

## Egoism Seems Self- Destructive

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### ABSTRACT

*Being brought up under certain circumstances, a child may become an egoist. If he is not capable to adjust himself to some situations, he may destroy himself by certain unpleasant problems. In George Eliot's novel Daniel Deronda, Gwendolen, an inborn egoist is not probably able to cope with some situations mainly after her marriage. As a matter of fact, she has been increasingly arrogant, rebellious, heartless, disapproving, unhappy. Under such a situation she has contributed to her husband, Grandcourt's drowning. Obviously, after her husband's death, her future is dark for her. so, it can be admitted that she has ruined herself.*

**Keywords:** Egoist, destructive, drowning, dark, ruined.

### Introduction

It is generally recommended to the beginners to imitate the works other people have done in their fields to be successful. But amazingly, in *Daniel Deronda*, Gwendolen, a girl of sixteen has told her cousin Anna: «I like to differ from everybody. I think it is so stupid to agree. » (E, George, 1876, P.37). This statement means probably that the girl is willing not to follow any pre-existent plans or rules. In other words, she is wishing to be an exception. But as a human being, it is likely she cannot be successful without the least imitation. Thus, it can be said that Gwendolen is an egoist. After I have dealt with the factors which may lead her to this state of mind, the analyses of some of the problems she has faced will allow her to say to what extent she has contributed to her own destruction.

### 1. The Probable Causes of Egoism

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary Ninth Edition, egoism is the fact of thinking that you are better or more important than anyone else. Thus being egoist may be the result of many factors such as family's living conditions, the neighbours over-estimations for a child, self- love, etc.

#### 1.1. The Family's Living Conditions

Gwendolen's mother, Fanny Davilow has always been in an apologetic state of mind towards Gwendolen. The following dialogue shows Fanny Davilow adores her elder daughter:

« "your uncle and aunt will be here soon. For heaven's sake, don't be scornful to them, my dear child, or to your cousin Anna, whom you will always be going out with. Do promise me, Gwendolen. you know, you can't expect Anna to be equal to you,"  
«I don't want her be my equal." Said Gwendolen, with a toss of her head and a smile, and the discussion ended there. » (E, George, 1876, P.22).

Before her sister Nancy and her husband Gascoigne visit them in their new rented house at offening, she has for instance begged Gwendolen not to misbehave towards them. Her behaviour underlines that she is not used to getting angry or violent with her daughter Gwendolen. In other words, she does not usually growl at her. Under such a situation it is likely the girl will become a spoilt child. Besides, Gwendolen's answer to her mother's question during the dialogue shows that she is always wishing to be superior to other people. Moreover, Fanny Davilow is very often concerned with her daughter's pleasure». In fact, in spite of her poverty, the mother is begging her sister Nancy and the latter's husband Gascoigne to try to buy a horse for Gwendolen: « "the dear child has had no pleasures, said her mother in a pleading undertone. «I feel the expense is rather impudent in this first year of our settling. But she really needs the exercise she needs cheering. And if you were to see her on horseback, it is something splendid." (E, George, 1876, P.28).

Although Fanny Davilow is aware that the Gascoignes cannot afford to buy a horse for their own daughter, Anna, she is pleading for Gwendolen. Under such a situation one may say she is not reasonable. Besides, the care she gives Gwendolen at home is exceptional. George Eliot has written about Gwendolen's living conditions at home: «Always she was the princess in exile, who in time of famine was to have her breakfast-roll made of the finest-bolted flour from the seven thin ears of wheat, and in a general decampment was to have her silver fork kept out of the baggage.

» (E, George, 1876, P.32). Gwendolen is regarded as more than a Queen at home. Everything must be provided for her. As a matter of fact, she may consider herself superior to other members of the family. So the living conditions at home may be one of the causes for a child becoming an egoist. In the same way, the neighbours' consideration for a child may contribute to his becoming selfish.

### **1.2. Neighbours' Over-estimation for Gwendolen**

Gwendolen's beauty has been appreciated by her uncle Gascoigne. He has told Gwendolen's mother: «certainly, a fine woman never looks better than on horseback. And Gwendolen has the figure for it. I don't say the thing should not be considered. » (E, George, 1876, P28.). According to Gascoigne, a beautiful and charming girl like Gwendolen deserves a horse. This means he agrees to buy a horse for Gwendolen although his own daughter, Anna, has not yet got one. His consideration for Gwendolen may make the latter think she is better or more important than Anna. Moreover, Herr Klesmer has told Gwendolen: «If I misled one who is so young, so beautiful who, I trust, will find her happiness along the right road, I should regard myself as a Bösewicht. » (E, George, 1876, P.216).

