

**HAYTHAM'S EXISTENTIALISM DEPICTED IN OLIVER  
BOWDEN'S NOVEL *ASSASSINS CREED FORSAKEN***

**THESIS**



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NOVEL *ASSASSINS CREED FORSAKEN*

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## ABSTRACT

Utomo, E.B. (2022). *Haytham's Existentialism Depicted In Oliver Bowden's Novel Assassins Creed Forsaken*. English Department. UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M.Hum

Keywords: Existentialism, Human Existence, Authenticity

This Thesis aims to find the Existentialism of the main character, namely Haytham Kenway, in the novel *Assassins Creed Forsaken*. This Study focuses on the consistency of Haytham Kenway in determining his life path to get his existence as a human.

This Study uses a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data from the novel. The data obtained are entirely from novels, and the researcher uses the existentialism theory of Jean-Paul Sartre to find out how Haytham Kenway got his existence. Also, the researcher applies a new criticism theory as a theory supporting the research.

The results showed that Haytham shows his Existentialism as a human to obtain his existence was evident when he chose the Templars as his life goal without any coercion from others even though in the end, Haytham knew that his father and son were Assassins. Still, Haytham remained consistent with what Haytham chose from the start.

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## ABSTRAK

Utomo, E.B. (2022). *Haytham's Existentialism Depicted In Oliver Bowden's Novel Assassins Creed Forsaken*. English Department. UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M.Hum

Kata Kunci: Eksistensialisme, Eksistensi Manusia, Keaslian

Tesis ini bertujuan untuk menemukan existentialisme pada karakter utama yaitu Haytham Kenway di novel *Assassins Creed Forsaken*. Studi ini berfokus pada konsistensi Haytham Kenway dalam menentukan jalan hidupnya untuk mendapatkan eksistensinya sebagai manusia.

Studi ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif untuk menganalisis data dari novel. Data yang diperoleh seluruhnya berasal dari novel dan peneliti menggunakan teori existentialisme dari Jean Paul Sartre untuk mengetahui cara Haytham Kenway mendapatkan keberadaannya dan juga peneliti menerapkan teori kritik baru sebagai teori pendukung penelitian.

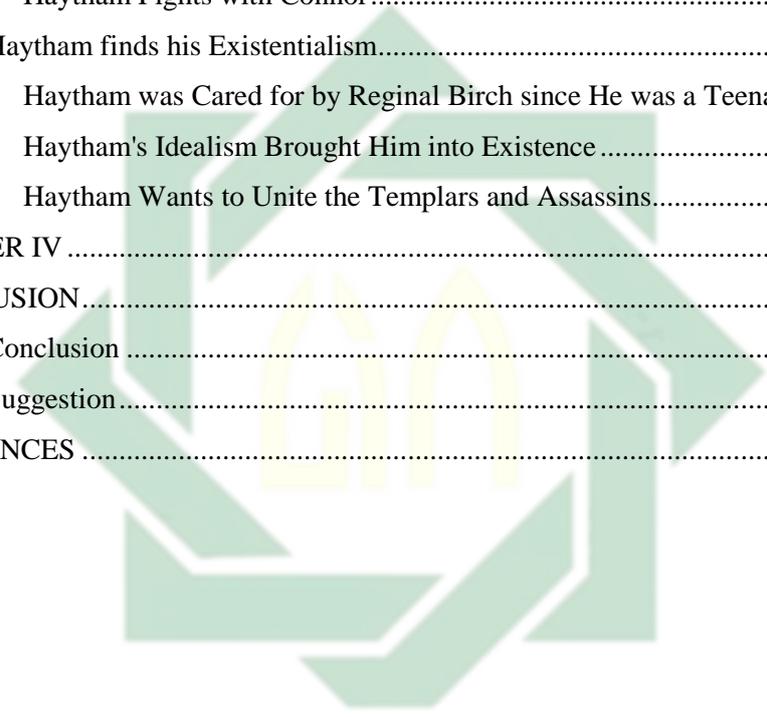
Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Haytham menunjukkan existensialisme sebagai manusia untuk mendapatkan keberadaannya itu terbukti ketika Haytham memilih Templar sebagai tujuan hidupnya tanpa ada paksaan dari orang lain meskipun pada akhirnya Haytham tahu bahwa ayah dan anaknya adalah Assassin. Meski begitu, Haytham tetap konsisten dengan apa yang dipilih Haytham sejak awal.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of The Study

God created humans as the perfect creatures because they have been given thought and feeling. Therefore humans can think and develop. Human mindset can develop according to what they experience during their life. There is a person who when he was a child was obedient to his parents, when he grew up he became someone who was disobedient, but there was also a person who when he was little he never obeyed what his parents said and tended to ignore him, but when he grew up, he became someone who was devoted to his parents.

Therefore, humans are dynamic creatures who can change according to what they experience. Changes in nature and character are commonplace for every living human being. But even so, humans also have a choice in every life, choosing to be a bad or good human, original or imitating other people, it's all in the hands of every human being. Talking about originality, today's people tend to like things that are instant and make people today lose their identity. This instantaneous thing makes people reluctant to make a change because today's people just want to follow what other people are doing without any effort to make a change for themselves.

Therefore, originality is closely related to human authenticity, which is where this authenticity brings human existence so that humans can find their identity. This human existence is one of the starting points of Existentialism. The position of Existentialism occupies the same position as humanism. Existentialism presupposes that everyone is a subject and not an object.

Mazari (2002, p.55) argues that Sartre distinguishes humans from "scissors" or other objects that created essence before. Thus, Sartre describes human beings as no essence fixed outwardly by a metaphysical principle such as universal human nature or a divine creature such as God. According to Sartre, human existence precedes his essence. Human beings as subjects are free to choose themselves and face all possibilities and the alternative path in every situation.

Dagun (1990, p.18) says that human nature is closely linked to human existence. The existence of the human being is said to be authentic if someone can freely choose who and what he will be. In addition, people are shaped by their actions and their ways. They don't want to be influenced by others to form themselves, not even by nature and society. In this real life, it is free for humans to participate in everything they want until they are responsible.

Amin (1992, p.40) states that Existentialism is a human philosophy that can be compared to a living individual who has vitality, rational power, and freedom of choice prepares for fullness, sustains despair, lives in despair, and dies Amin.

Wellek and Warren (1956) state that Existentialism is certainly inseparable from literature. Indeed, philosophy and literature are different from each other. The difference appears as philosophical studies of human beings and emphasizes the living human being, while literature illustrates the characteristics of its author's work. However, these two studies are closely related, as literature is often an expression of philosophical ideas. So in literature and philosophy, there is the same characteristic which is freedom of thought.

Literature is a tool to convey someone's idea. Wellek and Warren (1993) argue that the relationship between literature and ideas can be understood differently and analyzed to produce "guiding ideas." It means that literature is a form of philosophy and that someone's idea about philosophy can be found through literary analysis.

Wirahadi (2008, p.26) argues that literature is a creative activity, a work of art. Literature is intimately linked to human life because what is presented in literature is an image of everyday life. The authors observe the events that take place around it and pour it into a literary work for the pleasure of the readers. Literary works grow by following their time until the modern era. The main theme of some modern writers was their experiences such as alienation, loss, hopelessness, psychological problems, the search for identity, and social systems, which sometimes cannot overcome personal satisfaction. These conditions encourage people to seek happiness by seeking self-freedom.

Klarer (2005) stated that there are three literary genres: epic, dramatic, and poetic. Since the new form of prose has generally been replaced by the 18th-

century novel, in recent classifications, the terms fiction, drama, and poetry are preferred as terms of the three main literary genres. Fiction has two types: fiction and non-fiction. Fiction is a common term for work of fiction, primarily in prose. It is usually written with the author's imagination.

Sudjiman (1990) argues that the novel is one of the forms of fiction. Long prose fiction is a literary novel that shows characters, a series of events, and a structured context; usually, the fictional novel stems from the author's imagination. The author's imagination can include human desire, human existence, and human life, represented by the use of a certain character in the plot of the novel. Literary works about human life are part of the existential novel. Whereas non-fiction novels usually feature content that happened in life, experienced by the author or someone else.

Generally, there is nothing better when it comes to reading fiction or non-fiction. It's a matter of taste for most people. The researcher tends towards non-fiction because it can bring many advantages to the human self-image. *Assassin's Creed: Forsaken* is a novel written by Oliver Bowden, released on 4 December 2012. This novel is presented as Haytham Kenway's journal, showing how he became a Templar and on his Journey to becoming a member. That's where Haytham found his existence as a human. The date of release was also the date that Haytham was born. Unlike the other *Assassin's Creed* novelizations written by Bowden, *Forsaken* does not follow the same story as *Assassin's Creed III* (Video Game). Instead, it details Haytham's story throughout the same period, showing a mirrored perspective to what the game portrays.

Therefore, the Study aims to portray Existentialism to get their existence that happens in Haytam Kenway's life as the main character in the novel *Assassins Creed: Forsaken*. Haytham Kenway is a swordsman raised by his father since childhood. This novel tells how Haytam found his existence through his nature and environment that made him change. It all started when he was a child. His family was massacred by robbers who wanted to kill Haytam's father. Haytam's father died in that incident, and his older sister was kidnapped to be a slave in Turkey. Haytham manages to stab one of the robbers to protect his mother, but his mother excommunicates him after the murder.

Haytham Kenway's life journey through his habits is very interesting to discuss, through important events in his life that made him find his existence as a human. And this is in line with the theory put forward by Jean-Paul Sarte about Existentialism. Therefore, the researcher uses this theory in analyzing the *Assassin's Creed: Forsaken* Novel. The researcher uses the New Criticism theory as a supporting theory to obtain a good understanding.

## **1.2 The problem of the Study**

Based on the background of the Study above, The writer formulated some questions:

1.2.1 How is Haytham characterized in the novel?

1.2.2 How does Haytham become a templar?

1.2.3 How did Haytham find his Existentialism?

### **1.3 Significance of the Study**

This Study is intended to make a valuable contribution to the categories of theory and practice. In theory, the results of this Study should be useful for literary research, especially in the existentialist perspective of the novel. Understanding human existence and nature through Existentialism is a tool for analyzing literary works. In practice, the subject of this research has some relevance to those who have received a lot of attention in literary works and who want to see literary works as a mirror of real life.

### **1.4 Scope and Limitation**

To keep away from broader analysis, the writer limits the textual content written by Oliver Bowden, entitled *Assassin's Creed: Forsaken*. This research focuses on the primary character's existence journey through his nature to get his existence. Therefore, the scope of this Study focuses on how Haytham was given his life through the courage and persistence that he built since adolescence and additionally what aspects have an effect on the Existentialism of Haytham Kenway.

### **1.5 Research Methods**

The analysis methodology contends a necessary role in getting valid data. It explained the analysis method as Sugiyono (2015) states that the research method could be a scientific way to realize the data for a particular purpose. Therefore, this Study used literary-based and qualitative research in conducting this research.

The researcher during this Study described and analyzed words and also sentences.

### **1.5.1 Research Design**

Donald (2002) states that to answer the statements of the problem, the researcher used library research by using some books and other references like articles, journals, and websites related to the subject matter that is analyzed. This research also used descriptive qualitative research methods by explaining the result of analysis in words and sentences since the result is not a statistic or numeral data. Substantively it employs words to answer questions.

### **1.5.2 Source of Data**

There are two sources of data, primary and secondary data sources. In this research, the novel *Assassin's Creed: Forsaken* by Oliver Bowden is primary data. The secondary data source is taken from some books, critical works, journals, and other online sources that will help support this Study.

### **1.5.3 Method of Collecting Data**

These are several steps used by the researcher for collecting the data:

1. The researcher read the novel *Assassins Creed Forsaken* comprehensively to get a deep understanding.
2. The researcher classified the quotations which were relevant to the topic of the Study. The topic of the Study is conflicts faced by the main character. The quotations are in the form of phrases, sentences, and dialogues.
3. The researcher explain any data that shows the nature of Haytham

4. The researcher collected additional sources from books, articles, journals, and Thesis to help analyze the Study.

#### **1.5.4 Method of Data Analysis**

To conduct this Study, the researcher did the step below

- a. The researcher explains several important events in each storyline.
- b. The researchers explain any data that shows the nature of Haytham.
- c. The researcher concludes the analysis.



## CHAPTER II

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter aims to discuss the theories that are necessary for this research. The theories are significant to guide for supporting and conducting this research. The researcher applies two theories to help answer the research questions. In main theory, this research uses Jean-Paul Sartre's Existentialism. For analyzing the main character in *Assassin's Creed: Forsaken*, the researcher uses the second theory: New Criticism. In the second theory, new criticism discusses character and characterization to describe the main character to support the analysis of the character's existence. Accordingly, both are very important to this research, focusing on Haytham's existence through his nature. In addition, the previous research adds to give more understanding about the problem and the gap.

#### 2.1 Existentialism

Existentialism, or "philosophy of existence" within the mid-twentieth century, was one of the foremost "fad" theories. Preliminary read points of the philosophical theory were raised since the tip of the nineteenth century and were formally "born" in the 20-the 30s of the twentieth century. The birth of Existentialism was related to the brutal war, and particularly once political theory was born, wherever the fascist rulers sought after all ways in which to subject and destroy folks. During this situation, existentialists would love to avoid wasting

people and involve the humanity of humans. That's the direct reality basis for the existential view to make and develop.

Amin (1992) states that Existentialism is additionally outlined as a philosophy of humans which will be compared to a living person - the individual with vitality, reasoning power, and freedom of choice, prepares for wholeness, endures despair, and lives in anxiety and exit. In addition, there's also a definition of existentialist philosophy by Suyitno (1986), says that Existentialism could be a genre of philosophical thinking that emerges in response to fashionable life. He believes modern life brings the United States of America nothing, despair, and individual freedom is the sole resolution to determination this problem. It may be aforesaid that Existentialism is philosophical thinking rather than modern life, which implies that each person in modern life can expertise nothing, despair, and feelings of hatred. Selecting to be free is the only way to solve the matter of recent life.

Stafford (1996) states that Existentialism may also be translated as man's effort; a man tries to make an identity of his own and confirm his place in his society. Existentialist philosophy is the effort of the person to relate himself to the own life of others around him. It supports the process of what Existentialism is. The word Existentialism is taken as man's effort to create his identity in his manner while not the determination of society.

### 2.1.1 Sartrean Existentialism

Sartre ( 2007, p.22) states that "existence precedes essence," summarizes the basic understanding of Existentialism. Sartre states in *Existentialism is a Humanism* that, "What do we mean by saying that existence precedes essence? We mean that man first of all exists, encounters himself, surges up in the world and defines himself afterward.". This statement claims that man has to exist to have an essence. Sartre also states, "He will not be anything until later, and then he will be what he makes of himself."

The Sartrean philosophical theory argues that humans define themselves as answering challenges projected by their existence within the world rather than having a preset purpose or that means. Life would have no meaning or purpose unless man created it for themselves.

This Study also discusses other Sartrean existentialism elements, such as nothingness. Sartre defines being-for-itself as a kind of nothingness, which brings negation into the world Sartre ( 2007). Sartre (2007, p.29) As nothingness, the consciousness is freed from determinism. Consciousness often ends up in a difficult situation of being ultimately responsible for our own lives, which can signify the unbearable pain of existing under this condition. It is why "Man is condemned to be free" and "...without any support or help, is condemned at every instant to invent man."

Sartre ( 2007, p.20) argue that the consequence of fear of nothingness in human existence and its futility is called fear. The existentialist believes that recognizing nothingness is seen as liberating because people realize that they

are free to choose for themselves. After all, it has no predetermined purpose or meaning. Existentialism believes that humans have a “possibility of choice.” Bohlmann (1991, p.32) states that in other words, Sartre sees the origin of anguish in the feeling of a being which is not responsible for its origin or the origin of the world, but which, because of its dreadful freedom to choose one form of action over another, is responsible for what it makes of its existence.”.

Anguish takes its source from the statement that man chooses for all humanity in choosing for oneself. Anxiety arises, especially when the man has to choose even though he does not know whether the choice is right. The anxiety state clearly shows that there are many options open to elections.

Sartre (2007, p.29) argue that he believes that God doesn't exist. That's why he does not believe absolute that means in life. Therefore man is expected to form his meaning and values. Man is ultimately alone attempting to seek out his meaning in life as a result of God does not exist. "We are left alone, without excuse." The selection is critical for human existence because each human makes decisions that outline him. From an existentialist purpose of view, absolute freedom is the freedom to choose. Sartre states, "Man being condemned to be free carries the burden of the world on his shoulders; he is responsible for the world and himself as some way of being". As a result of man having absolute freedom, he has no excuse for anything he does; even the refusal to settle on continues to be thought-about a selection.

Subjectivity over objectivity is one of the basic themes found in Existentialism and *Assassin's Creed: Forsaken*. Sartre (2007, p.15) states that

“Man is nothing else, but what he makes of himself. Such is the first principle of existentialism. It is also what is called subjectivity”. Human is never objective because everything always starts from within the human or the subject itself. Sartre (2007, p.24) says that "Subjectivity must be the starting point". Subjectivity is uniquely owned by a human. If a man makes himself think about how something should be done, he also thinks about what humankind should do. For example, Things instantly assume the being it has become. No one can escape from it. Once a being comes into existence, it immediately becomes what it is (essence). We cannot decide for it, nature does it, and nature does nothing in vain. One may want to fly but cannot because the flight is not embedded into its being. Everything functions for what a being has become. Everything must perform the tasks each, and everyone is given. We should be the best in our field of being, and that is to be human, the same thing with other specific beings.

Blackham (1965, p.92-93) states that there are two types of being: authentic and inauthentic. Both Sartre and Heidegger think that the only way a man can achieve his authentic existence is by realizing he has a choice and by forming his values and meaning in life. “Sartre (2007, p.43) says that the coward makes himself cowardly, the hero makes himself heroic; and that there is always a possibility for the coward to give up cowardice and for the hero stop being a hero”.

Critchley (2001, p.149) argues that to interpret the meaninglessness of absurdity into meaning for essence is essential for Existentialism related to authenticity. Man attempts to attain authenticity by committing himself not as

an essence but as freedom. Authenticity is not an essence of human reality or consciousness. Authentic existence, like being-for-itself, is not easy to achieve because it requires courage and strength. It is necessary to reject society's morals and values and not conform to the existing norms.

Sartre (1992, p. 89) says that In *Being and Nothingness*, Sartre presents the idea of self-deception. According to Sartre, when one shows signs of self-deception, he lies to himself. Even though it is easy to understand when someone lies to another person, to lie to himself means that he knows the truth about himself, which he lies about. Sartre (1992, p. 89) says that "I must know my capacity as deceiver for the truth which is hidden from me in my capacity as the one deceived. Better yet, I must know the truth very exactly to conceal it more carefully—and this not at two different moments, which at a pinch would allow us to re-establish a semblance of duality—but in the unitary structure of a single project". All elements of Existentialism mentioned above have a significant relation to *Assassin's Creed: Forsaken* implicitly and explicitly.

## 2.2 New Criticism

Bertens (2001) says that New Criticism focuses on that means of literary texts. Sensible criticism (the United Kingdom) and literary criticism (the United States), first of all, give interpretations, with the New Critics paying specific attention to the formal aspects of literature that contribute to its meaning.

Besides, Abrams (1999) argues that new criticism is additionally outlined because the crucial target the literary work in isolation from its attendant circumstances and effects. In analyzing and evaluating a selected work, new

criticism rejects respect to the biography and temperament of the author, to the social conditions at the time of its production, or its psychological and ethical effects on the reader; they also tend to attenuate recourse to the place of the add the history of literary forms and material. It means that new criticism considerations the work or the text.

New Criticism insisted on the intrinsic worth of a piece of art and targeted the individual work alone as an independent unit of meaning. It was against the critical practice of transferral historical or biographical information in grips on the interpretation of a work (www.britannica.com). From the reason above, new criticism is used to research the intrinsic part of literary works. To look at how such elements operate to ascertain this novel, this Study focuses on some formal elements, character, and characterization that contribute to establishing the most character within the novel.

### **2.2.1 Character**

Janovsky (2012) says that all stories should have bound characteristics or components. In contrast, not these elements, any piece of literature would stop to create a sense or serve a purpose. For example, stories must have a plot or events that take place. Another essential story element is the character. A character will be defined as any person, animal, or figure portrayed in a literary work. Many varieties of characters exist within the literature, each with its development and performance.

### 2.2.2 Characterization

Holman (1985, p.84) says that there are some ways that of bringing characters to life, within which the readers should use their knowledge and knowledge to create judgments concerning the qualities of the characters. It's referred to as characterization. Characterization is the creation of those fanciful persons in Order that they exist for the reader as real at intervals the boundaries of the fiction. It suggests that characterization is, however, the author reveals the characters.

Holman (1985, p.138) argues that there are two alternative ways of characterization to reveal the character; direct characterization and indirect characterization. Direct characterization refers to what the speaker or narrator directly says or thinks about a character. The reader is told what the character is like directly. For instance, the narrator directly states that the character could be a beautiful, intelligent, and sort person or the narrator's description of the character's temperament through the narrator's comments and thoughts. Meanwhile, indirect characterization refers to what the character says or does. It implies that to understand the character's personality; the readers should interpret the characters act however, suppose or say.

Furthermore, Holman (1985, p.139) states that there are four ways in which to understand the character's characterization within the novel; the primary is thru the speech and thought of the characters, the second is through what the characters do or act, the third is through different characters' purpose of view, and the fourth is through the author because of the narrator of the story.

### 2.3 Review of Related Literature

In this subchapter, the researcher reviews previous studies that analyzed works of literature similar to *Assassin's Creed: Forsaken*. The review is conducted to help the researcher find the gap between previous and current research.

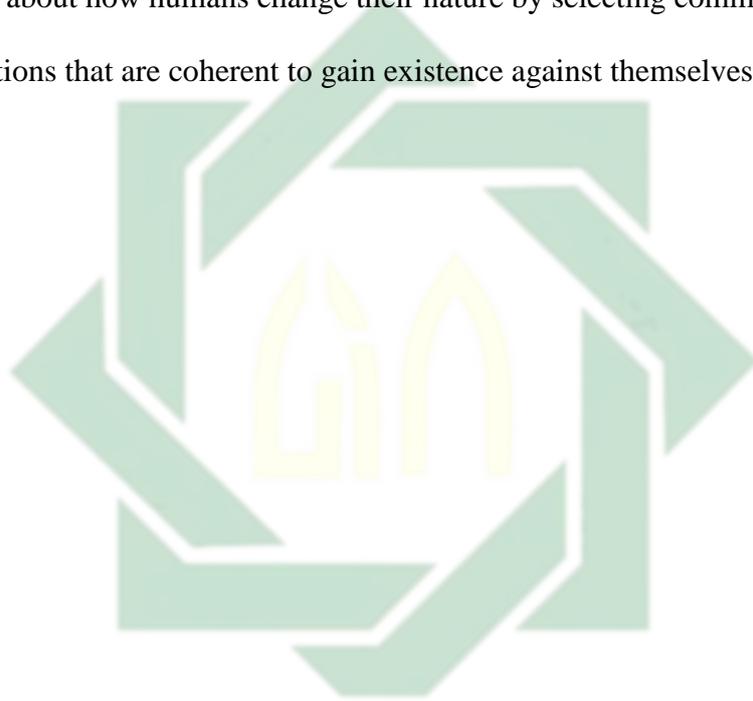
The first is *The Resistance of The Joker in Jostein Gaarder's Solitaire Crime thriller* by Muammar Hasan (2014). The results of this Thesis show that Joker wants to get his own existence and freedom without the shadow of his creator, namely Frode. Therefore the Joker kills Frode in front of all the dwarves made by Frode to get his freedom and existence.

Another study was found, *The Existentialism Concept of Death in the Main Character in The Sun Also Rise by Hemingway*, written by Trisye Anita Rumba, who also uses the same theory as this research Sartre's Existentialism. But what makes the difference is the focus. This analysis tells about the concept of the death of Existentialism.

Then, another study was found, *The Id, Ego, And SuperEgo Role in Shaping The Main Character's Personality in Oliver Bowden's Assassin's Creed Forsaken*. In this Thesis, the researcher uses Sigmund Freud's theory of Id, Ego, and Super Ego to analyze Haytham Kenway. The result of this Thesis is the description of Haytham Kenway in terms of personality based on Sigmund Freud's theory; it is proven by. Kenway's ego depiction is shown by repression from his mother and suspense his feeling from the tragedy and his mother's action. Kenway's superego depiction is shown by how he identificate his father

and how he manages his responsibility to stay loyal to his organization, which represents his repression through his id. The most dominant personality that Kenway has is melancholic throughout the story.

In contrast, this Study uses the theory of Existentialism by Jean-Paul Sartre and talks about how humans change their nature by selecting commitments and moral actions that are coherent to gain existence against themselves.



UIN SUNAN AMPEL  
S U R A B A Y A

## CHAPTER III

### ANALYSIS

This chapter contains the analysis used to answer the statement of the problems that arose in this Study. To answer those issues, firstly, this chapter discusses the characterization of Haytham Kenway as the main character described in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Forsaken*.

Then the researcher discusses the nature of Haytham by using the theory of Existentialism to show how Haytham gets its authenticity and looks for what aspects affect the authenticity of Haytham, which led him to find its existence applying Sartre's theory of Existentialism. Blackham (1965, p.92-93) says that Both Sartre and Heidegger think that the only way a man can achieve his authentic existence is by realizing he has a choice and by forming his values and meaning in life "The existentialist says that the coward makes himself cowardly, the hero makes himself heroic; and that there is always a possibility for the coward to give up cowardice and for the hero stop being a hero."

Authenticity means being able, to be honest to one's essence. A man should be aware of his freedom and task to create himself with its inevitable anxiety to live authentically. This awareness also requires commitment.

The human existence that reflects Sartre's Existentialism is discovered in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Forsaken* through the analysis of the whole story in this novel whereby describes Haytham's nature.

### 3.1 Haytham Kenway's Characterization

There are two alternative methods ways of characterization to reveal the character; direct characterization and indirect characterization. Direct characterization refers to what the speaker or narrator directly says or worries the character. The reader is told what the character is like directly. Meanwhile, indirect characterization refers to what the character says or does. It suggests that to get the depiction of the character's personality, readers ought to interpret from the way the characters act, think, or say. This novel is delivered using the first-person point of view, which is Haytham's, so Haytham is the narrator of this novel. Therefore, Haytham's characterization in this novel is mostly expressed by his action or thought.

#### 3.1.1 A Courageous Person

In this novel, Haytham is described as someone with a courageous nature. This trait had existed since he was a child. When all the children enjoyed the joy and fun, Haytham felt different things since he had to practice swordplay with his father. It is evident in the following quote:

“I haven't trained since the attack. I haven't had the heart to pick up a blade at all, but I know that when I do, I'll picture that room, with its dark, oak-paneled walls, bookshelves, and the covered billiard table which had been moved aside to make space. And in it my father, his bright eyes, sharp but kindly, and always smiling, always encouraging me: block, parry, footwork, balance, awareness, anticipation. Those words he repeated like a mantra, sometimes saying nothing else for an entire lesson at a time, just barking the commands, nodding when I got it right, shaking his head when I did it wrong, occasionally pausing, scooping his hair out of his face,

and going to the back of me to position my arms and legs”  
(Bowden,2012, p. 20)

From the above quote, it can be concluded that Haytham is a courageous little boy. At eight, he was taught to practice swordsmanship where his peers still enjoyed playing, a contrasting difference that made Haytham a brave and skilled child. Haytham’s courage was also tested when he faced a group of robbers who attacked his house and left him with no other choice but to kill one of the robbers in self-defense. It is evident in the following quote:

"My aim was true, and the point of the sword drove through the eyehole of the mask and into the socket. His scream tore a ragged hole in the night as he spans away from Mother with the sword momentarily embedded in his eye. Then it was wrenched out as he fell against the banister, toppled for a moment, sank to his knees, and pitched forward, dead before his head hit the floor. Mother ran into my arms and buried her head in my shoulder, even as I grabbed the sword and took her hand to make our way back down the stairs. How many times had Father said to me, on his way to work for the day, "You're in charge today, Haytham; you look after Mother for me." Now, I really was." (Bowden,2012, p. 52)

The above evidence shows that Haytham was adept at using a sword to protect himself from the robbers. Haytham bravely stabs the robber’s eyeball and makes him tragically die. Haytham did this to protect himself and his mother. Even so, this does not make Haytham’s mother feel proud. On the contrary, Haytham’s mother is disappointed with what Haytham has done. It is evident in the following quote:

"You are dismissed, Haytham," Mother said with a wave of her hand. Before—before the attack, I mean—she had never used to "summon" me. Or "dismiss" me. Before, she had never let me leave her side without at least a kiss on the cheek, and she'd told me she loved me, at least once a day.

As I stood, it occurred to me that she hadn't said anything about what had happened on the stairs that night. She had never thanked

me for saving her life. At the door, I paused and turned to look at her and wondered whether she wished the outcome had been different. (Bowden,2012, p. 71)

Haytham's mother was disappointed because as long as she taught, Haytham was never taught to do violence to others, let alone to kill people. Haytham's mother thought there were other ways to fight the robbers than killing. But the reality turned the only way was to kill the robber. The above evidence shows that Haitham was a brave person since childhood. Haytham's courage also continued to grow throughout his life.

### 3.1.2 A Persistent Person

In the novel *Assassins Creed: Forsaken*, Haytham is also described as having a high level of persistence. Since Haytham left England to find his father's killer and kidnapper of his half-sister Jenny, Haytham developed into a stronger person mentally and physically. With Reginald Birch, Haytham joined the Templars because he was comfortable with the idea of the Templar organization. Moreover, Haytham also felt that this organization was what Haytham's father meant.

Like an organization in general, the Templars have a mission that they want to accomplish: to look for an ancestral artifact, namely the *apple of Eden*, which controls thoughts, emotions, and human behavior mentally and physically. The Templars wanted to get the *apple of Eden* to create a new world order according to what they wanted. But it is not easy because the artifact is guarded by an organization called the Assassins. The task of the Assassins is to keep this *apple of Eden* from the hands of the Templars because Assassins want everyone

to have the freedom to think for themselves and not be governed by anything to create a safe and peaceful world.

Now that Haytham has been appointed by Reginald Birch's colleagues and is officially a member of the Templar Order, the vision of the Templars is ingrained in Haytham's mind. In addition to searching for a predecessor artifact commissioned by the Templars, Haytham also has personal ambitions, namely to find the killer of his father and find the whereabouts of his half-sister, as evidenced in the following quote:

“For the five years after we left London, Reginald and I scoured Europe, moving from country to country in a traveling caravan of staff and fellow Knights who shifted around us, drifting in and out of our lives, we two the only constants as we moved from one country to the next, sometimes picking up the trail of a group of Turkish slavers who were believed to be holding Jenny, and occasionally acting on information concerning Digweed, which Braddock would attend to, riding off for months on end but always returning empty-handed.” (Bowden,2012,81)

The quote above proves that Haytham is a person who has high tenacity. Five years is not a short time to find someone who is missing. Haytham and Birch look for the whereabouts of Jenny, who, according to reliable sources, was taken by Turkish slaves. During the search, Haytham also tries to get information about the perpetrator who killed Haytham's father, a Digweed. But the search for five years ends empty-handed.

Another evidence showing that Haytham had a high tenacity was when he was looking for a cave that could show where the *apple of Eden* was, accompanied by his templar colleagues, namely Benjamin Church, Charles Lee, and several other colleagues. There are sources of information that say that clues

to the existence of the *apple of Eden* are in the middle of the American jungle. Their Journey was not easy when they met a company of British soldiers who were in a gun battle with the French army on the way to the cave.

This incident made them have to help the British soldiers because the British war generals were the Templars, and their fellow members should have helped. After finishing the battle with the French army, they continued their Journey. Fortunately, the location of the cave was not far from the location of the war. But unfortunately, what they hoped for did not match up at all, they went to the wrong cave, but it did not dampen their enthusiasm. It is proven in the following quote:

"Master Kenway, did you find it, then?" They were the first words Charles Lee said to me when I entered our room at the Green Dragon Tavern. My men were all assembled, and they looked at me with expectant eyes, then face that dropped when I shook my head no. "It was not the right place," I confirmed. "I fear the temple was nothing more than a painted cave. Still, it contained precursor images and script, which means we are close. We must redouble our efforts, expand our Order and establish a permanent base here," I continued. "Though the site eludes us, I am confident we will find it." (Bowden, 2012, p.288).

It can be concluded that Haytham has high tenacity, starting from looking for the killer of his father and abductor of his stepbrother and searching for cave sites that show the existence of *the apple of Eden*. A struggle that is not easy for Haytham, but he still fights with what he believes in.

### 3.1.3 A Cunning Man

Reginal Birch invited Haytham to join the Templars because he saw great potential in Haytham since he was little. Haytham has been taught to defend himself, practice the sword, and look after his little family when Haytham's father

is not home. These aspects made Birch want Haytham to join the Templar order. Since Haytham joined the Templars, he was assigned large and dangerous missions. In every mission given, Haytham is required to collect information about the existence of the Apple of Eden, which is in the hands of Assassins.

Haytham took various ways to find information about the Apple of Eden, including killing the target who knew the existence of the Apple of Eden. Even so, Haytham is still an ordinary person. He also has empathy and compassion towards each of his targets and tends to be wise in making decisions. It is evident in the following quote:

Then the fight was over, and I faced the last man standing—and the last man standing was General Edward Braddock.

It would have been so easy. So easy to have ended this here. His eyes told me that he knew—he knew that I had it in my heart to kill him. Perhaps, for the first time, he realized that any ties that had once bound us, those of the Templar, or mutual respect for Reginald, no longer existed.

I let the moment hang, then dropped my sword. "I stay my hand today because you were once my brother," I told him, "and a better man than this. But should we cross paths again, all debts will be forgotten."

I turned to John. "You're free now, John."

The three of us—me, John, and Charles—began to walk away (Bowden, 2012, p.247-248).

The quote above proves that even though Haytham is great at fighting and does not hesitate to kill everyone with his sword, Haytham still has a conscience as a human being. Edward Braddock became one of the people who Haytham forgave. It was possible to kill Braddock, but Haytham chose not to because Braddock was his brother in arms and his colleague. But since that incident, they

are no longer together and choose their paths, Braddock and his American soldiers while Haytham is still loyal to his Templar order.

Another proof that Haytham was a cunning man was in Turkey looking for Jenny with Jim Holden. Together, they search for Jenny, who is said to have been used as a slave in the Turkish occupation. They sneak into the Turkish palace area, which is very tight with guards. Luckily they meet Jenny in the Turkish palace grounds and take her out. But in the middle of the road, they were surrounded by several guards ready to confront them. There was no other way to escape from the guard's siege other than to fight against the guard. Holden and Haytham fought with all their might, but still, they were cornered by a lot of guards. Seeing that the situation is getting more and more cornered, Holden asks Haytham to leave him because he does not want his search for years to be in vain, but Haytham does not wish to leave Holden because it is his responsibility to finish the fight. It is evident in the following quote:

*"Go, sir!"* insisted Holden. "I'll keep them back then follow you."

"Don't be a fool, Holden," I barked, unable to keep the scoffing sound out of my voice. "There's no holding them back. They'll cut you down."

"I've been in tighter spots than this one, sir," grunted Holden, his sword arm working as he exchanged blows. But I could hear the false bravado in his voice.

"Then you won't mind if I stay," I said, at the same time fending off one of the eunuch's sword strikes and parrying, not with my blade but with a punch to the face that sent him pinwheeling back.

*"Go!"* he shrieked.

"We die. We both die," I replied.

But Holden had decided that the time for courtesy was over.

"Listen, mate, either you two make it out of here, or none of us do. What's it going to be?"

At the same time, Jenny was pulling on my hand, the door to the bath chamber open, and more men arriving from our left. But still,

I hesitated. Until, atlast, with a shake of his head, Holden whipped around, yelled, "You'll have to excuse me, sir," and before I could react had shoved me backward through the door and slammed it shut (Bowden,2012, p. 317-318).

The quote above proves that Haytham is a wise man by not leaving Holden when he is fighting because Holden had helped a lot in the search when Haytham was in Turkey. Holden asked Haytham to leave him because Holden was sure he could overcome all the guards earlier. Haytham was not sure about that because Holden was cornered. At that moment, Haytham was pulled by Jenny to escape from the guards earlier and told Haytham to save Holden after the siege that day.

From all of Haytham's traits above, it can be concluded that Haytham has had a brave nature since childhood and continues to grow until he is an adult. He can fight using a sword that makes him a sadistic person who does not hesitate to kill everyone who gets in his way of getting what he wants, which is desired. In addition, Haytham also has high tenacity. It is proven by him continuing to look for the killer of Haytham's father and looking for Jenny until he reaches Turkey. Not only does personal ambition surrounds him, but Haytham also has the ambition to find an ancestral artifact contested by two organizations, the Assassins and Templars, called the *Apple of Eden*. Haytham's persistence can be seen in looking for these ancestral relics.

### **3.2 Haytham acquires his Existentialism.**

In the previous chapter, we have seen how Haytham Kenway is described. Haytham has a high tenacity towards what he believes and does. Haytham Kenway joined the Templars when he was a teenager. One of the factors that

allowed Haytham to join the Templars was Reginal Birch. Ever since Haytham left his home in England to find his father's killer and the kidnapper of his older sister Jenny, Birch has always cared for and accompanied Haytham. At that time, Birch gradually taught him about the Templar order and convinced Haytham to enter the Templar order. Haytham carried his belief in the Templars to the end of his life. Although several events made him waver, Haytham still chose what he had chosen from the start.

Haytham's nature brings him to be an authentic human being. Authenticity itself is related to human existence. According to Sartre, the only way a man can achieve his authentic existence is by realizing he has a choice and by forming his values and meaning in life "The existentialist says that the coward makes himself cowardly, the hero makes himself heroic; and that the coward always can give up cowardice and for the hero stop being a hero" (Sartre, 2007, p. 43). Sartre defines authenticity as accepting the human existence and the subsequent responsibilities and discusses that recognizing absolute freedom and responsibility conduct the human being toward authenticity. Authenticity requires the human being to accept that he is responsible for what he is and involves understanding one's capacity to change oneself. The authentic human being recognizes the inevitability of choosing for what he is and does. The authentic human being avoids blaming others for keeping away from responsibility.

All these definitions of authenticity based on the philosopher Sartre match what Haytham did during his life journey and brought him to human existence. Since the attack that killed his father and the kidnapping of his older sister,

Haytham has become a more mature person physically and mentally. Almost all of Haytham's life journey is not far from Birch. Birch has become a valuable figure for Haytham since he lost his father. Birch has become a friend and also a mentor for Haytham. It is evident in the following quote:

“Reginald was my tutor, and in that respect, he had similarities to Father; first in that he tended to sneer at almost anything from books, constantly asserting that there existed a higher, more advanced learning than could be found in dusty old schoolbooks, which I later came to know as Templar learning; and second, in that he insisted I think for myself.”(Bowden,2012, p. 81).

From the quote above, it can be proven that Haytham admits that Birch is his mentor, the way Birch teaches Haytham is similar to his father, Edward Kenway. Birch always said that there are more important and useful things to learn than reading old books in school, namely education in the basics of the Templars. Since then, Birch indirectly led Haytham to understand the Templars and made him easily join the Templars.

Since joining the Templars, Haytham was immediately assigned to missions that were quite heavy, such as taking a code breaker to find the whereabouts of the Apple of Eden, fighting against Assassins, and many more dangerous missions and from these missions, Haytham was crowned a Templar Knight. Holding this title made Haytham more devoted and loyal to the Templar order. This loyalty brings him to his authenticity as a human being to get his existence. Here are a few quotes describing how authentic Haytham has chosen to be.

### 3.2.1 Haytham meet Ziio

Since becoming a Templar, Haytham has had a mission given by the Templars, one of which is to find the whereabouts of the Apple of Eden. This object can control one's mind and mental, which is the ancestral relic most sought after by the templars. The search for the Apple of Eden took a long time until one day, the search was carried out inside the American jungle. When Haytham was looking for clues to the existence of this apple of Eden, Haytham met a Native American woman named Kaniehtí:io and had the nickname Ziio. Haytham, who saw Ziio for the first time, was immediately stunned by the beauty of Native American women, and made Haytham interested in getting acquainted. It is evident in the following quote:

She looked at me as though she hadn't understood a word I'd said. I felt the beginnings of panic. Maybe I'd been wrong about her in the cart. Maybe she couldn't speak English at all. Until suddenly, she replied, "Are you touched in the head?" Perfect English.  
 "Oh . . . sorry . . ."  
 She gave a disgusted shake of her head.  
 "What do you want?"  
 "Well, your name, for one." My shoulders heaved as I gradually caught my breath, which was steaming in the freezing cold (Bowden,2012, p. 265).

The quote above proves that Haytham is interested in getting acquainted with Ziio, but like a man who likes a woman, at first sight, a feeling of nervousness surrounds Haytham. From that introduction, it was revealed that Ziio knew where the clues to the existence of the apple of Eden were, and Haytham intended to stay close to Ziio because Haytham had a crush on her from the start. Ziio shared this feeling as well. However, they must guard their feelings secretly

because Haytham was a Templar allied with the British government. At the same time, Ziio was the leader of the Native Americans, at which time the Native Americans were facing the British to defend their territory. Haytham's feelings are evident in the following quote:

“I thought she loved me. I should say, I think she loves me, but she's like me.

There's so much of herself she keeps hidden. And, like me, I think she knows that love cannot progress, that we cannot live out our lives together, either in this forest or in England, that there are too many barriers between us and our lives together: her tribe, for a start. She has no desire to leave her life behind. She sees her place as with her people, protecting her land—land they feel is under threat from people like me.

And I, too, have a responsibility to my people. The tenets of my Order, are they in line with the ideals of her tribe? I'm not sure that they are. Asked to choose between Ziio and the ideals I have been brought up to believe, which would I choose?.” (Bowden,2012, p. 290-291).

The quote above illustrates how anxious Haytham is with his feelings.

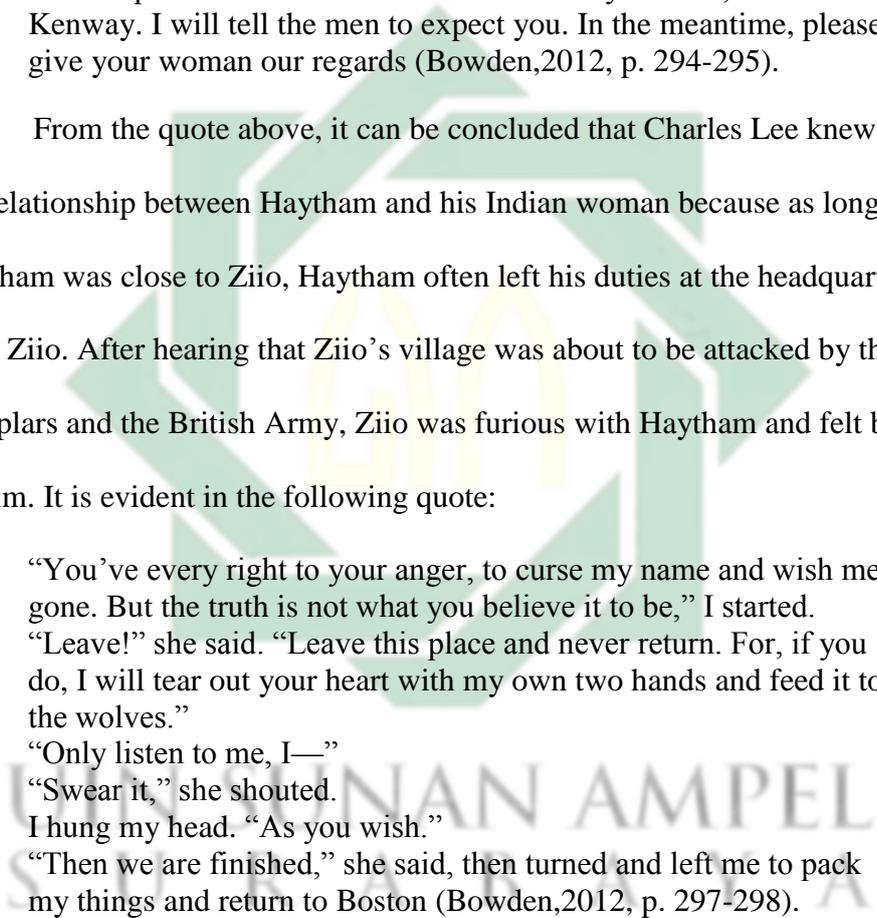
Haytham has an obligation to his duties with the Templars to help Britain expand its territory in America. In contrast, Ziio has to protect Native Americans from outsiders, including Haytham. But Haytham's anxiety was answered when Native American tribes attacked the headquarters where the Templars and British soldiers stayed. This attack caused quite a stir and made Haytham and his allies chase the Native American tribesmen to their base.

When Haytham and his allies arrived at the headquarters of the Native Americans, the Templars and British troops did not immediately attack. Still, they devised a strategy and executed it the next day. The person in charge of this attack is Charles Lee, he is Haytham's right-hand man, and he also knows the relationship between Haytham and his mohawk woman. It is evident in the

following quote:

He pursed his lips and nodded. "I think you know we can. What's the real reason for your absence, Haytham?"  
 I looked up sharply from the fire. "What might it be, Charles?"  
 "Perhaps you are enjoying life here with your Indian woman, suspended between two worlds, responsible to neither. It must be nice to take such a holiday . . ."  
 Charles pulled on the reins of his horse. "As you wish, Master Kenway. I will tell the men to expect you. In the meantime, please give your woman our regards (Bowden,2012, p. 294-295).

From the quote above, it can be concluded that Charles Lee knew about the relationship between Haytham and his Indian woman because as long as Haytham was close to Ziio, Haytham often left his duties at the headquarters to meet Ziio. After hearing that Ziio's village was about to be attacked by the Templars and the British Army, Ziio was furious with Haytham and felt betrayed by him. It is evident in the following quote:

"You've every right to your anger, to curse my name and wish me gone. But the truth is not what you believe it to be," I started.  
 "Leave!" she said. "Leave this place and never return. For, if you do, I will tear out your heart with my own two hands and feed it to the wolves."  
 "Only listen to me, I—"   
 "Swear it," she shouted.  
 I hung my head. "As you wish."  
 "Then we are finished," she said, then turned and left me to pack my things and return to Boston (Bowden,2012, p. 297-298).

The quote above shows that Ziio was furious with Haytham for betraying her. Ziio's trust in Haytham had to be lost because of Haytham's idealistic attitude. Haytham prefers to submit to the orders of the Templars rather than having to protect Ziio and the Native Americans because Haytham has chosen his path to remain loyal to the orders of the Templars. What Haytham did to Ziio ended their relationship, and the Templars continued to attack Ziio's village. It

proves that Haytham still maintains his authenticity because he still chooses orders from the Templars of his own free will and without coercion from others.

### **3.2.2 Haytham's Father was an Assassins**

Ever since Haytham left Zio, Haytham continued his duties as a devout templar knight to the Order. On the sidelines of Haytham doing his job, Haytham gets a letter from Holden containing the search for the perpetrators of Haytham's father's killer. It is evident in the following quote:

"A letter has arrived," he said, reaching into his knapsack and dropping it so that it landed at my feet. I glanced down to see my name on the front of the envelope and recognized the handwriting immediately. The letter came from Holden, and my heart quickened just to see it: a link with my old life, my other life in England, and my preoccupations there: finding my father's killers(Bowden,2012, p. 296).

The above quote shows that Haytham got a letter from his old friend Holden in England. Holden, at that time, was in the city of Damascus, Turkey, to find a clue who carried out the murder at that time. Not only providing information about who killed Haytham's father, but Holden also provides information about Jenny's whereabouts. It did not take long for Haytham to go to Turkey alone.

Arriving in Damascus, Haytham and Holden met at the traditional market. They talked about many things until finally, Haytham got information about Jenny's whereabouts, which turned out to have been bought by the Turkish king's sultanate to be a maid at the Turkish Palace. Haytham and Holden set a strategy to get into the Turkish Palace, which many royal soldiers guarded. Their strategy made them succeed in getting into the Turkish Palace, but even so, they still had to fight hard with the Turkish troops until they finally managed to save Jenny.

After they rescue Jenny, Haytham and Holden rest in a cabin. There lay Holden, who had fallen asleep because he was too tired and had a severe injury after the rescue. Between Haytham resting, Jenny spoke to Haytham and said that Haytham's father was an Assassin. It is evident in the following quote:

“Father was an Assassin,” Jenny said as I sat down. It was the first time we'd spoken about such matters since the rescue. We'd been too preoccupied with looking after Holden, escaping Egypt, and finding shelter each night.

“I know,” I said.

“You know?”

“Yes. I found out. I've realized that's what you meant all those years ago. Do you remember? You used to call me ‘Squirt’ . . . She pursed her lips and shifted uncomfortably.

“. . . and what you said about me being the male heir. How I'd find out sooner or later what lay in store for me?”

“I remember . . .”

“Well, it turned out to be later rather than sooner that I discovered what lay in store for me.” (Bowden,2012, p. 325-326).

Haytham has known for a long time that his father was an Assassin, but Haytham chose not to tell anyone because, according to Haytham, Templars and Assassins have the same view of freedom. And it was also at this moment that Haytham admitted to Jenny that he was a member of the Templars. It is evident in the following quote:

“But if you knew, then why does Birch live?”

“Why would he be dead?”

“He's a Templar.”

“As am I.”

She reared back, fury clouding her face. "You-you're a Templar! But that goes against everything Father ever . . .”

“Yes,” I said equably. “Yes, I am a Templar, and no, it doesn't go against everything our father believed. Since learning of his affiliations, I've come to see many similarities between the two factions. I've begun to wonder if, given my roots and my current position within the Order, I'm not perfectly placed to somehow unite Assassin and Templar (Bowden,2012, p. 326).

From the above quote, it is evident that in addition to Haytham admitting he joined the Templars, he also wanted to merge these two orders because both have the same similarities. Although Haytham's father was an Assassin, it did not make Haytham change his mind to turn to the Order of Assassins. Still, on the contrary, Haytham remained in his decision to remain with the Templars because this was a form of his existence by still choosing what he had set from the start.

### 3.2.3 Birch Betrayed Haytham

After Haytham managed to save Jenny from the Turkish Empire, they often realized how to find the culprit behind Haytham's father's killer. Jenny assumes that the culprit is Reginal Birch. Birch planned it all because he wanted to retrieve an Assassins order relic kept by Haytham's father. Therefore Reginal Birch always wanted to be close to the Kenway family. It is proven in the following quote:

I leaned forward. "I was told that Father had something—something that they wanted. Do you know what it was?"  
 "Oh yes. They had it in the carriage that night."  
 "Well?"  
 "It was a book."  
 Again I felt a frozen, numb feeling. "What sort of book?"  
 "Brown, leather-bound, bearing the seal of the Assassins."  
 I nodded. "Do you think you'd recognize it if you were to see it again?"  
 She shrugged. "Probably," she said (Bowden,2012, p. 328).

The quote above proves that Jenny saw the robbers and brought a book that Haytham's father kept secret. It reinforces the notion that Reginal Birch initiated the robbery. It didn't take long Haytham took Jenny and Holden to France to meet Reginal Birch, who was in his Palace.

Arriving in France, they went to a palace guarded by several mercenaries.

Haytham, Jenny, and Holden devise a strategy to enter the Palace. Haytham's sword skills quickly cut down the mercenaries and met Reginal Birch. It is evident in the following quote:

He shook his head sadly. "My dear boy, as Grand Master, you have to make difficult decisions. Did I not teach you that? I promoted you to Grand Master of the Colonial Rite, knowing that you, too, would have to make similar decisions and having faith in your ability to make them, Haytham. Decisions made in the pursuit of a greater good. In pursuit of ideals you share, remember? You ask, did I think you'd ever find out? And of course the answer is yes. You are resourceful and tenacious. I trained you to be that way. I had to consider the possibility that, one day, you'd learn the truth, but I hoped that when that day arrived, you'd take a more philosophical view (Bowden,2012, p. 342).

The above quote proves that Birch brought Haytham to becoming a Templar Knight. Birch took care of, coached, and made Haytham a great man in every way. But Birch's words did not change anything. Haytham was still furious because he felt betrayed. It is proven in the following quote:

I gave a dry laugh. "Indeed, Reginald. Indeed you are. What you did is a corruption of everything I believe, and do you know why? You did it not with the application of our ideals but with deceit. How can we inspire belief when what we have in our hearts is lies? (Bowden,2012, p. 342-343).

The quote above proves that Haytham felt betrayed by Birch, who had educated him since he was a teenager. Haytham's trust in Birch seemed to vanish and disappear. Even so, Haytham still what Haytham told Birch did not change his choice. Haytham still chose the Templar order over the Assassins order. It is evident in the following quote:

"No. We must practise what we preach. Otherwise, our words are hollow." "There speaks the Assassin in you," he said, his

eyebrows arched. I shrugged. “I’m not ashamed of my roots. I’ve had years to reconcile my Assassin blood with my Templar beliefs, and I have done so (Bowden,2012, p. 343).

