to a fully dedicated teenager attending the mass with full attention. This is contrary to what Stephen has displayed all his life. He has been conditioned to fear God or a religious entity since childhood. This fear makes him change his ways drastically and become a very attentive child. Stephen goes through an extreme transformation in the following three days. This transformation can be explained on the basis of Maslow's 'hierarchy of needs' theory. As Maslow describes, the need for connecting with one's higher-self is innate and every person strives for it consciously or subconsciously. Stephen has always strived for it subconsciously and passively throughout his life, excluding this current situation when he is doing it actively. He is consciously moving towards his innate desire to be the best version of himself and it can be achieved by repenting for his sins and giving full attention and dedication to the mass for three days.

On the first day, Stephen appears to be extremely ashamed of his acts and cannot face God. He recedes into the past and feels like a child when he sees Father Arnall giving the lectures. He feels like a child again. Phenomenon like this is called 'associative regression' wherein a person behaves the same way as he used to in the company of somebody from his past. This is another manner in which Stephen found solace. He looks back at his innocent-self, which he feels that he has destroyed by

committing the sin of going to a prostitute. This leaves a huge impact on Stephen. This also increases guilt in him that hinders him from facing God. His innate good nature, that also persists in all human beings as stated by the humanists, help in this situation. The humanists say that at the core, every human is good and the psychological nature helps a human to strive for the best. In the novel, it is seen that when Stephen feels down, his inner nature helps him to get up. His inner nature is nothing but his own world of imagination in which he has been lost since childhood. His creativeness helps him imagine the holy and pure mother Mary coming down and making him feel better. It would not be wrong to say that at every low point in our lives, our innate nature will help us to strive for better. It can be achieved by fulfilling all the needs based on Maslow's hierarchy or surrounding ourselves with situations and people that look for the good in us and helping us flourish. Stephen has found that environment in the service of God after the end of three days.

On the second day, Stephen's torments increase and he is also haunted by the thoughts of hell and death. His vivid imagination does not help him, but rather throws him in the ocean of guilt and fear. He feels entirely alone in his universe of hell. He does not seem to find a way out. Drowned in self-loathing and shyness surrounded by bullies, he feels exactly like he used to in his childhood wherein he could not see any way out to express his true desires and self. Here, a dramatic parallel may be drawn between his childhood and present self, wherein he felt caged and in fear in both the situations. Had he been encouraged to speak his mind or express himself in his childhood, he would have found it easier to face god and talk about his sins in adulthood. He could not turn towards anybody when he was bullied or tormented during his childhood and he still could not turn towards anybody to ask for forgiveness for his sins.

As a child, he found refuge in his poems, but now he needs to find another way to get rid of these feelings. The reason why a person feels the need to get rid of feelings of shame and guilt is because the guilt and shame distance the person from the image of ideal-self that a person has created in his childhood. Every person, according to humanists, strives to become the best person. All the human beings have the potential to do so. At the same time, a person wants to be his ideal-self all the time and when a person fails to do so, incongruence in the thought process develops. This incongruence can lead to the emergence of the thoughts of guilt and shame which Stephen is already experiencing. He feels guilty because he was religious as a child. His religion taught him to adhere to the norms and not commit sins, but in his own eyes, he has committed the biggest sin. This has led him to dissociate from the image of ideal-self which was created in his mind owing to his religious upbringing. He, in fact, becomes the self he was not entirely happy and comfortable with. This incongruity leads to the development of uncomfortable feelings that need to go away for a healthy functioning of the mind. In order to do so, Stephen was obviously compelled to act in a way that would bring him closer to his ideal-self and drive him away from the feelings of guilt and shame. So, he dedicated himself to the service of god and was also appraised by religious preachers, who later asked him to pursue this as a full-time profession. On the second day, Stephen finally came face to face with God in a Chapel and asked for forgiveness for his sins.

After the end of three torturous days, Stephen comes out as a different man. His only aim in life becomes to seek atonement for his sins. His entire personality changes drastically. A boy who was passively involved in his life now participates in self-inflicted pain programs to atone for his sins. It is evident how a personality is subjected to change owing to the psyche of a person. Fear, childhood teaching, and