Gwendolen has gone to the musician Herr Klesmer so that he could teach her some lessons which can enable her to become an actress. During their conversation, Klesmer has made Gwendolen know that it is a sin to let her become an actress. He tells her that with her beauty and charm it is possible she that gets better opportunities elsewhere. Being considered this as such, it is likely Gwendolen will believe that she is more important than other girls; those who are actresses, and the ones who are willing to become artists. In other words, this overestimation may cause Gwendolen's over self-estimation which has led her to selfishness.

### **1.3. The Concept of Self-love**

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Ninth Edition, Self-love is the feeling that your own happiness and wishes are important. Is it not what the author wants to underline when she says about Gwendolen «she did not intend that her uncle should control her, but she saw at once that it would be altogether agreeable to her that he should be proud of introducing her as his niece. And there was every sign of his being likely to feel that pride» (E.George, 1876, P. 24).

It is a matter of extreme interest to Gwendolen if her uncle can introduce her niece Anna to her. She thinks that her uncle does nothing if he does not bring Anna to her. Her behaviour let's suppose she is a self-absorbed girl. She even asks her mother: « How can you help what I am? Besides, I am very charming. Come, now. Really-I am contented with myself. I like myself better than I should have liked my aunt and you. How dread fully dull you must have been! » (E George, 1876, P.80). This passage shows that Gwendolen believes that she is the most attractive girl. The passage also let's suggest she is used to neglecting her mother and aunt. All this shows her over self-estimation which may be one of the causes of her being egoist. Then as any kind of behaviour has naturally its consequences let focus on the drawbacks of egoistic behaviours.

## **2- The Disadvantages of Egoism in *Daniel Deronda***

Being egoist has made Gwendolen behave strangely. Some of her bad behaviours which are the impacts of her egoism, have on their turn led to other bad consequences.

### **2.1 Arrogance in the Novel**

Through some of Gwendolen's behaviours, one can say that she considers herself as better or superior to other people as far as her living conditions and making love are concerned. The following speech for instance let's say that she is not satisfied with her living conditions:

«She had disliked their former way of life, roving from one foreign-place or Parisian apartment to another, always feeling new antipathies to new suites of hired furniture, and meeting new people under conditions which made her appear of little importance; and the variation of having passed

two years at a showy school, where on all occasions of display she had been put foremost, had only deepened her sense that so exceptional a person as herself could hardly remain in ordinary circumstances or in a social position less than advantageous.» (E, George, 1876, P.17).

The above passage underlines that she does not agree to live in the same conditions as the other members of her family. This suggests she is against living in ordinary conditions. So, she likes to be exceptional which is not good behaviour because she will probably ignore most of her neighbours who will reciprocally reject her. Besides, the fact that she always seeks advantageous position will make it difficult for her to make a choice. The dialogue between Anna and her shows that it will be hard for a man to get her as a wife. Her dialogue with Rex sister, Anna points out her humiliating behaviour:

« “I don’t in the least believe in your Rex, Anna” said Gwendolen, laughing at her. “he will turn out to be like those wretched blue and yellow water-colours of his which you hang up in your bedroom and worship”  
“Very well, you will see” said Anna. “It is not that I know what is clever, but he has got a scholarship already, and papa says he will get a fellowship, and nobody is better at games. He is cleverer than Middleton and everybody but you call Middleton clever.”  
“So he may be in a dark-lantern sort of way. But he is stick. If he had to say ‘Perdition catch my soul, but I do love her,’ he would say it in just the same tone as, ‘Here endeth the second lesson.’”  
“Oh Gwendolen!” said Anna, shocked at these promiscuous allusions. “And it is very unkind of you to speak so of him, for he admires you very much.” » (E, George, 1876 P.45)

The above passage let’s say that Gwendolen is making fun of Rex. This suggests she thinks Rex is not a man she can marry. In other words, according to her, he is not a suitable man. Consequently, despites of Anna’s pleading for Rex, and Gwendolen’s awareness for Rex love for her, she does not care for him. Anna is certainly uneasy as the following passage can underline:

«And now Anna’s heart was sinking under the heavy conviction which she dared not utter, that Gwendolen would never care for Rex. What she herself held in tenderness and reverence had constantly seemed indifferent to Gwendolen, and it was easier to imagine her scorning Rex than returning any tenderness of his. Besides, she was always thinking of being something extraordinary. » (E, George, 1876, P. 53)

