

chimney sweep life, is certainly intended to represent the life of sin, and of actual sinful life and action—not merely sinful principle—ending with Tom's conversion. The change in Tom thus designated was brought about through his being convinced of his own dirtiness, and being led to desire a different kind of life. The gradual arousing of the conviction of sin is depicted in a very graphic manner. First, Tom's master, named Grimes, is confronted by an Irishwoman, who tells him, "Those that wish to be clean, clean they will be, and those that wish to be foul, foul they will be." Apparently the words produced little effect, yet they were not forgotten by Mr. Grimes; and other influences brought home the same lesson to Tom.

Going with his master to sweep the chimneys at Harthover Hall, Tom came down the wrong chimney into the sleeping apartment of Ellie, the daughter of Sir John Harthover. When he saw this fair, pure creature lying in her white bed, he looked at his own wrist and tried to brush off the soot; and then turning round he saw standing close to him a little, ugly, black figure with bleared eyes and grinning white teeth; and behold! it was himself reflected in a great mirror such as he had never seen before. And Tom discovered, for the first time in his life, how dirty he was, and burst into tears of shame and anger.

Escaping from the Hall he fled across the park, into the woods, up the moor, and at last scrambled down the Lewthwaite Crag, an almost perpendicular descent. He was followed all the way by the Irish woman who seems here to represent Providence. He descended into Vendale, where he found an old lady, who turned out to be Mrs. Grimes, keeping a little school.

This lady at first declared that she would have nothing to do with chimney sweeps; but, at last, taking compassion upon him, she gave him milk and put him in an outhouse, where he might rest. But he turned about and then fell half asleep, and dreamed that he heard the little white lady crying to him: "Oh, you're so dirty; go and be washed;" and then he heard the Irish woman saying: "Those that wish to be clean, clean they will be." And then he began to cry out: "I must be clean," and threw himself into the river and became a Water Baby. Here we have the representation of one type of conversion.

As the life of the chimney-sweep represented the life of sin, so the first period of the Water Baby life represents the life of selfishness or worldliness. While Tom was disporting himself in the river, he had no care but for himself and his own pleasures. It is not said that he did anything positively wrong. But he was living a selfish and a worldly life—shallow and frivolous without deep conviction or any serious sense of responsibility. He spends his time in worrying the caddises, tormenting the little trout, making faces at the otter, chatting with the dragon fly, and flattering the salmon.

The helping of the lobster out of the pot brought a change. The description of this episode is one of the most charming parts of the whole book; and as a result, he entered upon a new experience. He came upon a Water Baby—another creature like himself, seen for the first time. We are told to guess the explanation; and it is not very difficult to discover. Whilst we live a merely selfish and worldly life, our fellow-creatures are to us simply a means of amusement and entertainment. But just as Tom's act of