

#EMILY BRONTË

Power of Imagination in Wuthering Heights

Remarkably, Wuthering Heights was the only novel Emily Brontë ever wrote. She did not go on to produce further fictional works



Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* stands as one of the most intense and passionate novels in English literature, yet its author lived a life that was remarkably quiet, secluded, and outwardly uneventful. The contrast between the stormy emotional world of the novel and the restrained circumstances of Emily Brontë's life invites a deeper reflection on the source of creative passion. Her life suggests that the deepest emotional power in literature can arise not from lived experience, but from imagination strengthened by solitude.



Emily Brontë wrote *Wuthering Heights* when she was still young, in her late twenties. Unlike many writers whose works are shaped by romances, social ambitions, or worldly adventures, Emily lived almost entirely within the confines of her family home at Haworth. There is no evidence that she pursued romantic relationships or experienced personal affairs that could directly explain the fierce love, obsession, and emotional extremity depicted in her novel. Her temperament was private, reserved, and introspective, and she showed little interest in public recognition or literary fame.

Remarkably, *Wuthering Heights* was the only novel Emily Brontë ever wrote. She did not go on to produce further fictional works, nor did she attempt to refine or soften the raw emotional intensity of her singular creation. Shortly after the novel's publication, Emily's health declined rapidly, and she died at the age of thirty. Her brief life and limited literary output make the existence of such a powerful and enduring novel even more extraordinary. This biographical context challenges the assumption that great passion in art must stem from personal experience. The love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff is often described as violent, consum-

ing, and elemental, far removed from conventional romance. Rather than reflecting real-life relationships, it appears to emerge from Emily Brontë's imaginative engagement with emotion itself. Her solitude, isolation, and closeness to the wild Yorkshire moors may have intensified her inner life, allowing her imagination to explore extremes that ordinary social experience might never reach. Emily Brontë's example suggests that imagination, when nurtured by solitude, can generate emotional truths as powerful as, or even more powerful than, those derived from lived experience. Her work demonstrates that passion in literature does not require personal indulgence in desire or suffering. Instead, it can arise from deep observation, inward reflection, and a fearless willingness to imagine the full range of human feeling.

In this sense, *Wuthering Heights* is not evidence of experience translated into fiction, but of imagination transcending experience. Emily Brontë's life reminds us that the most profound artistic passions often originate in the silent, solitary depths of the mind, where imagination is free to roam without the limits imposed by reality.



Venezuela President Raul Leoni.

● Verna Mohon

The United States' mounting sanctions against Venezuela, especially on the national oil company PDVSA, have had a profound effect on the Andean nation's oil exports to far-flung India. However, despite numerous news reports apparently confirming the halting of Venezuela's oil exports to India, oil continues to flow from Venezuela to India, albeit in smaller quantities. As per Reuters' calculations, India's imports dropped considerably following the imposition of U.S. oil sanctions in January 2019, going down to 200,000 barrels per day (bpd) in June 2019, just half the oil India imported on average from Venezuela in 2018.

This is more than just an inconvenience for Nicolás Maduro's regime in Venezuela. India accounted for 20 percent of Venezuela's crude oil exports in 2018, amounting to revenues of \$7.39 billion. More importantly, Venezuela relied on India as a vital source of foreign exchange, given that a sizeable share of Venezuela's exports to China goes towards repaying over \$60 billion in loans.

Having said that, it is only right to mention that India and Venezuela have had long and, at least from the Venezuelan side, a very supportive relationship. One just has to dip into recent history to see the proof of it.

October 1968, two years after Venezuela opened one of its first embassies in Asia in New Delhi, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi visited the resource-rich South American nation. The 16-hour visit was the penultimate leg of

a Latin America tour that covered Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia and Trinidad, among other countries.

From the outset, Caracas rolled out the red carpet for Gandhi. At Simon Bolívar Maiquetia Airport, she was greeted by an unusually large delegation that included the Venezuelan president and vice-president, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the attorney general, cabinet ministers and members of the clergy.

