

Crime and Punishment Theme

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Themes

Crime and Guilt: The most important theme of the novel is crime and guilt. Raskolnikov murders Alyona Ivanovna and Lizaveta Ivanovna. He thinks this murder will benefit society. His theory was that extraordinary people may break the law. But after committing the murder, he realizes that crime is not only an external act. The inner torment after the crime is even more frightening. He suffers from fever, faints, and sees hallucinations. Mental pressure keeps consuming him. Even though the court gives him punishment, the real punishment comes from his conscience.

Isolation and Loneliness: Raskolnikov is a lonely character from the very beginning. He lives in a dark attic room in St. Petersburg. Poverty separates him from others. After the murder, his isolation grows even more. His friend Razumikhin stands by him, his sister Dunya loves him, yet he feels mentally detached from society. He thinks no one can understand him. This loneliness deepens his sense of guilt.

Redemption and Spiritual Rebirth: At the end, the novel shines with the theme of redemption and rebirth. Raskolnikov confesses to his crime. He is sent to Siberia. The love and compassion of Sofya Semyonovna Marmeladov bring light into his life. At first, he is cold and unrepentant. But gradually, he realizes that true redemption comes from repentance. Even in prison, he begins a new life. This theme proves that, even if a person commits a crime, love and faith can bring him back to a new path.