

UNIVERZA V MARIBORU
FILOZOFSKA FAKULTETA
Oddelek za anglistiko in amerikanistiko

DIPLOMSKO DELO

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Maribor, 2010

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**HOPE AND FREEDOM IN STEPHEN KING'S *RITA
HAYWORTH AND SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION* AND
ALEXANDRE DUMAS' *THE COUNT OF MONTE
CRISTO***

**(Upanje in svoboda v delu Stephen Kinga *Rita
Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* in Alexandre
Dumas *Grof Monte Cristo*)**

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Maribor, 2010

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to sincerely thank you Dr. Victor Kennedy for your expert help, constructive advice and creativity during my diploma process and English studies. Your lessons were always innovative and contributed greatly to my motivation for the English literature. Thank you.

I would also like to thank my closest family and friends for their enormous support and help during my studies.



Univerza v Mariboru

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IZJAVA

Podpisana Vesna Kramar rojena 15.7.1983 v Murski Soboti študentka Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Mariboru, smer Angleški jezik s književnostjo in Nemški jezik s književnostjo, izjavljam, da je diplomsko delo z naslovom Upanje in svoboda v delu Stephen Kinga Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption in Alexandre Dumas Grof Monte Cristo pri mentorju red. prof. dr. Victorju Kennedyju, avtorsko delo.

V diplomskem delu so uporabljeni viri in literatura korektno navedeni; teksti niso prepisani brez navedbe avtorjev.

(podpis študentke)

Kraj, Maribor

Datum, 22.10.2010

Summary

Stephen King's *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* and Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* differ in genre and plot but still they have similar motifs and themes. In both stories an innocent man is put into a prison where escape seems almost impossible, but they both manage to break out of the prison in a similar way, they both dig a tunnel. The two main characters are jailed and thus not free; the only thing they can rely on is hope. It is through hope that they can find freedom, physical and psychic freedom. Hope and freedom are the two themes which connect the two books.

I will describe the meaning of hope and freedom in both books individually, what importance they have on the main characters, Andy Dufresne and Edmond Dantes. First and foremost, I will compare the importance of these two themes through the main characters, for whom hope and freedom are utterly important things and who differ a lot. Andy Dufresne, as described by Red, is full of hope; he seems to be still free, not physically free but psychically. Edmond Dantes, on the other hand, lost all hope during his imprisonment and found hope and freedom relatively late. I will also compare the two minor characters in both books, Red and Abbe Faria, because although they are minor characters they are greatly important for their fellow prisoner's hope and freedom. Furthermore, I will also draw a comparison between the friendships described in both books. The friendship between Andy and Red in *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* and Edmond Dantes and Abbe Faria in *The Count of Monte Cristo* are very important for their hope and freedom.

Key words:

- Stephen King
- Alexandre Dumas
- Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption (Different Season)
- The Count of Monte Cristo
- hope and freedom

Povzetek

Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption Stephena Kinga in *Grof Monte Cristo* Alexandra Dumasa izhajata iz različnih literarnih žanrov in se razlikujeta v dogajanju, a imata kljub temu podobno motiviko in tematiko. V obeh zgodbah je nedolžen mož poslan v zapor, iz katerega je pobeg skorajda nemogoč, a se kljub temu obema uspe izmuzniti iz zapora na podoben način; preko tunela. Oba glavna junaka zgodb sta za zapahi in zato brez svobode; kljub temu je upanje edina stvar, na katero se lahko zaneseta. Upanje je namreč tista stvar, ki ju osvobodi, fizično in psihično. Upanje in svoboda sta tisti dve tematiki, ki povezujeta obe zgodbi.

Pomembnost upanja in svobode v obeh zgodbah in njun pomen za glavna junaka obeh zgodb, Andyja Dufresneja in Edmonda Dantesa, bom opisala ločeno. Najprej bom preko glavnih junakov opisala pomen teh dveh tematik, saj sta za njiju upanje in svoboda izredno pomembna in se v tem tudi zelo razlikujeta. Andy Dufresne, kot ga opiše Red, je poln upanja, kljub zaporu je še vedno svoboden - ne fizično, ampak psihično. Edmond Dantes, na drugi strani, pa je izgubil vse upanje in je le-to in svobodo našel relativno pozno. Prav tako bom naredila primerjavo med obema stranskima likoma, Redom in Abbe Fario, ker sta kljub temu, da sta stranska lika, izredno pomembna za upanje in svobodo svojih kolegov. Nenazadnje bom naredila primerjavo med obema prijateljstvom, opisanimi v obeh zgodbah. Prijateljstvo med Andyjem in Redom v *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* in Edmondom Dantesom in Abbe Fario v *Grof Monte Cristo*, saj sta zelo pomembna za tematiko upanja in svobode.

Ključne besede:

- Stephen King
- Alexandre Dumas
- Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption (Different Season)
- Grof Monte Cristo
- upanje in svoboda

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1. INTRODUCTION

As a big Stephen King fan, I knew a long time ago that my diploma thesis would be about him. One day, I decided to watch a movie adaption of one of his books, which until then I had not seen, nor had I read the book. When I saw the movie, I was amazed how many similarities the movie shared with Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Afterwards, I knew that I had to check if the original story upon which the movie adaptation is based is really as similar to *The Count of Monte Cristo* as I thought when watching the movie. When I read both stories, I was amazed how many similarities the two stories had. Both novels tell a story about an unjustly imprisoned man in a prison where escape seems almost impossible.

When I was searching for additional material for both stories and their authors, I went to the library to see if they had any books which I could use. I was also searching for any books or author who already compared the two stories. I asked the librarian for her advice. I described to her about what I wanted to write in my diploma thesis, a comparison between Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* and a Stephen King story. Her answer was, as I expected, that it is impossible to compare the two authors. It was after this incident that I was totally sure that in my diploma thesis I wanted to compare this two stories.

The librarians' reaction did not surprise me at all, because most people know Stephen King as a writer of horror stories, but Stephen King does not only write horror stories. *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* is a story in Stephen King's novella collection *Different Seasons*. Although the stories in this collection do not have the typical Stephen King horror, they are still great stories, and *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* has a similar plot to *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

Both stories are about an unjustly imprisoned man and they both tell their struggles in prison. These two prisoners are locked in a place where escape seems almost impossible and they both succeed escaping by digging a hole, for which they needed years. The only thing which they could hold onto in prison is hope; hope that their innocence will be discovered, hope that they will be free. Hope and freedom are the most important things, not only for the main characters of these two stories, but also for any other prisoner.

In this diploma thesis I will compare the similarities between hope and freedom in both stories, what hope and freedom mean for the prisoners, how these two concepts differ in the two stories, and most importantly, their meaning for prisoners and other characters.

2. STEPHEN KING'S *RITA HAYWORTH AND SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION*

Stephen Edwin King, born on September 21 1947, in Portland, Main, is a famous author of horror fiction. His best known works are *Carrie*, *Cujo* and *The Shining*. Although he is famous for his horror fiction and the movie adaptations of those stories, horror is not all he writes about. He has published over 500 works including, novels, short stories, novellas, two non-fiction books, screenplays, an e-book, and a comic book.

Different Seasons, a collection of four novellas, which was published in 1982, and contains the novella *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*, was his first book of non-horror stories; actually, only one novella in the collection has a horror character. The four novellas in the collection are: *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*, *Apt Pupil*, *The Body* and *The Breathing Method*.

In his essay *Dear Walden People!*, Stephen King writes about being typecast as a horror writer. Until the publication of *Different Seasons*, Stephen King wrote horror stories and at that time he was already typecast as a horror writer. The essay was published to give readers further information, because the book lacked Stephen King's style of horror. In this essay, Stephen King explains why he chose to write non-horror stories. He explains that not all authors write in the same genre all the time and that "writers of the grue sometimes also go straight" (Beahm, 1990: 207). *Different Seasons* is Stephen King's way to show that he does not write only horror stories.

