

I PROMESSI SPOSI CAP. XXXVIII

Introduction

At the end of the story the two protagonists, finally married, reflect together on the lessons they can draw from their experience. Manzoni lets Lucia draw a conclusion as she has always embodied the light of faith throughout the whole story.

“...e io - disse un giorno al suo moralista - cosa volete che abbia imparato? Io non sono andata a cercare i guai: son loro che sono venuti a cercare me. Quando non voleste dire - aggiunse, soavemente sorridendo - che il mio sproposito sia stato quello di volervi bene, e di promettermi a voi.”
Renzo, alla prima, rimase impiccato. Dopo un lungo dibattere e cercare insieme, conclusero che i guai vengono bensì spesso, perché ci si è dato cagione², ma che la condotta più cauta e innocente non basta a tenerli lontani; e che quando vengono, o per colpa o senza colpa, la fiducia in Dio li raddolcisce, e li rende utili per una vita migliore. Questa conclusione, benché trovata da povera gente, c'è parsa così giusta, che abbiam pensato di metterla qui, come il sugo di tutta la storia”.

Chapter 38

What about me? What am I supposed to have learned? I didn't go out of my way to look for trouble; troubles came to look for me ... Unless you'd like to say,' she added with her sweet and gentle smile, 'that I did make a mistake after all – the mistake of being fond of you, and promising to marry you.'

Renzo did not know what to say for a moment. But after a long debate, and much heart-searching they came to the conclusion that troubles very often come because we have asked for them; but that the most prudent and innocent of conduct is not necessarily enough to keep them away; also that when they come, through our fault or otherwise, trust in God goes far to take away their sting, and makes them a useful preparation for a better life. This conclusion may have been reached by humble folk, but we find it so just, that we have decided to place it here, as the very essence of our whole story.