

CHAPTER 10: “THE LEECH AND HIS PATIENT”

WORDS

armorial	hillocks	rapture
assent	imbue	revelation
betwixt	inimical	self-abasement
borne	irreverently	sexton
brethren	manifest (v.)	somniferous
comports	maternal	sooth
decorously	mirth	tenaciously
eccentricity	morbidness	tread
ecstasy	palliate	vein
ere	penitential	verily
forebode	piety	vestment
ghastly	pious	wary
grimly	potency	wherefore
hastily	propagate	

QUESTIONS

1. What “investigation” consumes Chillingworth?
2. Who is Chillingworth’s main suspect and victim?
3. What is a leech? What double meaning does the word “leech” have?
4. What kind of “nature” does Chillingworth think Dimmesdale has inherited from his parents?
5. What natural materials does Chillingworth employ to make his “drugs of potency”? And where does he find them? Where do you think he learned this knowledge (remember, he is in a foreign land)?
6. What secret does Chillingworth believe is buried in Dimmesdale’s heart?
7. Why would Dimmesdale live with guilt and not confess his sin openly?
8. Characterize Pearl’s behavior as she walks through the graveyard. What does she decorate Hester’s ‘A’ with?
9. What does Pearl do to Dimmesdale? What is Dimmesdale’s reaction?
10. What reaction does Pearl have to Chillingworth when she sees him with Rev. Dimmesdale?
11. What discovery does Chillingworth make when Dimmesdale “fell into a deep, deep slumber”?
12. How does Chillingworth behave? What does this say about Chillingworth’s character? (Recall he is always so cold, like his name).

NOTES

Bunyan’s awful doorway: John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, London, 1678. Pilgrim passes the entrance to hell from which flames and smoke dart out.

apple of his eye: idiomatic for most cherished object.

bore no tombstone: the poor, criminals and citizens of ill-repute were often buried in unmarked graves.

the day when all hidden things shall be revealed: the apocalypse and final judgment when all souls will be reunited