Rex’s sister Anna is conscious that Gwendolen has no consideration for her brother as far as love is concerned. Obviously, she is begging Gwendolen to have a deep sexual affection for him. It is certain that Gwendolen’s humiliating behaviours will have some negative impact on both Anna and Rex. But is Gwendolen really conscious she is doing anything wrong? The author has written:

«Gwendolen was perfectly aware that her cousin was in love with her; but she had no idea that the matter was of any consequence, having never had the slightest visitation of painful love herself. She wished the small romance of Rex’s devotion to fill up the time of his stay at Pennicote, and to avoid explanations which would bring it to an untimely end. Besides, she objected, with a sort of physical repulsion, to being directly made love to. With all her imaginative delight in being adored, there was a certain fierceness of maidenhood in her. » (E, George, 1876, P. 57).

George Eliot’s speech shows that Gwendolen is unconscious of the bad effect her scornful behaviours could have on Rex and his sister Anna. In other words, she does not notice that she is doing any harm. In this situation, one can say

she is not well prepared for sexual life. The following dialogue underlines her immaturity as far as love affair is concerned:

«“What should you like to do?” said Rex, quite guilelessly, and in real anxiety.  
“Oh, I don’t know! go to the North Pole, or ride steeplechases, or go to be a queen in the East like Lady Hester Stanhope,” said Gwendolen flightily. Her words were born on her lips, but she would have been at a loss to give an answer of deeper origin.  
“You don’t mean you would never be married?”  
“No; I didn’t say that. Only when I married, I should not do as other women do.” » (E, George, 1876, P 57)

The passage suggests that Gwendolen does not really know how to manage love affair. She is willing to get married and not to get married at the same time. She is expecting not to act as an ordinary married woman. Her speech supposes her exceptional behaviours. She has also has shown that she is an uncommon girl through the dialogue below:

« “Is that the last word you have to say to me, Gwendolen? Will it always be so?”  
She could not help seeing his wretchedness and feeling a little regret for the old Rex who had not offended her. Decisively, but yet with some return of kindness, she said—  
“About making love? Yes. But I don’t dislike you for anything else.” » (E, George, 1876, P.67)

Analyzing this passage, one can notice that Gwendolen is upset by Rex’s pleading for love and that, she is making an effort to resist the situation. She says that she hates Rex for the love affair only. So, to love a man is a problem for her. In this situation she probably needs some sexual education in order to be well prepared for sexual life, otherwise she may cause some problems when she will be forced to get married. She has even told her mother after she has agreed to marry Grand court:

« He will declare himself my slave - I shall send him round the world to bring me back the wedding-ring of a happy woman - in the meantime, all the men who are between him and the title will die of different diseases - he will come back Lord Grandcourt but without the ring - and fall at my feet. I shall laugh at him - he will rise in resentment - I shall laugh more» (E, George, 1876, P.79).

Gwendolen thinks that she can make Grandcourt her slave. So, she believes that when she is Grandcourt’s wife, she will dominate him. Thus it can be admitted that her notion of marriage is power. In other words, she is expecting not to submit herself to her husband’s orders. But, it seems she is aware that she not serious:

«“But I am very unreasonable in my wishes,” said Gwendolen smiling.  
“Yes, I expect that. Women always are.” said Grandcourt  
“Then I will not be unreasonable,” said Gwendolen, taking away her hand, and tossing her head saucily. “I will not be told that I am what women always are.” »(E, George 1876, P. 266 )

Gwendolen is showing Grandcourt how uncommon she is. It may seem to Grandcourt she is joking. Then it is up to him to know how to manage her. He probably thinks that the best way to know her is to get married as quick as possible. It is likely the reason why he has+ suggested the date of the marriage:

« “let us be married in ten days, then,” said Grandcourt, “and we shall not be bored about the stables.”  
“What do women always say in answer to that?” said Gwendolen, mischievously.  
“They agree to it,” said the lover, rather off his guard.

“Then I will not” said Gwendolen, taking up her gauntlets and putting them on, while she kept her eyes on him with gathering fun in them.”( E, George 1876, P. 266 )

As it can be expected, Grandcourt has suggested the delay of their marriage, but Gwendolen in her intention to show that she is an exceptional girl opposes the decision. She thinks that it is not good to say or to do what every woman is doing. One may think she is a playful girl. But, later on, when they get married, Grandcourt, unfortunately, notices that she is not a woman to manage easily:

«On the contrary, he believed that this girl was rather exceptional in the fact that, in spite of his assiduous attention to her, she was not in love with him; and it seemed to him very likely that if it had not been for the sudden poverty which had come over her family, she would not have accepted him. From the very first there had been an exasperating fascination in the trickiness with which she had not met his advances, but -wheeled away from them. She had been brought to accept him in spite of everything - brought to kneel down like a horse under training for the arena, though she might have an objection to it all the while. » (E, George 1876, P. 269).

Grandcourt has noticed that in spite of the care he is taking for Gwendolen the latter is not inclined to show any affection. Then he starts to believe that Gwendolen is forced to marry him by the misfortune which has prevailed in her family. In other words, he is saying that Gwendolen is an opportunist. From now on, one can say that Grandcourt will become distrustful towards his wife. As far as Gwendolen is concerned, it can be admitted that she believes that Grandcourt is an autocratic husband to whom she should not submit herself.

## **2.2. Gwendolen’s Rebellious Attitudes**

Since her girlhood, Gwendolen has been a rebel. She has asked her mother one day: «Why did you marry again, mamma? It would have been nicer if you had not. » (E, George, 1876, P. 18). After Gwendolen’s father's death, Gwendolen’s mother, Fanny Davilow has got married again and has given birth to four other girls. Gwendolen is not glad for her mother thinking probably that if her mother has not done so, their living conditions may be better. She surely believes that marriage prevents women from getting some opportunities. In other words, she is thinking that marriage is one of the obstacles to women’s development. It is obviously what she means when she has asked her mother the following two questions: «well but what is the use of my being charming if it is to end in my being dull and not minding anything? Is that what marriage always comes to? » (E, George, 1876, P. 22).

Gwendolen believes that a married woman has no freedom of speech. In addition, she has noticed that her mother is financially suffering in spite of her beauty. As she is as beautiful as her mother, she thinks she may face the same problem. Under such a situation, she is doubtful about getting married. Consequently, she has told her mother: «I don’t know why I should do anything so horrible as to marry without that protect, as least. »(E, George, 1876, P. 64 ) . Gwendolen wishes a man she will marry would offer her everything, especially a horse before marriage. But, his uncle Gascoigne opposes her wish saying that it is not fair to get whatever we want before marriage. His objection annoys Gwendolen who is telling her mother that she disagrees with her uncle. The following dialogue between her mother and her also shows that she is a rebellious girl:

«I don’t allow myself to expect anything, dear. I desire you to follow your own feeling. You have never told me what that was.”  
“What is the use of telling?” said Gwendolen, hearing a reproach in that true statement. “When I have anything pleasant to tell, you may be sure I will tell you.”  
“But Grandcourt will consider that you have already accepted him, in allowing him to come. His note tells you plainly enough that he is coming to make you an offer.”

“Very well; and I wish to have the pleasure of refusing him.”» (E, George, 1876, PP. 249- 250).

Gwendolen is doubtful about accepting Grandcourt as her lover. Her mother is telling her to make Grandcourt know exactly her wish. But Gwendolen she replies as if her mother were forcing her to marry Grandcourt. This behaviour shows her lack of affection for her mother to a certain extent.

### **2.3. Heartlessness in *Daniel Deronda***

For no good reason, Gwendolen thinks that it is better to dislike some of her neighbours. She tells her mother: «I shall never love anybody. I can't love people. I hate them. »(E, George, 1876, P. 68). After she has refused Rex love, she suddenly becomes nervous as if somebody did her any wrong. This behaviour lets suggest she has some psychological problems. One can also think that the education he has received is not suitable to cope with sexual problems. In another situation, he has told Deronda: « “Those people are not to be pitied. I have no sympathy for women who are always doing right. I don't believe in their great suffering.” »(E, George, 1876, P. 376).

Her reaction is due to the fact that Deronda has told her that the Lapidoth is full of pity and seems capable of submitting to anything when it takes the form of duty and adds that one day she has been on the brink of drowning herself in despair. Through her reaction, she has shown that she will not submit herself to any situation under any circumstances. This means she lacks a sense of justice. In other words, she will probably disapprove wrongly her neighbours.