In the afterword to *Different Seasons*, Stephen King explains the problems of novellas. The problem with novellas is that there is no market for them, because they are somewhere between short stories and novels; "they are too long to be short and too short to be really long" (King, 558).

Furthermore, he explains, that “each of these stories was written immediately after completing a novel – it’s as if I’ve always finished the big job with just enough gas left in the tank to blow off one good-sized novella. ... *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption* was written after finishing *The Dead Zone*” (King, 555).

The four novellas in the collection stand individually by themselves, yet they are arranged according to the theme of the four seasons, which has a relevance to the individual stories. The season is dressed in a pun and makes a kind of alternative title of the story. The alternative title of *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* is *Hope Springs Eternal*, which conveys the stories' main theme, hope.

The novella *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* is narrated by a prisoner named Red, who retells the story of Andy Dufresne, who is unjustly imprisoned for murdering his wife and her lover, and his daring escape from Shawshank Prison. Red, who is the prison black-marketer, is imprisoned because he manipulated the brakes of his wife's car in order to collect her insurance money. Unfortunately, she was together with a friend and her child. They all died in the explosion when the car collided with a stone statue.

Andy is sentenced to life imprisonment in 1947, because he supposedly murdered his wife and her lover, her golf instructor. The evidence seems overwhelming: after Andy on the 24th August learned of the affair of his wife Linda, he bought a pistol because he wanted to take his life. On the night of 10 to 11 September, the two victims were shot; near the crime scene were beer cans and cigarette butts with Andy's fingerprints.

Andy talks to Red for the first time because he wants a rock hammer, as he is a rock-hound and would continue his hobby on a limited basis. Andy uses the rock hammer to shape rocks he finds in the exercise yard, and also, as we find out at the end of the story, to dig an escape tunnel. Andy and Red develop a friendship. One day Andy comes into the movie theater and asks Red, who was watching a Rita Hayworth movie, if he can get him a poster of her. Later, he orders posters of Raquel Welch and Linda Ronstadt. When Red asks him what the posters mean to him, Andy answers that they mean freedom to him.

In May 1950, Andy's life changes after a memorable event. The prisoners work tarring the roof of the plate-factory. One of the guards, Byron Hadley, inherited 35,000 dollars from his dead brother and complains about how much he has to give to the state. Andy overhears this conversation and speaks to Hadley. "Do you trust your wife?" (King, 43) he asks Hadley, who almost threw him off the roof. Then Andy explains to him how to make a cash gift to his wife to keep all the money tax free and that he, Andy, can help him, as an ex-banker, with the necessary paperwork. Andy manages to get three bottles of beer per prisoner working on the roof as payment for his services.

By now, Andy, who is a cheap tax and financial adviser, is given priority, he is, unlike other inmates, able to occupy his cell on his own and placed in the library. In the library Andy, takes over the job of an old prisoner named Brooks Hatlen. During Andy's leadership, the library flourishes. Andy sends weekly letters to the state senate asking for funds for books. Andy receives no response to his letters, until one day he receives a check for two hundred dollars.

In April 1963, a hard period begins for Andy. At that time a new prisoner, Tommy Williams, comes to Shawshank Prison. Tommy Williams changed Andy's life. Hearing the story about Andy - the conviction for the murder of his wife and her golf instructor - he is shocked. He knows that a man

named Elwood Blatch is responsible for these murders. Blatch, a former cellmate in another prison, had told him all about the double murder and also told him that another guy is imprisoned for this murder. Tommy realizes that this other guy is Andy.

Hope is kindled in Andy Dufresne, who at last sees a chance to roll up a new process and to escape Shawshank, but warden Samuel Norton fears, that he might lose his financial adviser. He locks Andy in an isolation cell and transports Tommy Williams into another prison. When Andy threatens Norton to not help him with money laundering, Norton threatens to tear down the library and Andy will be moved to another cell. Andy changes, he is a different person, one who no longer smiles. Andy is lost in dreams about the time after Shawshank. He wants to go to Zihuatanejo in Mexico, where he intends to open a small hotel.

During that hard period Andy speaks a lot to Red. He explains to Red how he intends to open the hotel and where he will get the money for it. It is then that Red realizes, that Andy during his trial, prepared for the worst and made a new identity named Peter Stevens with the help of a friend. A friend of Andy invested his money under the name of Peter Stevens even after his conviction. Andy tells Red that the key to the safe with Peter Stevens' money is hidden under a special volcanic stone in a certain rock wall in a hayfield near the town of Buxton.

Andy Dufresne escapes Shawshank on the night of 11 to the 12 of March 1975 and is never found. All the guards find in his cell is a hole hidden by a Linda Ronstadt poster. Andy, the amateur geologist, had discovered more by accident that his cell wall is consisted of poor quality concrete. He succeeded in the course of 27 years, with two rock-hammers to dig a hole through the thin wall and crawl through a sewer-pipe to freedom.

On 15 September 1975 Red receives a card without text from the Mexican border and is sure that, it is from Andy, who is traveling in the direction to Zihuatanejo. Red is paroled in 1977. During Red's parole time, his hobby

is to ride to Buxton and to search and perhaps even to find the volcanic stone about which Andy had spoken. After some time he finds it and not only that: Below the stone is a letter from Andy, alias Peter Stevens, who invites him to visit him in Zihuatanejo and to help him in fulfilling his dream, the hotel.

Red writes his last lines in a hotel. He decides to go to Zihuatanejo and to meet his friend again. His report ends with the hope that he will meet Andy again and to find the Pacific as blue as he has always imagined it. Red's final words are: I hope.

3. ALEXANDRE DUMAS' THE *COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO*

Alexandre Dumas, who was born in 1802, is a famous French author of romances. The best known of them are *The Three Musketeers*, *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *Twenty Years After*.

His best known works today are novels, although Dumas became famous as a playwright. He actually “wrote hundreds of plays, novels and travel diaries, several children's stories and a culinary dictionary. He started several magazines and wrote in them weekly” (Castelhun Darnton, www.cadytech.com).

He had his first success as a playwright with his play *Henry III and his Court* in 1829. He started to write novels in the late 1830s, when it became common for newspapers to run novels in serial form. Dumas was one of the first writers to use the possibilities of such forms of novels. In 1844 Dumas was so famous for this sort of writing that he had two serial novels running simultaneously, *The Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*; the later was published serially between 1844 and 1846 in the *Journal des Debats*.

In 1838, Dumas met Auguste Maquet, his collaborator. Maquet provided Dumas with historical research, invented scenes, suggested incidents and helped Dumas outline the plot of his most famous serial novels, including *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Although Maquet's work was of great importance for Dumas, the books on which they worked together were published only under the name of Alexandre Dumas. In the *Ocean telegraphs – How Dumas wrote “Monte Cristo”*, Dumas explains how he got the idea for *The Count of Monte Cristo*. His inspiration for the novel was an anecdote he read in *Memoires historiques tires des archives de la police de Paris*, a collection of criminal cases recorded by Jacques Peauchet. Dumas also claims that Maquet did help him with providing some historical background for this novel. Further he claims that *The*

Count of Monte Cristo was written by him and turned into a romance with the help of Auguste Maquet. Thus *The Count of Monte Cristo* was “at least completed by Maquet and Dumas together” (Ocean telegraphs – How Dumas wrote “Monte Cristo”).

Dumas' borrowing from works of other authors brought him accusations of plagiarism. In his pamphlet, *Alexandre Dumas and Company, Fiction Factory*, Jaquet claimed that “none of his romances is really his own” (Castelhun Darnton, www.cadytech.com).

The Count of Monte Cristo is a romantic historical novel, where emphasis is on adventure and action and that good triumphs over bad. The main theme of the story is revenge, although there are also other themes which are very important for the story: hope, freedom, justice versus injustice and forgiveness.

In Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Edmond Dantès is betrayed by Fernand, Danglars, Caderousse and Villefort. At the beginning of the story, Edmond Dantes is about to become the captain of a ship; he is engaged to a beautiful woman, Mercedes. Although Dantes is well liked among his friends, they are all jealous of him. Danglars envies his early career success, Fernand Mondego is in love with Mercedes and is jealous about his love life. Caderousse, who is very greedy, is envious of Dantes' luck. They construct a letter accusing him of a crime. Dantès, who is carrying a letter from Napoleon to Noirtier, who is a Bonapartist, is imprisoned for that crime. When Villefort, the deputy crown prosecutor, hears about his case, he is prepared to set him free but changes his mind after he reads the letter. The letter is directed to Noirtier, Villefort's father. Villefort is terrified that any public knowledge of his fathers' wrongdoings might destroy his own ambitions and decides to imprison Dantes at the Chateau d'If, where he is imprisoned for fourteen years.

In prison Dantes at first thinks that he will be released soon but after he is imprisoned for some time, he gives up his will to live. He wants to end his suffering by starvation, until one day he hears a scratching sound and realizes that it can only be a fellow prisoner who is digging a tunnel. He also begins digging and soon meets Abbe Faria, an Italian priest and intellectual. Abbe Faria teaches Dantes history, literature, science and languages. With his help, Dantès learns that Fernand, Danglars, Caderousse and Villefort were the ones who put him in prison. Dantes also learns from Abbe Faria about the existence of the Spada family treasure on the Isle of Monte Cristo. They both start digging a tunnel to escape from the prison, but Abbè Farria has a seizure and dies before they manage to escape. Dantès escapes by hiding in the Abbè's burial shroud, which is thrown into the sea.

Once free, Dantès starts searching for the Isle of Monte Cristo and promises revenge to his enemies and reward those who were kind to him. He wants his enemies to suffer as long and as painfully as he suffered at the Chateau d'If. He also wants to punish the families of his enemies, since he believes that the sons are responsible for their fathers' crimes.

Dantès renames himself the Count of Monte Cristo when he finally finds the island. Monte Cristo manages to be introduced to his enemies, who are now rich and famous. His old friends do not recognize him in his disguises as the Count of Monte Cristo, Abbe Busoni and Lord Wilmore.

Monte Cristo rewards the Morrel family for their kindness, before he starts his plans of revenge. Monte Cristo, in the disguise of Lord Wilmore, a representative of the firm of Thomson and French, gives Morrel money so he can pay off his debts. Monte Cristo helps the Morrel family not only financially; he also rebuilds their ship, the *Pharaon*.

To revenge himself upon Fernand, Monte Cristo releases information which proves that Fernand betrayed Ali Pasha, and destroys his relationship with Mercedes and his own son. His family leaves him after

hearing the whole story of his betrayal. They not only find out the whole story of Fernand's betrayal of Ali Pasha, but also his betrayal of his friend, Edmond Dantes. Fernand commits suicide after his family leaves him.

Monte Cristo wants to punish Danglars financially, so he convinces Danglars to open a checking account with a limit of six million francs for him. To further damage Danglars financially, Monte Cristo manipulates the stock market by sending a false telegraph signal, which destroys much of Danglars' fortune. After that event, Danglars is left only with the five million francs, which he deposited for a hospital. At the end of the story, Danglars decides to steal this money and to escape to Italy. During his escape, Danglars is kidnapped by Luigi Vampa, a friend of Monte Cristo and is taken to the catacombs of Rome. There he has to pay 100,000 francs per meal. At first he protests, even tries to fast, but when his hunger is too great he gives in. Danglars is finally freed when he only has 50,000 francs left.

Monte Cristo's revenge upon Caderousse is that he punishes him for his greed. One day, Monte Cristo receives a note which informs him that one of his enemies wants to rob his house. Monte Cristo waits in the house to find out who the robber is. When Monte Cristo finds out that the robber is Caderousse, he reveals his true identity of Edmond Dantes to him. Caderousse, who tries to stab Dantes, dies after Dantes stabs him.

The punishment meant for Villefort is to publicly ruin him. Through Andrea Cavalcanti, whose real identity is Benedetto, the illegitimate son of Madame Danglars and Villefort, Monte Cristo hints that he knows about their affair and about the child he buried alive. In court Benedetto reveals that Villefort is his father and also mentions that Villefort wanted to bury him alive. Although Villefort is already publicly ruined, Monte Cristo's revenge upon him comes to an end when Villefort comes home and finds that his wife not only poisoned herself but also their son.

Monte Cristo not only punishes each of his enemies by taking away the things which they most cherish, but they also experience the same things he did while he was imprisoned. In a way he also takes away things from them which they have taken away from him. Like Villefort, he was publicly ruined. Dantes needs to leave his father and fiancée behind when he is imprisoned – Fernand's family also leave him after they find out about his betrayal of Ali Pasha and Dantes. While imprisoned, Dantes also thought about suicide, as Fernand did at the end. His money was taken away from him and his father, the same way it was taken away from Danglars.

At the end Monte Cristo realizes that only God can punish the unjust things which happened to him. So he travels with Maximilian Morrel to the Isle of Monte Cristo, where Maximilian and Valentine are reunited. At the end of the story Monte Cristo leaves the Isle of Monte Cristo with Haydee, in whom he found love again after a long time. He leaves a letter to Maximilian and Valentine in which he explains his strange behavior and also reminds them to do two things in life to maintain happiness: wait and hope.

4. EXPLANATIONS OF HOPE AND FREEDOM

I will describe hope and freedom together in both stories, because they are intertwined. One cannot be free without hope, at least not in such a situation as a prison, one needs hope for the best to be free. In the movie version of *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* there is a summary of this theme: “Fear can hold you prisoner. Hope can set you free”; with the meaning that freedom is nothing without hope. A person who loses hope also gives up the possibility to be free.

Hope (684) as described in the *Cambridge International Dictionary of English* is “a desire for the future to be as good as you want it to be”.

In Christianity hope is joined to faith and love, which means that people who lose faith in God also lose hope.

Freedom (562) as described in the *Cambridge International Dictionary of English* is “the condition or right of being able or allowed to do, say, think, etc. whatever you want to, without being controlled or limited” and “the state of not being in prison”.

4.1. HOPE AND FREEDOM IN *RITA HAYWORTH AND SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION*

The major themes of Stephen King's *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* are hope, freedom, unjust imprisonment and friendship among prisoners. The theme of hope is already mentioned in the title, since the alternative title of the novella is *Hope Springs Eternal*, which as described in the *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* is a saying with the meaning of "hopefulness that something will happen although it seems unlikely". Andy's hope for escaping Shawshank Prison seems unlikely, since the accusations against him in court are too strong and later in prison it is clear to him that the wardens will not let him go because they all need his work as their financial adviser. Although Andy's escape seems unlikely, he never loses hope.

The main theme of the story is hope but it is not a story about Andy's hope, since the other prisoners "could never smell hopelessness on him" (King, 57) and "there was none of that sullen desperation about him that seems to afflict most lifers"(King, 57). Andy never loses hope, and although Tommy Williams is transported to another prison together with Andy's possibility for freedom, he is only angry with warden Norton. Andy changes after that event; he is not smiling anymore but he still has hope and he knows that he will escape prison, because he is already digging the tunnel. After the event with Tommy Williams and warden Norton, Andy knows that his only possibility to escape Shawshank is by using the tunnel. With the tunnel Andy "hoped for the best but prepared for the worst" (King, 78), as he explains to Red, that there are two types of men when it comes to trouble, one who hopes for the best and the other one who hopes for the best but prepares for the worst, as Andy does with digging the tunnel and preparing his false identity of Peter Stevens even before he was imprisoned.

The story is primarily a story about friendship among prisoners and how one prisoner's hope can effect another one and about Red, who through Andy learned how to hope again. Red narrates the story and, although at the beginning he states that the story is not about him but about Andy, the story is actually about him. At least it is a story about how Red found hope again in such a hopeless situation as a prison. Red narrates Andy's story, because Andy's story and his endless hope greatly affected him.

