

Shelley's "A Mortal Immortal" and *Frankenstein*

Mary Shelley is known around the world as the creator of some of the first science fiction novels and stories. Although in many ways, the goal of her works is to create worlds unthinkable before, Shelley also raises important social life issues. Hence, for example, the theme of solitude and the meaning of life is key in the novel *Frankenstein* and the short story "Mortal Immortal." In both stories, the main characters are doomed to be lonely. In *Frankenstein*, the main character, Victor, is forced to live alone in the wild without a soul mate or a loved one (Shelley, 1994). At the same time, in "Mortal Immortal", Winzy loses the only love of his life and, doomed to immortality, dies morally in a physically healthy body (Shelley, 2022). These characters both suffer from the lack of meaning in their lives, which is what these two Shelley's literary works have in common.

Nevertheless, the key philosophical theme in both texts is the question of death. In "Mortal Immortal", Winzy finds himself in the unresolvable dialectics of fearing death and a subsequent desire to die. He cannot leave this vicious circle, and only after the loss of his family and loved ones realizes the real importance of a logical end of life in the form of death. In *Frankenstein*, Victor faces many instances of death throughout his life. Death touches the people closest to him and is performed by the hands of a monster that he created. Upon the death of his creature, Victor realized how wrong it was to create a monster. Death is here a transit between error and truth, madness and sanity. Thus, both of these texts blur the readers' understanding of the boundaries between death and life, which gives Mary Shelley's legacy an unforgettable style.

Reference List

Shelley, M. (1994) *Frankenstein* (3rd ed.). New York: Dover Publications.

Shelley, M. (2022) *The mortal immortal*. Copenhagen: Saga Egmont.