### **2.4. Disapproval in the Novel**

Throughout the novel, except her mother and Daniel Deronda, Gwendolen has no considerations for any people. Consequently, she has been disapproved even by her uncle and aunt, the Gascoignes. In fact, within a group, Gwendolen thinks that she is the most appreciable girl. The following speech shows that she often underestimates her fellow girls:

«But to a mind of general benevolence, wishing everybody to look well it was rather exasperating to see how Gwendolen eclipsed others: how even the handsome Miss Lawe, explained to be the daughter of Lady Lawe, looked suddenly broad, heavy, and inanimate; and how Miss Arrowpoint, unfortunately also dressed in white, immediately resembled a *carte-de-visite* in which one would fancy the skirt alone to have been charged for. Since Miss Arrowpoint was generally liked for the amiable unpretending way in which she wore her fortunes, and made a softening screen for the oddities of her mother, there seemed to be some unfitness in Gwendolen's looking so much more like a person of social importance. »(E, George, 1876, PP. 34-35).

Gwendolen has ignored the beautiful Miss. Lawe, Lady Lawe, and even Miss. Arrowpoint who comes from a wealthy family. In fact, when they are at a meeting, Gwendolen does not mind the presence of the other girls. This let's suppose she does not have any girlfriends. The dialogue below also underlines that she is used to looking down at some boys like Rex Gascoigne:

« “Should you mind about my going away, Gwendolen?”  
“Of course Everyone is of consequence in this dreary country,” said Gwendolen, curtly. The perception that poor Rex wanted to be tender made her curl up and harden like a sea-anemone at the touch of a finger.  
“Are you angry with me, Gwendolen? Why do you treat me in this way all at once?” said Rex, flushing, and with more spirit in his voice, as if too were capable of being angry.” » (E, George, 1876, PP. 66-67).

During the dialogue, Rex has noticed that Gwendolen is speaking with a certain contempt. In other words, he remarks that through her way of speaking, Gwendolen is humiliating him. As a matter of fact, Gwendolen has rejected Rex's offer and Rex has left her, unhappy to tell his parents what has happened. But the news that could normally be a bad one, is the good one to the family. His mother has told his father:

«I can only be thankful that she doesn't care about him," said his mother, when she joined her husband in his study. "There are things in Gwendolen I cannot reconcile myself to. My Anna is worth two of her, with all her beauty and talent. It looks so very ill in her that she will not help in the schools with Anna -not even in the Sunday-School." » ( E, George, 1876, P. 64).

The speech shows that Gwendolen is disapproved by her aunt who thinks that her daughter Anna is better than Gwendolen. So, she believes Gwendolen has certain bad behaviours that she cannot support. Consequently, she is thankful to God that Gwendolen has rejected her son. As it can be thought, the reciprocal disapproval between Gwendolen and her neighbours has created some uneasy situation for her neighbours as well as for herself.

### **2.5. Unhappiness in *Daniel Deronda***

Gwendolen, in her selfishness, has made the living conditions difficult for some of her neighbours and as well as for herself. For instance, the rejection of Rex has caused Anna and her mother certain trouble. It is said in the novel:

«Since the trouble with Rex both Anna's mother and Anna had been unable to hide what they felt to be a very unreasonable alienation from Gwendolen. Towards Anna she took some pains to behave with a regretful affectionateness; but neither of them dared to mention Rex's name, and Anna, to whom the thought of him was part of the air she breathed, was ill at ease with the lively cousin who had ruined his happiness. She tried dutifully to repress any sign of her changed feeling; but who in pain can imitate the glance and hand-touch of pleasure? » (E, George, 1876, P. 81).

The above speech lets know that Anna and her mother are not happy with Gwendolen. It is noticeable that they feel pain and they are unable to explain how Gwendolen can behave in that way. Consequently, they have become reluctant to collaborate with her. In this situation, it is thinkable that Gwendolen herself is in trouble because she cannot live in total isolation from her cousin and her aunt. The situation also affects her mother: «Her mother watched her with silent distress; and, lapsing into the habit of indulgent tenderness, she began to think what she imagined that Gwendolen was thinking her darling less miserable. » (E, George, 1876, P. 233).

As Fanny Davillow adores her daughter, the latter's trouble is also hers. She is looking at Gwendolen with tenderness expecting that the latter will regain her mental power. The following passage shows that despite Gwendolen's apparent healthy state she has physical and psychological problems:

«In spite of her healthy frame, her irreconcilable repugnance affected her even physically: she felt a sort of numbness and could set about nothing; the least urgency, even that she should take her meals, was an irritation to her; the speech of others on any subject seemed unreasonable, because it did not include her feeling and was an ignorant claim on her. It was not in her nature to busy herself with the fancies of suicide to which disappointed young people are prone: what occupied and exasperated her was the sense that there was nothing for her but to live in a way she hated. »( E, George, 1876, P. 232).