"Her arrival was marked by festivity, warmth and hospitality, solidarity and applause," Venezuelan academic Hernán Lucena Molero wrote in a 2013 paper titled *Indira Gandhi in Venezuela (1968-2013): 45th Anniversary of a Historic Visit*. "Security was provided by female personnel deputised by the Venezuelan state; flags from both countries lined the runway and many journalists intent on doing their job, unmindful of the pushing and shoving by the military police, covered the event."

Breaking protocol, Gandhi asked Venezuelan President Raul Leoni to let her accept bouquets from locals and Indian expatriate children. "The airport was filled, thanks to a significant turnout by the Venezuelan public," Molero wrote. "The people of Venezuela, who found inspiration in India's struggle for independence, did not hold back in expressing their affection for her leader."

Gandhi reciprocated the warmth at a banquet hosted by Leoni, highlighting the two countries' shared anti-colonial histories. "This is my first visit to Venezuela, but during our freedom struggle, we drew inspiration from other similar struggles against colonial empires," she said. "The names of Francisco



Venezuela Stood by India



Indira Gandhi's brief visit caught the attention of the South American nation. "Images of this lady of imposing stature, in a traditional green coloured sari with black checks, shot with golden threads, a simple string of pearls and a watch, her only accessories, were beamed simultaneously into thousands of Venezuelan homes by the National Television Channel OCI," Molero wrote.



Indira Gandhi.

#TIMES



Miranda, Simon Bolívar, José Antonio Páez, the first president of Venezuela, are part of the history of human freedom."

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A joint communique pledged expanded cooperation in 'commercial, cultural, technological and scientific fields.' "I come to build bridges of love between Latin America and my country," Gandhi said in Caracas.

To Molero, Gandhi's words 'clearly demonstrated the political will of the Asian leader and showed the path that Venezuela and the rest of the region would have to take in the Cold War era, with complete clarity on a) the concepts of integration and firm friendship and b) working together to find a firm solution to long term issues: initiating the process for drafting of work plans and joint programs that would help in the achievement of the development goals of both parties.'

Before leaving Venezuela, Gandhi held an hour-long press conference at the Tamanaco Hotel,

where 13 journalists posed what Molero described as 'polemic questions about India. These ranged from food shortages and birth control to beef consumption and the generous pensions paid to former royals. Coming months after India opened a resident mission in Caracas, Gandhi's visit built on a carefully cultivated diplomatic relationship, one that would prove particularly valuable just three years later during a major humanitarian crisis in what was then East Pakistan.

Common cause

Despite the distance, both India and Pakistan actively sought support in South America during the Bangladesh Liberation War. Most countries disregarded the appeals, choosing to stay neutral. Not Venezuela.

A 1979 report by the Historical Division of India's Ministry of External Affairs noted that Venezuela emerged as one of India's strongest supporters in Latin America during and after the conflict. "During the Bangladesh and Pakistan crisis of 1971, Venezuela's public opinion was sympathetic towards India's stand," the report said. "Venezuelan National Congress, on its own initiative, passed a resolution endorsing India's stand and giving support to the people of Bangladesh."

Pluto: The Ninth Planet Discovered in 1930



n February 18, 1930, Clyde Tombaugh, an American astronomer at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona, made a groundbreaking discovery that would captivate the world: Pluto, the then-ninth planet of the solar system. Tombaugh meticulously compared photographic plates of the night sky, searching for a moving object beyond Neptune, and his patience paid off when he identified the distant celestial body. Named Pluto after the Roman god of the underworld, the discovery expanded humanity's understanding of the solar system and inspired generations of astronomers. Although reclassified as a dwarf planet in 2006, Pluto remains an iconic symbol of astronomical exploration and curiosity.

#HAND EMBROIDERY

From Zardozi to Kantha

Zardozi has remained a symbol of royalty and opulence. The name itself derives from Persian, meaning 'sewing with gold'



India's rich cultural heritage is reflected in its diverse and intricate embroidery techniques, each of which tells a story of craftsmanship, artistry, and history.