religion created such a huge impact on Stephen that his entire disposition metamorphosed. He started walking towards the path of self-actualization and enlightenment. There was a time when he could not focus on his work, but now he prays three times a day, attends rituals, and does not have sexual connection with any woman. He made a promise to himself that he would get rid of every single negative thought in his mind and would choose the path to priesthood. In the process of achieving self-actualization, a person reaches a point wherein he thinks of self and others, becomes altruist, and tries to make lives around him better. Even though Stephen was living like a monk, he was still far from that stage. Here, it can be aptly said that Stephen's decision to surrender before God was due to the fear of hell and death he had in mind. He feared the punishments that would follow the sins he had committed. He committed himself to this life to get rid of all the negative feelings he had and get rid of all the bad *karma*, but what he did not understand was that this was not the life he always desired. He not only lost his artistic touch, but also stopped being lost in imaginations. Contrary to his beliefs, he started accepting all the rules, rituals, and traditions of Christianity without questioning and started praying all day to atone for his sins. When a person does not follow the path he is meant to or deviates from becoming the ideal-self he always desired, incongruence occurs. Rogers explains that all the humans strive to become their ideal-self, the self that would give them the utmost happiness and lead them on their path to self-actualization. The path that Stephen chose would help him in fulfilling his primary need of atoning for his sins, but it would not help him in his path towards achieving self-actualization. This can be proven by the fact that Stephen was still not able to control his urge to be angry. He could not become perfect in his venture of being a true priest and would still get angry and irritated easily. This incident made him

realize that he actually does not want to lead his life like a church father. He rather wanted to follow his dreams and return to be his former self, but with a psychologically healthy mind.

All his emotions, that he was trying to curb without being aware of it, resurfaced when Father Arnall asked him to become a priest. He denied the offer and decided to walk the path he was meant to. He takes another big decision of alienating himself from his family. He feels that the only constraint in his life is his family and religion and he wants to be free from them. According to humanists, when a person walks the path leading to self-actualization, all his lower-order needs like the need for food, belongingness, security, and esteem must be fulfilled. These needs must be completely or partially fulfilled. Only then, a person can walk on the path to enlightenment with his whole heart. All the motivations originate from needs and when all the lower-order needs are fulfilled, a person becomes truly motivated to go for the higher-order needs like enlightenment.

Here, it can be witnessed that Stephen's lower-order needs were not fulfilled. He was rather driven by fear. He was motivated to get rid of the feelings of shame and guilt, but not motivated to reach higher-level goals because his lower-order needs were unfulfilled. He did not feel secure and lacked a sense of belonging. In Stephen's life, the path leading to priesthood was clearly a wrong path, which of course, he understood a little later. The moment Stephen realized that he was not meant to be a priest and spend his entire life in the service of God, he resisted commitment. He realized that his only motivation in life was freedom. He had always felt caged in life. This feeling of being caged and trapped stems from his childhood upbringing. He was never treated with love and respect, and was never given an opportunity to express himself completely. This made him feel caged. In order to cope with these caged

feelings, he became shy and started expressing himself through poetry. This is how his desire to express through writing stemmed. This was the ultimate path for Stephen, the path to salvation, the path to become free and become an artist.

After he said no to priesthood, he realized that he needed to go to the university. He started isolating himself from his family as he felt that his family could not reciprocate the feelings of love and understanding. The tremendous growth of Stephen, from a weak boy to somebody who had the courage to walk away from his friends and familial life, could be witnessed. Later, every incident in his life brings him closer to his ultimate destination. He joined the university and started following arts and aesthetics religiously, and aimed at formulating his own philosophy and theory concerning arts. He, then, turned into a confident man who could take mature decisions for himself. At the end of the novel, it is clearly evident that many of the spoken words of Stephen show maturity and credibility, and that his artistic talents have taken a brilliant shape. Life comes full circle when he sees Emma Clery in his university. He meets and chats with her confidently.

Humanistic psychologists have explicitly studied the way human mind functions. They explain the reasons behind the formation of a concrete personality or persona that an individual carries throughout his life. Sometimes, there are drastic changes and developments in that persona and at times, there are minimal to no concrete changes and the persona remains quite stable over a lifetime. The idea that makes human psychology interesting is that every human being is different and, therefore, every mind is different. Since every mind is different, the functioning and characteristics of each individual is also different. Sometimes, we are actively involved in our life processes and experiences while, at other times, we passively react to them. The vast differences in the functioning of every human mind which is

systematically theorized by humanists makes the work of humanistic psychologists a profound one.

In the previous chapters, it has been mentioned how circumstances have critically influenced the life course of a character and developed his personality. What we need to consider with absolute precision is that they were actively involved in their surroundings and developed their traits and characteristics in a way that favored them and their innate desires. In the case of Stephen, it can be observed that all the fundamental values and traits initially acquired by him are passive. They persist in Stephen because of his reaction to his life circumstances which later follows the course of fulfilling the innate desires that he has.

Maslow and Rogers, the two pioneers of humanistic psychology, explain how a person is motivated to become his best-self and how every course and direction he takes in his life is guided by innate motivations and desires that lead him into dispositions that fulfill those desires.

Stephen's case study is unusual which makes the readers go through the detailed scenarios of his life and how he took the life-changing decision of becoming the artist he desired to be. Stephen, a young meek child, goes through a series of life-altering experiences that make him realize his innate nature. He ultimately pushes his boundaries and blooms as a true artist, creating a pathway to becoming a self-actualized person.

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