The passage is showing that Gwendolen's repulsion has caused her some problems; it is difficult for her to move. She is every time irritable and consequently cannot communicate well even with the members of her family. Her



irritation may be explained by the fact that she is still living in a situation she detests. As it is in her habit to be unsatisfied, Gwendolen has remained miserable even after her marriage to Grandcourt, a gentleman. But she thinks that Deronda's advice can relieve her mental sufferings after Grandcourt's tragic death. She tells him:

«You will not say that I ought to tell the world? you will not say that I ought to be disgraced? I could not do it. I could not bear it. I cannot have my mother know. Not if I were dead. I could not have her know I must tell you; but you will not say that anyone else should know. » (E, George, 1876, P. 591).

After Grandcourt's drowning, Gwendolen meets Deronda to make the latter know her sufferings. As she is begging Deronda not to disgrace her or tell anybody what she will tell him. This let's suppose that she feels partly guilty of her husband's death. Her speech also shows that she is uneasy and helpless. She has wished Grandcourt death, but after the latter's death, she is unhappy and does not know what she can do. Her unhappiness after Grandcourt's death let's suppose that her hateful behaviours towards him are only due to her egoism. This also suggests she has unconsciously or consciously wished her husband's death.

## **2.6. Criminality in the Novel**

It is generally admitted intention is worth action. In this context, one can say that Gwendolen is responsible for her husband's death. The following passage shows her intention: «I should have prayed that he might sink out of my sight and leave me alone. I knew no way of killing him there, but I did, I did kill him in my thoughts. » (E, George, 1876, P. 596). Gwendolen has intentionally caused her husband's drowning. Her behaviour has shown that she always wants to get rid of him and but she does not find a way to do so. But she does not wish her husband to die at her presence. Her intention to kill her husband lets suppose she is not a good wife, otherwise, she should have told him what is wrong. It even seems that she is pleased with her husband's death. She gives her account for the death: «I saw him sink, and my heart gave a leap as if it were going out of me. I think I did not move. I kept my hands tight. It was long enough for me to be glad» (E, George, 1876, PP. 596).

The speech reveals that Gwendolen is an ambiguous woman as she is showing both happiness and regret after Grandcourt's death. Perhaps, she is thinking of Grandcourt's good nature towards both her family, herself and of his autocratic power at the same time. She even tells Deronda: «If I had not had that murderous will that moment if I had thrown the rope on the instant perhaps it would have hindered death? » (E, George, 1876, PP. 598). Gwendolen acknowledges if she were not a wicked wife, she could save her husband. Thus her assertion also points out both her regret and her sadness.

## **2.7. Sorrow in *Daniel Deronda***

More than being unhappy, Gwendolen is overcome with grief before after her husband's death:

« “Perhaps you don't quite know the beginning of it all, said Gwendolen, slow, as if she were overcoming her reluctance. “There was someone else he ought to have married. And I knew it, and I told her I would not hinder it. And I went away -that was when you first saw me. But then we became poor all at once, and I was very miserable, and I was tempted. I thought, I shall do as I like and make everything right. I persuaded myself. And it different. It was all dreadful. Then came hatred and wicked thoughts”. » (E, George, 1876, P. 599). She is telling Deronda how miserable she is even before her husband's death. So it is surely that her sadness is not due to Grandcourt's death. But it seems her bitterness has worsened with the husband's death. If not how can she tell Deronda:

“It impossible to think how my life will go on. I think now it would be better for me to be poor and obliged to work.” (E, George, 1876, P. 600).

Gwendolen is uncertain about her future after her husband Grandcourt's death. As Grandcourt, in his lifetime is the one who has the responsibility to help financially her mother and her, it seems that she has started regretting his death. So it can be admitted that she is ruined by her own egoistic behaviours.

### **Conclusion**

Egoism, under some circumstances may have destructive effects. So like any behaviour, egoism has its drawbacks. The Rector Irwine for instance has told Arthur Donnithorne in *Adam Bede*: «Our deeds carry their terrible consequences, quite apart from any fluctuations that went before consequences that are hardly ever confined to ourselves. And it is best to fix our minds on that certainty, instead of considering what may be the elements of excuse for us.» (E, George, 1859, P. 145). According to Irwine whatever we do, has its consequences and we must be ready to support these consequences. So, to avoid bad consequences, we should avoid bad behaviours. Gwendolen, is unable to submit herself to her husband's decisions as that should normally be. As her rebellious behaviours have caused her some unpleasant problems it can be admitted that she has dug her own grave.

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