

Wordsworth Theme
Mysticism | Nature poet | Philosophy

Wordsworth is acknowledged as one of the greatest poets of English literature. Although he is equal to Shelley in lyric quality, to Coleridge as to Keats in imaginative quality, to Burns in tenderness and warmth and to ~~Byron~~ Byron in passion and energy. Wordsworth has his own merits as a creative genius. His contemporaries put him next to Milton. Matthew Arnold corroborated the judgement and T.S. Eliot has set the seal upon it when he says that Wordsworth belongs to history.

Wordsworth was a leader of the 'Romantic School of Poets'. He was a great worshipper of nature. For, he felt a moral and living presence in nature. He says:
He says:

"To every natural form, rock, fruit and blade
Even the loose stones that cover the highway
It gave a moral life, I saw them feel it.
The beauty of nature will not only please
our sense but also lighten the:

"Heavy and weary weight,
of all this unintelligible world"

The sweet contact and company of nature enables our humanity. we can learn more from the objects of nature than from any human sage. Nature has the proud privilege of leading man from ~~joy~~ joy to joy; from despair to delight and from weakness to strength. But unfortunately we do not have time to stand and stare at the beauty of nature. our mechanical civilization has blunted our sensibility. we have eyes but we do not see, we have ear but we do not hear. we have heart but we do not feel the loveliness of nature. In the word of Wordsworth:

For this end everything we are out of door

The poet says in his famous sonnet "The world is too much with us" in a very artistic way:

"Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers
Little of us see in nature that is ours"

This pained the heart of Wordsworth. He set himself to oppose this degrading habit of mankind. For, he believed:

"To me the meanest flower that blows
Can give thoughts that do often lie too deep
Further he says:

"One impulse from a vernal wood
May teach you more of man
Of moral and evil and of good
Than all the sages can"

That is why, Wordsworth is regarded as a nature mystic. He always saw something which obviously never existed in the object. He felt that nature was alive with a sense of purpose. He says:

"It is my faith that every flower,
Enjoys the air it breathes."

He believes that natural objects have their "unknown mode of being". He tells us how one evening when he had a strange experience after the deed was done. In his own words:

"I heard among the solitary hills
Low breathing coming after me; and sounds
Of undistinguishable motion"

Again he tells us what happened, after stealing a boat in a lake in "The Prelude":

"His brain worked with a dim and undetermined
Sense of unknown modes of being"

He became aware of the invisible spirit of nature. He came to realize

that natural objects, too, have their "unknown modes of being". He often communed with the infinite life and expressed it in his poems.

He says:

"Beneath some rock, listening to notes that are
The, ghostly language of the ancient earth?
He had moments in which the earth and
every common sight was clothed with celestial light.
Even the tiny bird like a skylark, seemed to
him like a pilgrim to the sky. But such moments
of heightened awareness did not last longer with
him.

He was more a philosopher than a poet. But he was not a systematic philosopher in the sense as Dante was. But he had to convey a very important philosophical truth and his relation to nature. His philosophy was based on his personal experience. He roamed in the world of nature and felt that nature was alive with a sense of purpose. The purpose of nature was to enlighten our soul. So, he advised the man to win the world of nature to win eternal happiness. So, Wordsworth turned out to be a preacher. He preached that there was a close relation between the soul of nature and that of the human beings. So, he advised us to leave our books.

"Books, it is a dull and endless strife
Come, here the woodlands' dimmet,
How sweet his music,
There is more of wisdom in it"

we have enough of art and science in his opinion. These things have muddled our intellect. That is why, we "mis-shape the beautiful form of things". So, concludes his saying by an invitation to close up these barren leaves:

"Come, hark and bring with you a heart
That watches and receives
For nature never deceives a heart that loves
her

Wordsworth has himself said: "Every great poet is a teacher; will either be considered as a teacher or as nothing else" He writes about nature: "She has a wealth world of ready wealth or minds and hearts to bliss"

Wordsworth was highly subjective in his expression. He always talks of his personal joy and sorrow in the realm of nature. In all his great and small poems, it is he who is at the centre of the poem. In fine, he is the hero of all his poems. For example, "The Rainbow" a small poem:

"My heart leaps up when
I behold a rainbow in the sky"

The same thing is true about his longest poem "The Prelude". The incident of stealing boat and bird constitutes diary. Again, he says in his "Lucy poem" — — — "The difference to me".

That is why, he has been vehemently criticized by T. S. Eliot in our age. According to T. S. Eliot "poetry is not an expression of personality, it is an escape from personality". But all the romantic poets seem to have indulged in the expression of their personality. They were not objective in expression.

Even then, Wordsworth was great among the great poets of nature. As he broke with the past belief in nature and the manner of expression. He believed that there was a moral and life in nature. He had a personal experience of these things. He expressed them to cast the same impression on the mind of readers. Besides, he expressed his experiences in the realm of nature in a very simple language. He communicated his experiences in a supremely poetic and romantic manner. For, he believed that poetry should be written in the language of a common man. That is why, his poems are remarkable for the simplicity of language and clarity of expression.