At the beginning Red thinks that hope is a dangerous thing which has no place in a prison, because it can drive a prisoner insane. Andy believes that hope gives sense to freedom; he believes in the power of spirit-freedom; actually his spirit is free all the time he is imprisoned. It is this freedom of spirit which sets Red free. It is not physical freedom, as was Andy's escape from the prison; it is freedom of the spirit.

Red's spirit is free at the end of the story; until then he feared freedom, because he became institutionalized. He got used to the system inside the prison so much, that he could not imagine another life outside of the prison walls. He thought he would not make it in the outside world. Andy's proposition of building the hotel in Zihuatanejo together made Red afraid; inside the prison he was "what they call an institutional man" (King, 82), a very important man, "the man who can get it for you" (King, 82). The world outside frightened Red, because "out there, anyone can get it for you" (King, 82). Red got used to the prison system so much that he had great difficulties adjusting to the outside world when he was finally paroled. Red could barely handle the new life after he was paroled. He is free in a completely new, wild world, which he finds strange. He is not only free in a new world which frightens him, but he already started to love the prison, because he adjusted to the prison's daily routine, as he says:

You are told when to eat, when you can write letters, when you can smoke. If you're at work in the laundry or the plate-shop, you're assigned five minutes of each hour when you can go to the bathroom. For thirty-five years, my time was twenty-five minutes after the hour and after thirty-five years, that's the only time I ever

felt the need to take a piss or have a crap: twenty-five minutes past the hour. And if for some reason I couldn't go, the need would pass at thirty after and come back at twenty-five past the next hour (King, 104).

Red's first thought when he is finally free is how to break his parole so that he will be jailed again. He is just like other prisoners who cannot make it in the outside world. He is like Jake, Sherwood Bolton's pigeon, which he set free after he was paroled but, because the pigeon forgot how to find food by himself, they found him dead in the exercise yard. Or Brooks Hatlen, the librarian, who was crying when he was finally free, because he did not know what he will find in the new world outside of prison, which for years was his home.

When Red thinks about breaking parole, he suddenly realizes that this “would be like spitting in the face of everything he [Andy] had worked so hard to win back” (King, 111). That is how Andy frees Red's spirit and gives him hope that he will make it in the outside world. Red “kept thinking of him, spending all those years chipping patiently away at the cement with his rock-hammer so he could be free” (King, 110) and he drops his idea about getting back into prison.

Andy meets Red, who is the prison black-marketer, for the first time because he has a request for Red; he wants a rock-hammer, so he could continue his hobby from his old life, “at least ... I was a rock-hound. In my old life.” (King, 29). Andy would like to continue his hobby because it gives him a sense of freedom. The rock-hammer and posters, which he later orders from Red, are symbols of freedom for Andy, not only because they make a connection to his old, free life but also, because they are the materials which he uses to escape prison. When Red asks him about the meaning of the posters Andy tells him “Freedom. You look at those pretty women and you feel like you could almost ... not quite but almost step right through and be beside them. Be free” (King, 56). After Andy escapes, Red knew what he meant by that, because he in a way stepped through

them and was free.

Although the rock-hammer and the posters represent a certain kind of freedom which Andy directly used to escape, there are also other symbols of freedom and hope in the story. The most important are the library, the beer-break and Jake, the pigeon.

For the prisoners the library is a place where they can feel free. The library is also a symbol of freedom and hope for Andy. When Andy takes over the job of the librarian, he has unrealistic ideas about expanding it. He asks the warden for funds, who turns him down by saying that the state senate spends the taxpayers' money when it comes to prisons only on "more bars, ... more walls, ... more guards" (King, 50). Although the warden is not directly supportive, he promises Andy to mail his weekly request letters for library funds. At first his letters are turned down but after six years he receives an answer. After that he keeps sending the request letters twice a week, until years later he gets an answer again, thousand dollars per year. Because of his persistent work, Andy can turn the library into "the best prison library in New England" (King, 49) by not only enlarging its books but also enlarging it from only one small room to a large three-room library.

The other important symbol of freedom is the beer-break. The beer-break is all Andy wants as his payment for the information he gave the warden about how he could secure his inheritance. All Andy wants for that information are three beers for each of his co-workers, who are tarring the roof of the plate-factory. During that beer-break the prisoners feel such freedom that they "felt like free men" (King, 47), although the beer was "piss-warm" (King, 47). The prisoners actually feel such freedom that they "could have been drinking and tarring the roof of one of their own houses" (King, 47).

Jake, Sherwood Bolton's pigeon, can be also seen as a symbol of freedom and at the same point of captivity, or institutionalization. One can see Jake as a bird, a symbol of freedom. Since in this story Jake lost his natural ability to find food by himself, he is also a symbol of captivity. By nature he is free as a bird but he lost this natural ability and thus can be seen as both, a symbol of freedom and captivity.

After a while, a friendship develops between the two prisoners and Red soon admires him because of his persistent hope to escape the prison, his dreams of building a hotel in Zihuatanejo and because of his freedom of soul. For him Andy looks like a free man, not a prisoner, and that made him different from other prisoners, who gave up their hope and freedom. Andy greatly impresses Red because he never loses hope, although he is unjustly imprisoned and Tommy Williams is transported to another prison with all the information for his possible freedom. He never develops a prison mentality, as Red says:

He never developed the walk that man get when the day is over and they are going back to their cells for another endless night – that flat-footed, hump-shouldered walk (King, 75).

To Red, Andy looks like he was “wearing his freedom like an invisible coat” (King, 75). As Red says, Andy is like a “legend that got made around the man” (King, 48), because he seems to be so different from other prisoners. He seems to have:

a sense of his own worth, maybe, or a feeling that he would be the winner in the end ... or maybe it was only a sense of freedom, even inside these goddamned grey walls. It was a kind of inner light he carried around with him (King, 48).

Red is greatly impressed by Andy's sense of freedom and how he is still capable of carrying this inner light inside the prison. This sense of freedom also affects Red very much, when Andy is seriously talking about opening a hotel in Zihuatanejo and about Red helping him. Red remembers, that Andy:

strolled off, as if he was a free man who just made another free man a proposition. And for a while just that was enough to make me *feel* free. Andy could do that. He could make me forget for a time that we were both lifers (King, 83).

It is Andy who gives hope and a sense of freedom not only to Red but also to other prisoners. For Red this friendship between him and Andy is very important, because Andy for him represents a certain kind of hope and freedom. Andy never gives up his hope, although he has great troubles in prison. He is beaten by a brutal gang, the warden transports the man who could free him. Andy uses two rock-hammers to dig his escape tunnel, for which he needs 27 years to dig it and several posters to hide it. Red remembers that Andy lost his inner light only once, when Tommy was transported to another prison with all of his information gone. But Andy still finds hope in that situation, as Red tells Tommy's information is like hope for him:

He said it was as if Tommy had produced a key which fitted a cage in the back of his mind, a cage like his own cell. Only instead of holding a man, that cage held a tiger and that tiger's name was Hope. Williams had produced the key that unlocked the cage and the tiger was out, willy-nilly, to roam his brain (King, 62).

Tommy's information just further enlightens Andy's hope and after that incident Andy is convinced that his only possibility to escape the prison is through the tunnel. Andy further affects Red because of his "perseverance and hard work" (King, 96), as he thinks about all the possible problems Andy may find while digging the tunnel or while escaping. He could be

“caught and get a lot of solitary time” (King, 100). As Red points out all the possible troubles, he tells, that Andy could be paroled just to be imprisoned again, because during the cell investigation following the parole the hole would be discovered. The biggest trouble that Andy could have, as Red points out, is that he does not know what he will find in the sewer pipe. Andy actually had to crawl to freedom through five hundred yards of foulness. He might have found “rats big enough and mean enough to fight instead of retreating” (King, 104). He could even crawl that distance just to find “a heavy-gauge mesh screen at the end of it” (King, 105). When Red thinks about all of these possible outcomes of Andy's hole and escape, he comes to the conclusion that Andy probably also thought about all possibilities.

Red is further amazed by Andy's hope for the best when Andy tells him the whole story about his other identity, about the identity of Peter Stevens. Although Andy does not know what happened to this identity, he still has hope that nobody discovered the hiding place for the deposit box key. Andy tells Red that during his imprisonment he was carefully watching the newspapers for any information. He wanted to know if his identity of Peter Stevens is still safe, if anything unusual happened at Buxton, anything that could ruin all his future hopes. Red is now more than ever amazed not only by his fellow prisoner's hope for the best but also by his persistence.

Andy lightens the hope in Red's soul, so he can be free, actually when Red is already paroled. Red is finally not only physically free but also free in his spirit when he thinks about Andy's persistent work on the hole. When Red is finally paroled, he is already institutionalized. Without Andy he would never found that inner peace or hope that Andy possessed, because Red already long ago gave up hope. He finds hope again through Andy's friendship and his hoping for the best and preparing for the worst. When Red thinks about Andy's work, he realizes that he is solely responsible for his spirit-freedom. On his rides to Buxton, Red at first does not really hope to find anything, he isn't even sure if the stone or the wall

are still there but on these rides he “really *felt* free, at peace” (King, 109). Once he finds that specific stone, he can barely believe it, he not only finds the stone but underneath the stone is a letter from Andy alias Peter Stevens. In the letter Andy asks Red to come to Zihuatanejo and to help him build the hotel. He also reminds Red to not forget, that “hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things and no good thing ever dies.” (King, 112)

At the end of the story Red finds hope again through the example of his friend. Red ends his narration with a great feeling of freedom and hope. He writes the last lines with great hope in a hotel:

I find I am excited, so excited I can hardly hold the pencil in my trembling hand. I think it is the excitement that only a free man can feel, a free man starting a long journey whose conclusion is uncertain.

I hope Andy is down there.

I hope I can make it across the border.

I hope to see my friend and shake his hand.

I hope the Pacific is as blue as it has been in my dreams

I *hope* (King, 113).

4.2. HOPE AND FREEDOM IN *THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO*

The main theme of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* is revenge but there are also other themes, which have great importance for the story: justice versus injustice, forgiveness, God, hope and freedom. In this story hope and freedom are crucial not only for the main character, Edmond Dantes but also for other characters, who at some point in the story also lose their hope and freedom.

Although the story's great part is about Dantes' revenge upon his enemies and about how he forgave them for their wrongdoings, hope and freedom are very important for his forgiveness. He could forgive them at the end of the story, when he realizes, that he is not "the equal of God" (Dumas, 1077) and that "in God's hands alone reside supreme power and infinite wisdom" (Dumas, 1077). Until then he thinks that if God did not punish the ones who betrayed him, then he should carry out God's punishment. Dantes, who at the beginning of the story is full of hope, actually finds hope, which finally after his physical freedom also sets his heart free, at the end of the story when he finds love again in Haydee. Dantes' final plan is to end his revenge by committing suicide but with forgiving his enemies, he not only forgives himself for acting as God's replacement on earth but also frees himself. He found physical freedom a long time ago by escaping Chateau d'If but his heart was not free until he could forgive his enemies, because until then his heart was full of revenge, and a person's heart full of revenge cannot be free.

At the beginning of the story Dantes is full of hope; he is about to be made the captain of the *Pharaon*, and he will marry a very beautiful woman, Mercedes. Dantes actually still has hope when he is questioned about the accusation made against him; he is supposedly a Bonapartist. Dantes thinks at first that everything will clear out, that he is wrongly accused and that he will soon be free, but after Villefort reads the letter, he says to Dantes that at the moment he is unable to set him free. At the Chateau

d'If, Dantes at first still has hope. He begins his imprisonment with pride and hope, since Villefort, whose words "still echoed in his ears like a sweet promise of hope" (Dumas, 62), promised him to consult the examining magistrate. After years pass by and he is still a prisoner, he loses his hope. He actually starts to doubt his innocence, he starts to believe that in one way or another he deserves to be imprisoned, that somehow he is guilty.

Dantes went through all the stages of misery endured by prisoners who are left entombed in prison. He started with pride, which is the product of hope and the knowledge of one's innocence (Dumas, 114).

Until he finally "fell from the summit of his pride and prayed, not to God but to men, God is the last refuge" (Dumas, 114). He not only loses his faith to God and starts to pray to men but his only hope after years of imprisonment is any change, even a change for the worst, because even that would mean change for him. So he starts to pray "to be removed from his dungeon and put in another, even one that was deeper and darker" (Dumas, 114). He also asks his jailer "to be given a cell-mate: anyone, even the mad abbe" (Dumas, 114). When he "exhausted every human resource" (Dumas, 115), he finally turns to God and starts to pray. When, despite of all his prayers, Dantes still remains a prisoner, he gets mad, he starts to curse and "dashed himself against the walls of his prison and raged against everything around him, himself first of all" (Dumas, 115).

When he loses his faith in God he also loses his will to live. He starts to think about the ways he could end his suffering, when he comes to his final idea, death by starvation. He starts his plan by throwing his meals out of the window, until one day he hears a sound. Dantes immediately knows that it is not a normal sound, for him it seems like an animal is making that noise. For Dantes that sound came at the right moment, when he lost his faith to God. This sound means only one thing for Dantes, that there is still hope, because it enlightens the idea of freedom in his mind:

Weak as he was, the young man's brain was struck by an ordinary notion which is constantly present in a prisoner's mind: freedom (Dumas, 118).

But he still has great difficulties believing that such a thing as freedom is possible for him. He starts to think that because of his starvation, he is already so weak, that he starts to have hallucinations. He starts listening to the persistent sound, which at last brought him a "flicker of hope" (Dumas, 118). Dantes starts to think, by whom the sound is made, a jailer or a prisoner. When he comes to the idea that a prisoner, "whose eagerness to be free was at least as great as his own" (Dumas, 118), is making the sound, he is again full of hope. Dantes also starts to dig and finally meets Abbe Faria. Meeting the Abbe gives him a lot of hope, not only because he might be finally free but it is a change, for which he long ago prayed for, "he was certainly no longer going to be alone" (Dumas, 126).

Abbe Faria greatly affects Dantes. He not only gives him hope to sustain in such a miserable situation but most importantly faith in God, through his example of persistence:

But now that he had seen an old man clasp on to life with such energy and giving him the example of such a desperate resolve, he started to reflect and to measure his courage. Another man had attempted to do something that he had not even thought of doing; another; less young, less strong and less agile than himself, had succeeded, by sheer skill and patience ... so nothing was impossible for Dantes. Faria had dug fifty feet, he would dig a hundred; ... Faria, the priest, the learned churchman, had not shrunk from the prospect of swimming from Chateau d'If to the islands of Daume, Ratoneau or Lemaire; so would he. ... No, Dantes needed only to be encouraged by example, Anything that another man had done or could have done, Dantes would do (Dumas, 132).

After a time a friendship, a relationship like that between a father and a son, develops between the two prisoners. This friendship means a lot to Dantes, since “captivity shared is only semi-captivity” (Dumas, 126). Dantes not only learns from Abbe Faria to have faith in God again but also a lot about history, languages, science. Abbe Faria is also the one who, through simply questioning Dantes about the conditions of his arrest and the accusations made against him, points out his enemies, the ones who betrayed Dantes and their reasons for doing so. The two friends start to dig an escape tunnel together but they are disrupted by Faria's seizure. Faria had two seizures after he met Dantes but the first time Dantes was able to restore him back to live by giving him the red potion, for which Faria asked him. After the seizure Abbe Faria is so weak, that he feels unable to carry on with their escape plan. He asks Dantes to continue their plan alone and leave him in the prison, since he feels unable to continue digging or even to swim after their escape. After Dantes swears to Christ that he will not leave Faria while he is still alive, Faria realizes Dantes' loyalty towards him. Now Faria is able to revile the existence of the Spada family treasure to Dantes.

Faria's final seizure is a tragedy for Dantes. He again feels desperate, “the idea of suicide had been driven away by his friend's presence but returned like a ghost and rose up beside Faria's corpse” (Dumas, 170). This idea struck Dantes only for a short moment but is soon replaced by a desire for life and freedom. He soon discovers, that the best way of escaping Chateau d'If is by taking the place of his dead friend. So he opens Faria's burial sack, removes his body, drags him into his own cell and sews himself into the Abbe's burial sack and waits for the jailers to take the supposedly dead body wherever they might. He goes through all the possible scenarios; if he is discovered, he would leave the jailers no time and would stab them; if he is to be buried, he would tunnel his way out of the earth. When the jailers finally come for him and throw him into the sea, he realizes that “the sea is the graveyard of the Chateau d'If” (Dumas, 174). The sea is the graveyard of the Chateau d'If but for Dantes it means freedom, not only because he escapes and swims to a new life on it but

also because he is a sailor and he spent most of his life on sea. The sea can be seen as a symbol of freedom.

There are also other symbols of not only freedom but also hope in the story. The most important symbol of freedom apart from the sea is air. For Dantes air means a lot when he is departed to the Chateau d'If. Although he is not free and he does not know what will happen with him, the first breath of fresh air is almost freedom for him. The most important symbol of hope in the story is the anchor, according to *A Dictionary of Symbols* the anchor is a symbol of early Christianity that signifies salvation and hope. For Dantes the anchor is a symbol of hope, because it connects him to his free, sailor life. At sea he is a free, new man.

There is also another symbol which is important for the concept of hope and freedom in *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the symbol of suicide. A person who loses the will to live also loses hope. Edmond Dantes thinks about committing suicide several times. Mostly he thinks about death by suicide when he realizes that life as such is not worth living. Dantes thinks about suicide for the first time during his imprisonment when he loses his faith in God. Although suicide as such means death, Dantes finds it a comforting idea, because with that idea all of his sorrows seem to disappear. At the end of the story he wants to end his revenge by taking his life, because after the death of Edward de Villefort he finds that his punishment has gone too far. He only wanted to punish the ones who were responsible for his misfortune but now a little innocent child is death.

When Mercedes asks Dantes not to duel her son, Albert de Morcerf, Dantes tells her that in this case he should be the one who will have to die. Dantes promises her that her son will live but since Albert publicly assaulted him in front of all of his friends, he is unable to call off the duel. We see that for him death by suicide is an honorable act, because with that he should be remembered as an honorable person:

It is important for the honour of my memory that the world knows that I myself agreed, of my own will, by my own free choice, to stay

my arm when it was raised to strike; and that I struck myself down with that hand so powerfully protected against others. I shall do it. I must (Dumas, 856).

Edmond Dantes is not the only character who thinks about suicide in the story; actually many other characters think about that idea or even carry it out. After Dantes is arrested, Mercedes also loses her hope and thinks about suicide by throwing herself into the ocean but her religious feelings are too strong for that. Dumas shows suicide as an honorable act in a hopeless situation through the character of M. Morrel, who is in a desperate situation; he has lots of debts and his last hope is the return of his ship, the *Pharaon*, which is supposedly lost at sea. He considers taking his life because he is a man of honor. If he is unable to repay his debts not only his name is going to be dishonored but his whole family is going to be dishonored. Through that situation Dumas points out that “blood washes away dishonor” (Dumas, 256). The only person who actually commits suicide in the novel is Fernand de Morcerf. He takes his life after Mercedes and Albert abandoned him. His suicide is also an honorable act. His name is publicly ruined and he is faced not only by the public knowledge of his betrayal against Ali Pasha but also with his betrayal against his old friend, Edmond Dantes.

Fernand's suicide is a surprise, since it shows a change in his person. When he takes his life he is deprived of all hope, he is abandoned by the people who he dearly loves. Fernand already thought about suicide earlier in the novel after Dantes' arrest. He thought about what he might do in case Dantes comes back and he came to the idea that he would kill Dantes and afterwards kill himself to disguise the murder. “But Fernand was mistaken: he would never kill himself, because he lived in hope” (Dumas, 102). He soon put that idea aside, because he still had hope. Fernand changes at the end of the novel, at the beginning of the story he thought about suicide as of something unworthy to do but at the end of the story he loses all hope and kills himself.

Dantes' revenge upon Fernand and also upon his other enemies is not only by punishing them for the things they have taken away from him but in a way it is also the same punishment they have made upon him. The revenge for Fernand is by estranging him with his family. Dantes punishes Fernand not only for taking away his father and fiancée. His punishment is also the same suffering as Dantes had when in prison, he also thought about suicide which Fernand actually carried out. Dantes punishes Danglars not only for depriving him of money but the punishment upon him is meant to be death by starvation. Danglars should die a long, painful death after he has no money to pay for the meals. When Dantes reviles himself to Danglars, we understand that his punishment upon Danglars is not only by depriving him of his money but it is also the same suffering that Dantes went through while imprisoned: "I am the one whose father you condemned to starvation and the one who condemned you to starvation" (Dumas, 1066). Not only did Dantes, while in prison, thought about such kind of death but his father was also deprived of food and died of starvation. He wants his enemies to suffer as long and as painful as he has. Dantes' revenge upon Villefort is not only because Villefort deprived him of his freedom but at the end of the story Villefort is mad and publicly ruined. After Dantes was arrested his name was also ruined, as it was publicly known that he is supposedly a Bonapartist. While imprisoned Dantes also went through the stage of being mad when he dashed himself against the prison doors and growled in front of his jailers.

Hope and freedom are also crucial to other characters not only for Dantes. Other characters at some point in the story also lose their hope and freedom. At the end of the story all of Dantes' enemies lose their hope and freedom; Caderousse is dead, Villefort insane, Fernand kills himself after he loses all hope. After Danglars is kidnapped he not only loses his freedom, but also his hope and money. He loses his freedom before he is held captive by the bandits, because he flees from Paris with the money he has stolen from the hospital and is on the run. During his escape Danglars is kidnapped by bandits and taken to the catacombs of Rome. There he loses all hope when he hears the price for one meal. He

protests, tries to fast but when he realizes that nobody is going to free him, he is willing to spend his money for the best dishes and afterwards die of starvation. Although Dantes forgives him and frees him, Danglars loses his freedom, because he now has only 50,000 francs left to live with and from now on he needs to live in poverty.

Dantes' enemies are the ones who lose all their hope, although some of the other characters also lose their hope. After Dantes' arrest his father lost all hope. He still had hope that his son will be free after Napoleon came to the throne but after he fell his father lost all hope. Mercedes also loses all hope after Dantes' arrest and even thinks about suicide but she is only saved because of her faith. The other characters lose or gain their hope mostly by Dantes' actions, as was the case with Monsieur Morrel, who is on the verge of losing everything and his only hope was the return of his ship, the *Pharaon*. At the end of the story those characters who were kind to Dantes and his father gain their hope and his enemies, the ones who betrayed him, lose all their hope.

Most importantly, it is Maximilian Morrel who loses and gains hope. In a way Dantes provides hope for Maximilian and Valentine through a Romeo and Juliet like plot and he finally reunites them on the Isle of Monte Cristo. Dantes provides hope and freedom for Valentine, because with giving her a pill which makes her look dead he actually saves her life. If he would not watch over her by her bedside and gave her the pill, she would probably be dead, since her stepmother wanted to poison her. After Valentine's death Maximilian loses all hope, which he regains after meeting Valentine again. Until then he is left with no hope, because life without Valentine means for him life without hope. He is on the verge of committing suicide and accuses Dantes of falsely giving him hope, which for him means suffering:

No, I feel I am at the end of the road; I shall go no further. You told me to wait and hope. Do you know what you have done, wise as you are? I have waited a month, which means I have suffered a month. I hoped – man is such a poor miserable creature – I hoped

but what? I don't know: something unimaginable, absurd, senseless, a miracle ... madness called hope. Yes, I waited: yes, Count, I hoped: and in the past quarter of an hour, while we have been speaking, you have unwittingly broken and tortured my heart a hundred times, for each of your words proved to me that I have no hope left. Oh, Count! Let me rest in the sweet and voluptuous bosom of death!' (Dumas, 1070)

The story ends with Dantes' forgiveness, which after a long time frees his heart from revenge. Although Dantes found freedom a long time ago by escaping the Chateau d'If, his heart is not yet free, because it is full of revenge. When Dantes travels to the prison to learn about its past, we learn that his only hope while imprisoned and after he was free was memory:

'My God!' he read 'Let me not forget!'

