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**A Study of Puritan Elements in The Works of Nathaniel Hawthorne**

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**ABSTRACT**

Puritan elements play a central role in the literary works of Nathaniel Hawthorne. His writings are strongly influenced by the history, beliefs, and moral values of the Puritan society that existed in early New England. Hawthorne often explored themes such as sin, guilt, morality, punishment, and redemption, which were important aspects of Puritan religious beliefs. In many of his stories and novels, he portrayed characters who struggle with their conscience and face the consequences of their actions within a strict moral society. Hawthorne used historical settings and symbolic characters to highlight the psychological and emotional impact of Puritan traditions. He also showed how strict religious rules and social expectations could create fear, isolation, and inner conflict in individuals. Through his works, Hawthorne examined both the strengths and weaknesses of Puritan culture, presenting it as a powerful influence on human behavior and social life. His writing often encourages readers to think about the balance between moral discipline and personal freedom.