

Byron's "Prometheus" and Shelley's *Frankenstein*
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Looking first at the overall poem, we came up with a general theme concerning the correlation between the Prometheus, Frankenstein, and his creation. The first stanza, which talks about the immortal Titan giving gifts to humanity, could be read as being about Victor's scientific advancement. The second stanza is darker and describes "the ruling principle of Hate/Which for its pleasure doth create/The things it may annihilate." This could certainly be read as Victor's turning his back on the creature and refusing him, "even the boon to die" in a way, by making him a creature who is immortal and powerful, but not a part of humanity.

1 – In line ten of "Prometheus," "the suffocating sense of woe" is like the pain Frankenstein experiences as his creature punishes him, feeling his loneliness as the previous line suggests, afraid to tell anyone that he (Victor) is responsible.

2 – In line seventeen, "Which torture where they cannot kill," can be compared to the creature's revenge upon Frankenstein, not through murdering him, but by torturing him with the murder of his beloved family.

3 – In line 37, "The Godlike crime was to be kind," sounds like Frankenstein's desire to rid humanity of disease by discovering the secret to life. Like Prometheus, he steals the sacred secrets of divinity, and this is his crime for which he must suffer. Victor originally intended to be a benefactor to mankind, and the creature himself stated many occasions where he saved a life or did some good deed, only to be scorned later.

4 – In lines 53 and 54, "His wretchedness, and his resistance, /And his sad unallied existence", can be related to the end of the novel where both characters are alone. The creature has always suffered isolation and Victor has had all his loved ones killed.

In conclusion, the eternal eating of the liver by the eagle in the case of Prometheus is much like the perpetual guilt felt by Frankenstein as each of his family members is sacrificed by his creation. He cannot end his suffering because he cannot undo what he has done.