'Yes, yes,' he said. 'That was my only prayer in my last years. I no longer asked for freedom, I asked for memory and was afraid I should become mad and forget. My God, you did preserve my memory and I have not forgotten. Thank you, God, thank you.'
(Dumas, 1041)

In the course of the novel Dantes not only learns to forgive and forget but also learns to love again as he finds love again in Haydee. Until then he was unable to feel any emotion. He actually said farewell to his feelings after he rewarded the Morrel family for their kindness towards his father:

'And now,' said the stranger 'farewell, goodness, humanity, gratitude ... Farewell all those feelings that nourish and illuminate the heart! I have taken the place of Providence to reward the good; now let the avenging God make way for me to punish the wrongdoer!' (Dumas, 260)

With Haydee's love he is able to love again and also to forget what he needs to forget. It is Haydee's love which saves his life and heart. He wants to end his revenge plan by taking his own life but when he finds out

that Haydee deeply loves him he is unable to do that. At the end of the story Dantes leaves Maximilian and Valentine a letter in which he asks them to do two things. He asks to pray for him, because he for a long time played the role of the avenging God and soon realized that “in God's hands alone reside supreme power and infinite wisdom” (Dumas, 1077). In that letter Dantes reveals to Maximilian what he learned in life with the hope that Maximilian will learn an important lesson from his experience. What Dantes ultimately learned from his suffering is that “there is neither happiness nor misfortune in this world, there is merely the comparison between one state and another, nothing more” (Dumas, 1077). It means that only a person who has suffered deeply enough in life can experience the greatness of life. The most important lesson Dantes reviles to Maximilian is to “never forget that, until the day when God deigns to unveil the future to mankind, all human wisdom is contained in these two words: 'wait' and 'hope'!” (Dumas, 1077). It was this lesson that Dantes needed a very long time to learn, the lesson of persistence, of wait and hope and that at the end God will revenge the ones that need to be revenged.

At the end of the story Dantes and Haydee sail away and Maximilian is afraid that they will not meet them again. Valentine reminds Maximilian of the Count's words: wait and hope. The two lovers are waiting and hoping to meet Dantes and Haydee again. The story ends on a tone of hopefulness, with the words “'wait' and 'hope'” (Dumas, 1078)

4.3. COMPARISON OF HOPE AND FREEDOM IN BOTH STORIES

Both stories have a similar plot and similar themes. Both *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* and *The Count of Monte Cristo* tell a story about a man who is unjustly imprisoned and about his daring escape from the prison.

Although both stories also have themes which are important only for one of the two stories, for example revenge in *The Count of Monte Cristo*, hope and freedom are equally important for both stories. Both Andy and Dantes have only hope left after their imprisonment. Still the main characters of both stories differ a lot. Andy never loses his hope, he is not like a normal prisoner, although he almost loses his hope once, he still has the feeling that he will make it, because he prepared the tunnel a long time ago. Whereas Dantes loses his hope several times, he tries to commit suicide twice and finds hope again at the end of the novel. He can be compared to Red, who also loses all his hope and finds it again at the end of the novel through Andy's example.

The most important concept for hope and freedom in both stories is friendship, the friendship between two prisoners. The friendship between Andy and Red in Stephen King's *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* is very important for Red's hope and freedom. Andy's friendship not only gives him hope to survive in hard times but it also sets him free, not physically but psychically. In *The Count of Monte Cristo* the friendship between Edmond Dantes and Abbe Faria is very important for Dantes' hope and freedom. The sound of Abbe Faria digging a tunnel gave Dantes not only a "flicker of hope" (Dumas, 118), because he realizes that the noise might be produced by another prisoner tunneling his way to freedom but also a feeling of happiness, because

He was certainly no longer going to be alone, he might perhaps even be free. The worst case, should he remain a prisoner, was to

have a companion: captivity shared is only semi-captivity. Sighs united together are almost prayers, prayers coming from two hearts are almost acts of grace. (Dumas, 126)

For Dantes this idea of having a friend in prison means a lot, because he is not only saved from committing suicide by hearing that sound but he could have a companion. Friendships among prisoners are important for their freedom, although the prisoners are in a jail they can share their imprisonment with a fellow prisoner, like they would have friends in the outside world.

Andy can be compared to Abbe Faria, because they both give a sense of hope to their fellow prisoner. On the other hand, Red and Dantes can be compared, not only because the friendship with their fellow prisoner gives them a kind of hope or even sets them free but because they both find hope and freedom relatively late in the story. After they are set free they both still remain imprisoned in their spirit, they both still need to find that spirit-freedom. After Dantes carries out his reward plans for the Morrel family, he says farewell to all emotion, from now on his heart is ice cold filled only with revenge, which imprisons him psychically. Although Faria gives Dantes a lot of hope with his example, Dantes is still imprisoned after escaping Chateau d'If, because his heart is still full of revenge. He finally regains his hope and psychological freedom after he finds love again in Haydee.

Red, on the other hand, is still a prisoner in his mind after he is paroled, because he adjusted himself so much to the prisons daily routine that he could barely think that a world outside of the prison walls is possible, he is already institutionalized. He finds his psychological freedom at the end of the story through Andy's example, who has done everything to obtain his freedom. Actually, both Red and Dantes obtain a sense of freedom through the example of another prisoner. Red through Andy's persistent

work not only with digging the tunnel but also through his persistent work on the library. Dantes obtains a sense of freedom through Abbe Faria's example, who almost twice as old as Dantes persistently tried to dig his way out of the prison.

Red mentions Andy as a person who always “wore his freedom like an invisible coat” (King, 75) and that the other prisoners “could never smell hopelessness on him” (King, 57) but we learn that he once partially lost his hope. He lost his hope when Tommy Williams was transported to another prison with all the information for his possible freedom gone. But even in that situation Andy could still obtain his hope, because that information was hope for him. As Andy explained to Red:

Tommy had produced a key which fitted a cage in the back of his mind, a cage like his own cell. Only instead of holding a man, that cage held a tiger and that tiger's name was Hope. Williams had produced the key that unlocked the cage and the tiger was out, willy-nilly, to roam his brain (King, 62)

For Andy that piece of information is very important, because he can still obtain his hope, although he is locked in solitary. We see that although Andy is full of hope, he still needs something to hold onto and this something is hope provided by Tommy.

As already mentioned, Abbe Faria is the one in *The Count of Monte Cristo* who gives Dantes a sense of hope and freedom. He is not the only character who provides him with these two things. There are also some minor characters who are utterly important for Dantes who in prison suffered a lot and tried to hold onto every little thing, which gave him a sense of hope. Villefort's promise to consult the examining magistrate sounded like hope in Dantes' ears. Another person who gives Dantes a kind of hope is the prison inspector, who visits the prisoners and asks them about their condition. The prison inspector brings some kind of hope into Dantes' cell,

because he promises him to look into his case and “the hope that the inspector had brought with him remained locked in Dantes' dungeon” (Dumas, 108). The inspector in *The Count of Monte Cristo* and Tommy Williams in *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* are both important for the main characters of the two stories, because they both provide a certain kind of hope for them. In Andy's case this hope roamed around in his mind and never left his cell, and in Dantes' case it remained with him in his cell. Tommy Williams and the inspector in Dantes cell, both bring something into the prison, that something is hope, they both give hope to the prisoner. Tommy Williams' story “produced the key that unlocked the cage” of hope for Andy Dufresne, he brings hope into Andy's prison life. The inspector in Dantes dungeon also brought hope into Dantes dungeon.

