Processing the Suppressed: A Look into Productive Relationships in *Jane Eyre* and *Villette*

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Suppression:

• “A defense mechanism aimed specifically at affect, which intends to abolish it from consciousness without allowing its re-entry into the unconscious...The difference between suppression and repression lies in the fact that this latter defense mechanism is unconscious and under its influence repressed content becomes or remains unconscious.”
Martin Buber (1878-1965)

• “Buber also makes the significant claim that I am present in the I-Thou relation with my whole being, whereas I cannot be wholly present in the I-It relation. This leads to Buber's seminal idea that only in the I-Thou relation do I come fully to myself as person...The authentic reality of intersubjectivity involves a fundamental interconnectedness of I and other, such that my openness to the other as Thou is the condition for the possibility of my awakening and flourishing as person.”
Jane Eyre

• “Me, [Mrs. Reed] had dispensed from joining the group, saying, ‘She regretted to be under the necessity of keeping me at a distance...she really must exclude me from privileges intended only for contented, happy, little children.’”

• “You are less than a servant, for you do nothing for your keep.”
“I have now been married ten years. I know what it is to live entirely for and with what I love best on earth. I hold myself supremely blest—blest beyond what language can express; because I am my husband’s life as fully as he is mine. No woman was ever nearer to her mate than I am: ever more absolutely bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh...We talk, I believe, all day long: to talk to each other is but a more animated and an audible thinking. All my confidence is bestowed on him, all his confidence is devoted to me; we are precisely suited in character—perfect concord is the result.”
Villette

• “He asked me, smiling, why I cared for his letter so very much. I thought, but did not say, that I prized it like the blood in my veins. I only answered that I had so few letters to care for.”
“The little man fixed on me his spectacles. A resolute compression of the lips, and gathering of the brow, seemed to say that he meant to see through me, and that a veil would be no veil for him.”
The whole difference between construction and creation is exactly this: that a thing constructed can only be loved after it is constructed; but a thing created is loved before it exists.

- Charles Dickens
Works Cited


