Structured Society and uncivilized Novels
Over the last few centuries the only thing that has remained constant is change. Every nation in every part of the world has gone through dramatic transitions. During the European Victorian era in the year 1896 H. G. Wells published the first edition of *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. A story about a doctor living on an island, preforming dangerous secret experiments on humans and animals. Almost 100 years later *The Fourth World* was published. This story opens up as a man rapes his own wife; the darkness of the rape haunts the reader throughout the book. *The Fourth World* and *The Island of Doctor Moreau* come across as very different stories. Each novel was written 100 years apart to appeal readers in two different eras. Surprisingly, the books both have a common theme; each author paints a picture of a less than perfect world through violent and corrupt characters. The main characters of these texts are outcast of society who defy social norms; they create their own community by asserting dominance through violence over characters they perceive as weaker.

In *The Island of Dr. Moreau* Dr. Moreau and his assistant (Montgomery) perform dangerous, secret experiments on humans and animals. The creature are described as “big clumsy and covered with silvery hair” (116). Creating such a contrast from the Victorian Europeans, Moreau is considered outcast of society on a secluded island in the Pacific Ocean. He finds comfort in creating his own society. Moreau violently adapts creatures to preform how he pleases and thrives in the power that comes with it. Once a newcomer, Edward Prendick accidentally lands on
the island Moreau loses his sense of control and the order he established becomes corrupted. *The Fourth World* has the same underlining theme with a slight twist. Right off the bat the father is “forcing her [the mother] to submit to his desires” (Eltit.4). We immediately learn who the dominant character is, as the story progresses the mother becomes pregnant with twins as a direct result of the violent rape in the opening scene. Due to the father’s harsh actions the twins are raised slightly detached from society. Straying away from sexual social norms the twins develop a sexual attraction to each other. Through the strange sexual desires in *The Fourth World* and the secluded dictatorship of Dr. Moreau in *The Island of Dr. Moreau* both characters disconnect themselves from the structured society of the time.

Both books have dominant male characters that control their own strange society. In *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, Dr. Moreau feels no remorse in hurting innocent creatures. In a typical society humans find harming innocent creatures wrong and uncivilized. Although on the island Dr. Moreau sets the standards so abiding to his strange wishes is the norm on the island. When Dr. Moreau has to follow someone else’s strange rules he feels very uncomfortable, “I realized I had to repeat this idiotic formula. And then began the insanest ceremony” (Wells 113). The ceremonies have rules that must be followed. When Moreau comes up with the rules he thinks it fine. When someone else creates the rule, he can’t stand it. Dr. Moreau prefers to be in charge, asserting his dominance.

Similarly, The Father in *The Fourth World* feels the most comfortable when he is asserting dominance. The first time the reader meets the father, he is violently
raping his wife (3-5). In today’s society rape is considered an extremely violent act not tolerable. In the environment the father creates the rape is a normal aspect of society. Later on when the father learns his twins are having unusual sexual relations, he is very uncomfortable (33-35). In his mind the when he preforms a strange sexual act its perfectly okay, but when someone else preforms a strange sexual act he is filled with rage. Just like Dr. Moreau, when The Father initiates a strange act he is filled with power. Although, when both characters see someone else preforming a strange act they feel very out of place. As science experiments are viewed Dr. Moreau, sex is viewed by the father in 4th world, to everyone on the outside it may seem strange but the violent characters that create the environment view it as normal.

Traditionally, Dr. Moreau and the Father are outcasts of society. Both characters create their own communities, to surround themselves in people they can easily dominate. In these communities the Father and Dr. Moreau don’t only fit in but attempt to control the society. Originally, in The Fourth World, The father asserts dominance as the most powerful character though a violent rape of his wife (3-5). As a direct result of the rape, he creates a community by bringing children into his own messed up world. Creating more people in his community of social outcast. The children take his strange sexual views and put their own spin on it. The Father subconsciously creates mini visions of himself. On the other hand, Dr. Moreau knows exactly what he is doing while manipulating creatures. An outsider to Moreau’s island Prendrick states, “A horrible fancy came into my head that Moreau, after animalizing these men, had infected their dwarfed brains with a kind
of deification of himself” (Wells 114). As the visitor fears the creatures Moreau is creating are very similar versions of himself. In both Novels the main character uses his power to create people they can violently control.

In *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, Moreau is viewed as a god like figure in the eyes of the beast people. They always obey his rules. This keeps the social structure of the island alive. When asking about Moreau’s whereabouts the beast people are told, “You cannot see [Moreau]. But he can see you. Fear the Law” (Wells 151). Even when Moreau is not around the beast people fear him. From the beginning Moreau has violently asserted his dominance, in an animal like way. In such structured society it was uncommon for civilized people to work closely with animals. Moreau’s close relation with animals secluded him from society.

*The Island of Dr. Moreau* was written in 1896 to appeal readers shortly after Darwin’s theory of evolution was published. Mr. Wells mocks society, in the Victorian era. At the time Europeans liked to consider themselves privileged and much more civilized than animals. With Moreau’s objective to study and work alongside “beast people” he was considered an outcast. The Victorians had not yet to come to terms with the fact that they could be descendants of apes. Social anxieties surrounded the Darwin revolution. When a series of unfortunate events lands a classy Englishman, Edward Prendick on the island, he witness the strange civilization and would rather drown himself than stay on the island any longer and consider the fact he may be related to these beast like creatures (119). Prendick even “lost faith in the sanity of the world when he saw it suffering the pain and
disorder of the island” (145). The uncivilized culture proved to be too much for a sophisticated European of the time Forcing Moreaeu to conduct his experiments in his own environment on a secluded island.

Works Cited