The above quote proves that Haytham admits he has Assassins blood flowing in his body and is not ashamed to have it, but he still chooses the Templars as the ideology he adheres to because it has become his life choice. The debate between Haytham and Birch was getting longer. Seeing this, Jenny could not stand it and wanted to kill Birch immediately. Birch, who knew he was about to be killed, suddenly grabbed Jenny and covered her with both hands. Jenny fought back as best she could, and Haytham did not want to be rash in saving Jenny. When Haytham and Birch argued at this point, Jenny managed to fight back by pushing Birch back and making him fall until he was stabbed by Haytham’s sword, which had previously been stuck in the back of the Birch. Birch died at the hands of Jenny. Decades of waiting paid off with Reginal Birch’s death.

#### **3.2.4 Haytham meets his son**

For nearly 15 years, Haytham and his colleagues in the Templars finally met in Boston to discuss important matters regarding the development of the Templar order. Charles Lee, Benjamin Church, Thomas Hickey, William Johnson, and John Pitcairn met at one table. In between their conversation, Charles Lee told Haytham that about 14 years ago, Charles and George Washington managed to attack a Native American village. Charles and George have different missions. Charles intends to look for a precursor site as a clue to find the whereabouts of the

Apple of Eden, while George Washington attacks only for bloodshed and the clearing of new land. It is evident in the following quote:

It was Charles—Charles who was the first to look across the table, hold my gaze and tell me, “Your Mohawk woman.”  
 “What about her?”  
 “I’m sorry, Haytham,” he said. “Really I am.”  
 “She’s dead?”  
 “Yes.”  
 Of course, I thought. So much death. “When? How?”  
 “It was during the war. In ’60. Fourteen years ago now. Her village was attacked and burned.”  
 I felt my mouth tighten.  
 “It was Washington,” he said quickly, glancing at me. “George Washington and his men. They burned the village and you are. . . she died with it.” “You were there?”  
 He coloured. “Yes, we’d hoped to speak to the village elders about the precursor site. There was nothing I could do, though, Haytham, I can assure you’ Washington and his men were all over the place. They had a lust for blood on them that day.” (Bowden,2012, p. 362-363).

The above quotation proves that Ziio died during the attack by George Washington and Charles Lee, trying to encourage Haytham that he did not interfere in the attack. However, from the attack, Haytham had time to wander in his mind if there were small children during the attack. It is evident in the following quote:

There was nothing I could do, though, Haytham, I can assure you. Washington and his men were all over the place. They had a lust for blood on them that day.”

“And there was a boy?” I asked him. His eyes flicked away.  
 “Yes, there was a boy—young, about five.” (Bowden,2012, p. 362-363).

The quote proves that Charles Lee met a small child who was five years old during the attack. Immediately Haytham imagined him with Ziio, who was sitting

relaxed under the starlight when they were together, and at that moment, Ziio stroked her stomach.

Two years after Haytham found out that he had a son, the signs of the boy's whereabouts were increasingly revealed. That day Haytham visited the prison to visit his templar friend named Thomas Hickey, who had been sent to jail for the attempted murder of George Washington. After Haytham spoke with Thomas, he saw someone with a sturdy body and sharp eyes in the next cell. It is evident in the following quote:

When I visited him, shivering in the cold and revolted by the smell, clamour and noise of the jail, when, suddenly, in the cell next door, I saw him: the Assassin. And knew. He had his mother's eyes, the same proud set of his chin, but his mouth and nose were Kenway. He was the image of her, and of me. Without a doubt, he was my son (Bowden,2012, p. 373).

The above quote proves that Haytham met his son for the first time. His face is a combination of Haytham and Ziio, but what sets him apart is that he is an Assassin, an Assassin born to a Templar father. With the boy's arrival, Charles Lee has made a fierce and powerful enemy. He was a little boy who had seen his village destroyed and his mother died at the hands of a templar. A desire for revenge enveloped him. It is evident in the following quote:

“Do you see what this means, Charles? We have created that Assassin. In him burns a hatred of all Templars. He saw you the day his village burned, yes?”  
 “Yes—yes, I've already told you . . .”  
 “I expect he saw your ring, too. I expect he wore the imprint of your ring on his own skin for some weeks after your encounter. Am I right, Charles?.” (Bowden,2012, p. 374).

Haytham's son certainly has a very big grudge against what the Templars have done to his tribe, especially to his mother. But even though his son is an

Assassin, Haytham still chooses the Templars as his way of life, and here is evidence that Haytham remains loyal to the orders of the Order by showing the nature of his concern for what Charles Lee has done:

“My concern is for the Order,” I said. “My only concern is for the Order.

And, correct me if I’m wrong, Charles, but the Order does not preach the senseless slaughter of natives, the burning of their villages. That, I seem to recall, was noticeably absent from my teachings. Do you know why? Because it’s the kind of behaviour that creates—how would you describe it?—‘ill will’ among those we might hope to win over to our way of thinking. It sends neutrals scuttling to the side of our enemies. Just as it has here. Men are dead and our plans under threat because of your behaviour sixteen years ago.” (Bowden,2012, p. 374).

Charles Lee’s rash behavior several years ago made Haytham worried because, in every Order of the Templars, it is not justified to kill and finish off a place to solve a problem. It allowed those who had sympathy for the Templars to turn against the Templars for an act they should not have done.

Ziio named Haytham’s son Connor Kenway. Connor developed into a strong child who masters martial arts. This trait was also possessed by Haytham when he was a child. Connor has a deep grudge against Charles Lee, a Templars member who is also Haytham’s right-hand man. Connor wants to avenge him because Charles has scorched his village and killed his mother. But this plan would be complicated for Connor because Charles is Haytham’s right hand, so Haytham will try to protect him. It is evident in the following quote:

I shook my head. “I think not, Charles. I think I shall stay and make my final stand. Perhaps you’re right—perhaps I have not been the most effective Grand Master. Perhaps now is the time to put that right.”

“You intend to face him? To fight him?”  
I nodded (Bowden,2012, p. 433).

From the quote above, Haytham wants to face his son because Haytham thinks he is not a good Templar knight. Therefore, Haytham chooses to face his son as a sign that Haytham intends to be a good and valuable Templar knight figure for his Order.

Haytham entrusted an amulet to Charles to keep it no matter what because Haytham did not want the amulet to be taken by the Assassins. It is evident in the following quote:

“I won’t allow him to kill you, Charles,” I said, and reached to my neck to remove the amulet. “Take this, please. I don’t want him having it, should he beat me in battle. We worked hard to take it from the Assassins; I’ve no desire to return it.”  
 But he snatched his hand away. “I won’t take it.”  
 “You need to keep it safe.”  
 “You’re quite capable of doing that yourself.”  
 “I’m almost an old man, Charles. Let’s err on the side of caution, shall we?”  
 I pressed the amulet into his hands.  
 “I’m detailing some guards to protect you,” he said.  
 “As you wish.” I glanced at the window again. “You might want to hurry, though. I have a feeling the time of reckoning is near.”  
 (Bowden, 2012, p. 433-434).

The above quotation proves that Charles refused to take the amulet, but Haytham believed that Charles could keep it and keep it out of the reach of the Assassins. Haytham has also prepared several guards to keep Charles from being chased by the Assassins until finally, Charles leaves Haytham from the fort.

### **3.2.5 Haytham Fights with Connor**

In the story of the novel *Assassin’s Creed: Forsaken*, the novelist changes his main point of view because Haytham Kenway’s last quote is his last

journal writing before he fights his son. Therefore, this point of view will show Connor Kenway as the protagonist.

Connor searches for his father amid a bombardment of ships that attack the fort where the Templars, Haytham Kenway, is headquartered. Connor ran to find where his father was and finally met him in a room, where Haytham was waiting for Connor with an alert attitude. It is evident in the following quote:

“Father!” I called. The bombardment was deafening, but I had fought my way through it to the West Tower where his quarters were to be found, and there in the passageway leading to the Grand Master’s chambers, I found him. “Connor,” he replied. His eyes were flinty, unreadable. He held out his arm and engaged his hidden blade. I did the same. From outside came the thunder and crash of cannon fire, the rending of stone and the screams of dying men. Slowly, we walked towards one another (Bowden,2012, p. 439).

Connor and Haytham were put on alert with each other and prepared to launch their first attack. Not only fighting, but they also argued about the understanding they professed by the Assassins and Templars. It is evident in the following quote:

“You act as though you have some right to judge,” he said, “To declare me and mine wrong for the world. And yet everything I’ve shown you—all I’ve said and done— should clearly demonstrate otherwise. But we didn’t harm your people. We didn’t support the Crown. We worked to see this land united and at peace. Under our rule all would be equal. Do the patriots promise the same?”“They offer freedom,” I said, watching him carefully, remembering something Achilles once taught me: that every word, every gesture, is combat. “Freedom?” he scoffed. “I’ve told you—time and time again—it’s dangerous. There will never be a consensus, son, among those you have helped to ascend. They will differ in their views of what it means to be free. The peace you so desperately seek does not exist.” (Bowden,2012, p. 441-442).

