

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Fear is a basic and complex emotion that is deeply embedded in the human psyche. It can take on many different shapes, ranging from logical to the illogical and the tangible to the abstract. Robert Martin olmstead throughout of the story has experienced the emotion of fear. This reasearch thesis discuess the underlying symptom, cause and impact of fear experienced by Robert as he faces the mystery of Innsmouth.

Referring to characterization, Robert is portrayed as a curious and perceptive person. When he first hears about the rumors regarding Innsmouth, driven by his curiosity, he decides to investigate the town despite the potential ramifications. After arriving in Innsmouth, Robert demonstrates his keen observation skills, which allow him to detect abnormalities within the town and its people. The first internal conflict Robert faces is connected to his curious nature, namely his internal struggle between fear and curiosity. Due to the taboo topic regarding Innsmouth, the government has prohibited any statements about the town. However, Robert feels a strong urge to disobey this prohibition and investigate the mysterious town, while also fearing the discoveries he might make in Innsmouth. This duality—his desire to satisfy his curiosity and his struggle to cope with his fear of the unknown—causes intense internal conflict. His second internal conflict arises from the discoveries about his lineage. He learns that, like his forefathers, he is a descendant of the Innsmouth people. He is one of them, and he belongs to them. Externally, Robert faces a number of conflicts with the citizens of Innsmouth, who

grow increasingly hostile as he learns more about their dark secrets. The conflict results in a life-threatening pursuit, in which Robert must flee the town to survive.

The symptoms of fear experienced by Robert are both physiological and psychological. He exhibits symptoms such as dyspnea (shortness of breath) and shivering, which are typical reactions to fear and stress, while psychologically, he experiences feelings of dread and fainting, indicating the overwhelming impact of fear on his mental state. The causes of fear for Robert stem from the fearful information regarding the mysteries of Innsmouth provided by Zadok Allen, and his direct confrontation with the citizens of Innsmouth and the horrible event he experiences. Fear has a significant impact on Robert, leading him to gradually engage in emotional regulation through mechanisms such as isolation and acceptance. Initially, he withdraws from the outside world as a coping mechanism to suppress his fear. Over time, this suppression evolves into a form of acceptance, allowing him to reduce psychological distress and come to terms with his transformation.

Robert's journey highlights the complex nature of fear and its lasting impact on the human psyche. Through his experiences, the narrative illustrates how fear, though often seen as a negative emotion, plays a crucial role in both survival and emotional regulation. It serves as a protective mechanism, alerting individuals to potential threats and prompting adaptive responses that enhance safety and decision-making. In Robert's case, fear becomes a powerful force that not only shapes his actions but also leads to a deeper understanding of himself and his environment, ultimately transforming his perception and mental state.