Andy and Dantes differ a lot. Andy is the one in *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* who gives hope to other prisoners, whilst Dantes is the one in *The Count of Monte Cristo* who is provided with hope through the example of Abbe Faria. Although they differ so much, they can still be compared on another level. Because they both went through the same stages that a prisoner goes through. As already mentioned, Dantes goes through all of these stages, he starts his imprisonment with pride and hope, after that he starts to doubt his own innocence, at the end when the idea of suicide crosses his mind he is already mad and dashes himself against the prison doors. Andy in a way also goes through these stages, although Red portrays him as a person full of hope and freedom. We learn that Andy once also loses his inner light, when he hears that Tommy Williams is transported to a minimum security prison. At that moment he is also as mad as Dantes, he starts to threaten the warden. Both Andy and Dantes also go through a kind of guilt, they in a way feel guilty to be imprisoned. Dantes feels that he is in a way guilty, that he actually deserves to be imprisoned, because he does not find any other explanations for his imprisonment. Andy on the other way knows that he is unjustly imprisoned but he still feels some kind of guilt, that it is right for him to be imprisoned. He thinks that it is his fault that his wife had an affair

and consecutively that she was shot, because he could not show her enough love. That is why Andy thinks he is rightfully imprisoned but not for murdering the two victims but for driving his wife away into the arms of another man.

Another similarity between the two main characters is the use of other identities. Edmond Dantes uses several disguises, the most prominent that of the Count of Monte Cristo. The other disguises he uses are Abbe Bussoni and Lord Wilmore. Andy Dufresne also uses an alias, that of Peter Stevens.

Both *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* and *The Count of Monte Cristo* have a common symbol, one that appears in both. That symbol is the sea. As already mentioned the sea for Dantes means freedom and is a connection to his old, free life. In Stephen King's *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* we learn that the sea has a meaning of freedom and forgiveness for Andy. When Andy speaks with Red about Zihuatanejo for the first time, he describes the Pacific Ocean as a place with no memory. A place where there is no memory, and consecutively a place where he could be forgiven. The forgiveness that he needs is to be forgiven for driving his wife away from him.

Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption is a story about Red regaining his hope and freedom, so is *The Count of Monte Cristo* a story about Dantes finding his hope and psychical freedom. Both Dantes and Red find hope and their spirit-freedom again relatively late in the story. Dantes finds hope again when he finds love again in Haydee, until then his heart was full of negative emotions, of revenge. Dantes learns an important lesson when young Edward, an innocent victim of his revenge, dies. The lesson he learns is that it was wrong to carry out God's punishment and that it is better to wait and hope, to have patience that God will take care of everything. At the end of the story Dantes writes a letter to Maximilian and

Valentine in which he reveals this utterly important lesson of patience to them. Patience also has significant meaning for hope in both stories. In *The Count of Monte Cristo* Dantes not only learns that it is wrong to take revenge in his own hands but he also learns to be patient, to wait and hope that the events will turn to the best. Andy in *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* on the other hand gives Red a strong example of patience, he chipped on the wall for ages and never gave up, he never lost his patience.

Both stories also tell us that the prisoners need something that will give them a sense of freedom or hope, a thing which connects them to their old, free life, as in Andy's case the rock-hammer and the posters, or even a thing on which they can work persistently. Andy's persistent work in expanding the library gives him a certain kind of hope and freedom. Dantes and Andy both continually try digging a tunnel, which in a way provides them with hope that freedom is near and possible. The most important thing that can give a prisoner a sense of hope and freedom, as described in both stories, is friendship. As described in *The Count of Monte Cristo* it is utterly important for prisoners to have a friend, a companion inside the prison, because sorrows which are shared are only half as hard. Both Dantes and Red can sustain a prisoner's life only, because they have a companion. Dantes, who after losing all hope to regain his freedom soon asked only for a change, to be placed in another dungeon or even to have a companion. Without Abbe Faria he would probably commit suicide. Red without Andy's friendship, his example of persistence, would probably break his parole.

Both stories have a similar ending; they both end on a tone of hopefulness. *The Count of Monte Cristo* ends with Maximilian and Valentine waving to the sailing boat which carries Dantes and Haydee away from the Isle of Monte Cristo. They wait and hope to see them again. At the end of *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*, Red is full of hope, that he will see Andy again, and that the Pacific is as blue as he

remembers. At the end of both stories, the main character leaves a letter for another character through which they remind them of the importance of hope. As described in *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* hope, is the best of things.

5. CONCLUSION

The genres of both stories are very different; *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* is a prison story and *The Count of Monte Cristo* is an adventure story, but still hope and freedom are equally important themes in both stories. Furthermore, the authors of both stories are famous for writing in different genres; Alexandre Dumas is very famous for his romances and Stephen King is famous for horror stories. I also tried to draw a comparison between the two authors, where a comparison is logically possible. They both wrote hundreds of books in different genres. Alexandre Dumas became famous as a playwright but nowadays his most important books are romances and adventure stories, and Stephen King became famous as a writer of horror stories but until today he has written several non-horror stories

Although the two stories have a different plot, they still have many similarities. They both tell a story about an unjustly imprisoned man, his struggles in prison and his daring escape. The differences between the two stories are that *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* has no revenge or adventure plot. In a way *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* could be seen as a modern version of *The Count of Monte Cristo*, minus the revenge part. Revenge is one of the most important themes in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* since more than two thirds of the story's plot develops around Dantes' punishment upon his enemies. The themes of hope and freedom are equally important for the novel, because Edmond Dantes could only find his inner peace and psychical freedom by laying his revenge plans aside.

Both stories show us that hope and freedom are very important concepts in the lives of every prisoner. Although prisoners are not physically free they still need to have a feeling that they are psychically free, a feeling that freedom is possible. Although the main characters when compared differ a lot, hope and freedom are similarly important for both of them. The main

character of *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*, Andy Dufresne, is full of hope, to other prisoners he seems like a free man. On the other hand, the main character of *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Edmond Dantes, loses all his hope and psychical freedom. The characters in both stories for whom hope and freedom are very important concepts are the ones who not only lost all hope but also gave up on it. In *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* the prisoner who still needs to learn the importance of hoping is Red, and in *The Count of Monte Cristo* not only Edmond Dantes needs to learn the importance of persistence and hope but also Maximilian Morrel.

Both stories tell us not only the importance of hoping for the best and persistence but also that friendships among prisoners are utterly important for their spirit-freedom. Prisoners can only have hope and a sense of freedom, if they can share their troubles with a fellow inmate. The main character of *The Count of Monte Cristo* is saved from committing suicide only because he has found a fellow prisoner with whom he is able to share his sorrows. On the other hand, the narrator of *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption*, Red, is saved from breaking his parole only because he thinks about his fellow prisoner's persistence.

Persistence is also an important concept for hope and freedom in both works. Edmond Dantes and Andy Dufresne both work for long years on the tunnel, furthermore Andy persistently tries to enlarge the library, and Dantes at the end of *The Count of Monte Cristo* learns the utterly important lesson of persistent waiting for the best outcome.

Furthermore, *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* also shows us that prisoners need to have a hobby in which they can continue to work also inside the prison walls to feel a certain kind of freedom. In a way Andy's rock-hound and his persistent work in the library saves him from going insane inside the prison, because through these two hobbies he can

find a certain kind of sense in the prisons daily routine and he can continue his hobby from his old, free life. The persistent work of digging the tunnel can also be seen as a hobby in both stories, because with that work both characters get a sense of hope.

The ending of both stories is also very similar. Both stories end on a tone of hopefulness. Red ends his narration when he finds hope again. He has great hopes for the future, he hopes to see his friend, to shake his hand and most importantly after years of being institutionalized, Red hopes again. At the end of *The Count of Monte Cristo*, not only Edmond Dantes finds hope again but also Maximilian and Valentine are finally able to hope for a bright future.

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