The above quote proves that Haytham tries to explain how the purpose of the Templar order works, the Templars want this land to unite in peace under the Templars to realize equality in everything while their Assassins demand freedom

in all things without any specific rules, but according to Haytham freedom is something dangerous because there is no certainty in that freedom.

Haytham and Connor continued to fight until the last drop of blood. In the end, Haytham caught his guard and made Connor manage to stab Haytham's heart with a hidden knife in his hand. It is evident in the following quote:

“And in the next moment I had rushed forward and, before he could react, knocked Haytham back to the stone and stood over him once again, my blade hand pulled back. And then, with a great rush of something that might have been futility, and a sound that I realized was my own sob, I stabbed him in the heart.” (Bowden,2012, p. 446).

Connor managed to stab Haytham until he was shocked and fell. When Haytham was dying, he still believed that the Templars were superior and powerful. It is evident in the following quote:

“It is because the Order is born of a realization. We require no creed. No indoctrination by desperate old men. All we need is that the world be as it is. This is why the Templars can never be destroyed (Bowden,2012, p. 445).

The above quote shows that Haytham still embraced his belief as a templar knight until the end of his life, even though his son, Connor Kenway, chose to join the Assassins. It is an incredible consistency to what Haytham has selected, and few others have.

### **3.3 Haytham finds his Existentialism**

#### **3.3.1 Haytham was Cared for by Reginal Birch since He was a Teenager**

In this section, the researcher will explain how Haytham found his Existentialism that brought him to human existence.

After Haytham lost his father in an attack at his home in Queen Anne Park, Reginald invites Haytham to find the culprit. Haytham began to form himself with Reginald Birch as a substitute for his father. Haytham also considers Birch a mentor. He also believes that there are similarities in how Birch teaches with his father. It is evident in the following quote:

“Reginald was my tutor, and in that respect he had similarities to Father; first in that he tended to sneer at almost anything from books, constantly asserting that there existed a higher, more advanced learning than could be found in dusty old schoolbooks, which I later came to know as Templar learning; and second, in that he insisted I think for myself.” (Bowden, 2012, p. 81).

The quote above proves that Haytham recognizes Birch as a mentor, and his teaching method is similar to his father's because everything Haytham does is always opposed. That's why Birch always suggested directly practicing what Haytham learned instead of reading ancient texts. Haytham also understood the Templars, and Birch told Haytham to think more about it.

Haytham's Existentialism begins to form here, where Haytham has to think about choosing his life path. When Haytham started it all, Birch's presence was very influential in every Haytham's life choice. In the end, Haytham chose the path of becoming a member of the Templars because it was his decision without any coercion from others.

### **3.3.2 Haytham's Idealism Brought Him into Existence**

Haytham is someone who has tenacity and is also a strong idealist. It has been seen since Haytham was a child when his father was being trained by his father to practice swordsmanship because his father applied strict discipline to

Haytham. This trait Haytham carried until Haytham was an adult and was proven when Haytham looked for Jenny to get to Turkey. This is evident in the following quote:

“We never found Jenny. Over the years, I’d mellowed towards her memory. Reading back over my journals, the young me could not have cared less about her, something I’m somewhat ashamed of, because I’m a grown man now, and I see things in different terms. Not that my youthful antipathy towards her did anything to hinder the hunt for her, of course.” (Bowden,2012, p. 82-83).

The quote above proves that Haytham has a high idealistic nature when Haytham looks for Jenny. Even though when he was little, Haytham hated her. But when Jenny was kidnapped, Haytham kept looking for her even though the search took years.

Haytham’s idealistic attitude is shown when looking for Jenny and when Haytham has joined the Templar Order. The Templars have a mission to find the whereabouts of an ancestral relic, and Haytham is assigned to find it. Haytham’s idealistic nature comes out when Haytham and his colleagues have not found the whereabouts of these ancestral relics, but Haytham remains confident of being able to find them. This is evident in the following quote:

“Master Kenway, did you find it, then?”

They were the first words Charles Lee said to me when I entered our room at the Green Dragon Tavern. My men were all assembled, and they looked at me with expectant eyes, then faces that dropped when I shook my head no.

“It was not the right place,” I confirmed. “I fear the temple was nothing more than a painted cave. Still, it contained precursor images and script, which means we are close. We must redouble our efforts, expand our Order and establish a permanent base here,” I continued. “Though the site eludes us, I am confident we will find it.” (Bowden,2012, p. 288).

The quote above proves that Haytham still wants to continue searching for ancestral relics even though Haytham and his colleagues have not found these objects. Haytham also encouraged his colleagues to exert more energy to find the object. This idealistic nature brought Haytham to become a more authentic human being and made him find his true self.

### **3.3.3 Haytham Wants to Unite the Templars and Assassins**

Even though Haytham is a templar knight, Haytham has the thought to unite these two factions, but the reality is that it is not easy. This is evident in the following quote:

Once upon a time, many years ago, I'd dreamed of one day uniting Assassin and Templar, but I was a younger and more idealistic man then. The world had yet to show me its true face. And its true face was unforgiving, cruel and pitiless, barbaric and brutal. There was no place in it for dreams." (Bowden,2012, p. 411).

The quote above shows that when Haytham was young, full of enthusiasm and high ideals, he wanted to unite these two factions. Still, the real world showed its face that the reality of the Assassins and Templars being united would never be possible because these two factions have different understandings about freedom. Haytham also closed the dream and still chose what Haytham had chosen from the start by choosing the Templars as his way of life.

From all the explanations above, it is known that Haytham got his whereabouts through the Existentialism that Haytham showed by continuing to choose the Templars as his life goal without any coercion from others even though in the end, Haytham knew that his father and son were Assassins. Still, Haytham remained consistent with what Haytham chose from the start. This is

what makes Haytham an authentic human being so that Haytham can find their existence.



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## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

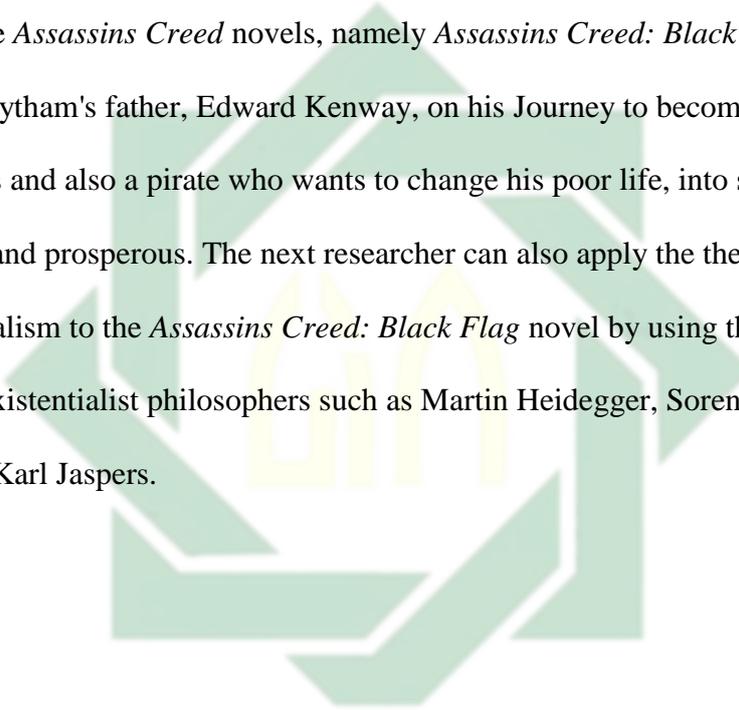
#### 4.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the data in the previous chapter, the researcher concludes the analysis based on the research problems. The first conclusion is that Haytham has had a brave nature since childhood and grows until adulthood. He can fight using a sword that makes him a sadistic person who does not hesitate to kill everyone who gets in his way of getting what he wants, which is desired. In addition, Haytham also has high tenacity. It is proven by him continuing to look for the killer of Haytham's father and looking for Jenny until he reaches Turkey. Not only does personal ambition surrounds him, but Haytham also has the ambition to find an ancestral artifact contested by two organizations, the Assassins and Templars, called the *Apple of Eden*. Haytham's persistence can be seen in looking for these ancestral relics.

Haytham shows his Existentialism as a human to obtain his existence was evident when he chose the Templars as his life goal without any coercion from others even though in the end, Haytham knew that his father and son were Assassins. Still, Haytham remained consistent with what Haytham chose from the start. This is what makes Haytham an authentic human being so that Haytham can find their existence.

## 4.2 Suggestion

Besides *Assassins Creed: Forsaken*, Oliver Bowden has written 11 novels with the theme of *Assassins Creed*. Therefore, the researcher suggests discussing one of the *Assassins Creed* novels, namely *Assassins Creed: Black Flag*, which tell of Haytham's father, Edward Kenway, on his Journey to becoming one of the Assassins and also a pirate who wants to change his poor life, into someone admired and prosperous. The next researcher can also apply the theory of Existentialism to the *Assassins Creed: Black Flag* novel by using the theories of several existentialist philosophers such as Martin Heidegger, Soren Kierkegaard, and also Karl Jaspers.



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