These hand-embroidery styles have been passed down through generations, showcasing the skill and patience of artisans. Among the many beautiful techniques, Zardozi, Kantha, Soof, and others stand out for their unique methods and historical significance. Let's explore some of these fascinating forms of Indian hand embroidery, and understand why they are so cherished.

Zardozi Embroidery: The Gold Thread Art

One of the most famous and luxurious forms of embroidery, Zardozi is a technique that uses gold and silver threads to create intricate designs. Originating in Persia and later brought to India during the Mughal era, Zardozi has remained a symbol of royalty and opulence. The name itself derives from Persian, meaning 'sewing with gold.'

One fascinating characteristic of Zardozi is that mosquitoes can be settled in between the stitches because the embroidery is so intricate and dense. This technique involves the use of the gold or silver threads and are sewn into the fabric so tightly that they almost create a surface that is completely sealed.

The embroidery is so finely done that even the tiny mosquito, despite its delicate structure, can find itself trapped within the fabric's stitches.

What makes Soof embroidery even more special is that the intricate nature of the stitching often gives the final fabric a soft, raised texture, creating a unique visual and tactile experience. Whether it's a wall hanging, tablecloth, or saree, Soof embroidery stands out for its beauty and the precision of its stitches.

The Intricacy of Indian Hand Embroidery

Indian hand embroidery techniques like Zardozi, Kantha, and Soof showcase the country's rich textile heritage and the extraordinary skill of its artisans. Each embroidery type has its unique story to tell, with its motifs, materials, and methods reflecting the culture, history, and creativity of the region.



Kantha Embroidery: The Stitched Narrative

Kantha is one of the oldest and most well-known forms of embroidery from Bengal and Odisha, particularly among the rural communities. Unlike Zardozi's focus on metallic threads, Kantha is traditionally done using simple, running stitches on fabric, often cotton. Historically, women would repurpose old saris, cloth pieces, and rags, stitching them together with Kantha to create quilts and bedding.

The ragged clothes used in Kantha embroidery were often remnants of old garments that had been discarded but were given new life through this beautiful technique.

Kantha embroidery has become highly sought after in

recent years, not just for quilts, but for shawls, sarees, and home decor items. Its simplicity and versatility make it a timeless form of Indian handicraft.

Soof Embroidery: Intricate and Blindfolded

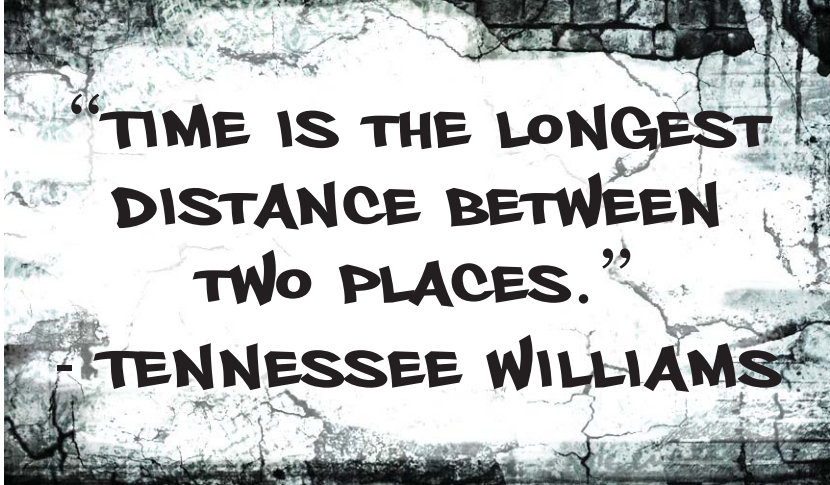
Soof embroidery is an ancient form of hand embroidery that is famous for its intricate and fine stitching. Originating from the state of Gujarat, Soof embroidery is known for its delicate, geometrical patterns and rich use of silk threads. The uniqueness of Soof lies in its level of detail, the stitches are so small and compact that it is often said that Soof can be done blindfolded. This speaks volumes about the dexterity and precision required to perfect the technique.

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THE WALL



BABY BLUES



ZITS



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman