
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH: A ROMANTIC POET

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Abstract

William Wordsworth, a Romantic poet regarded Nature as a living personality. Nature was treated as a Pedagogue, Guardian and a fount of joy for him. He, a supreme worshipper of Nature, believed that Nature had a divine spirit in itself. Human beings grow up in the lap of Nature. It soothes and meliorates the despondent people. He was born in 1770 at Cockermouth, Cumberland, in the lake district of England. He adored the shepherds, streams, hills, flowers, wind and all natural objects. He was in love with the beautiful Woods and Meadows. He lost his parents at young age. He was educated at Cambridge by his uncles. In 1793, he published 'An Evening Walk', 'Descriptive Sketches' in which a regular classic couplet was used. His friendship with Samuel Taylor Coleridge resulted in the publication of 'lyrical Ballads' in 1798. In 1802, he married Mary Hutchinson. Naturalism was apparent in his works like 'The Thorn', 'The Idiot Boy'. He composed the narrative and descriptive poems like 'Michael'. 'I Wandered lonely as a Cloud', was published in 1804. He wrote poetry with a lot of passion. He manifested a magnificent bonding between human beings and the natural world. He finished one portion of second

part 'The Recluse', in 1806. In 1807, he published poems in two volumes, 'Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood'. His best known odes were 'On The Power of Sound'. He also wrote a large number of sonnets. The most admired was published in 1820, 'The River Duddon, A Series of Sonnets'. In 1838, he received an honorary doctorate in Civil Law from the University of Durham. He was also awarded the honorary degree by the University of Oxford in 1839. In 1842, he was given a government pension of 300 pounds per annum. He succeeded Robert Southey as Britain's Poet Laureate in 1843 and held that position until his death in 1850. The aim of the paper is intended to look for William Wordsworth's inspiration to the readers and to inculcate love in their hearts towards Nature. Man can find Solace in Nature instead of running after the luxuries of this mechanical world.

Keywords: Rustic life, Romanticism, Solace, Exoticism, Naturalism

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Romanticism

The Romantic era or an artistic movement was originated, at the end of 18th century, in Europe. It was a movement of art and literature. It dealt with the magnanimity of a common man and ethical values of an individual. It gave rise to inventiveness and an impulsive flow of emotions. The spirit of an emotional age had attracted women to express themselves in their literary contribution.

The age of Romanticism was known for the glory of Nature. It paved way to an artistic inventiveness, imagination, literary and intellectual movement. The poets beautifully described the aesthetic magnificence. The literature of that era contained exoticism. Men found solace in Nature. It was an age of revolt against Rationalism and Classicism. It focused on the goodness of humanity. The usage of personification was found among the poems of the Romantic era. The poets had the literary independence to express themselves liberally, in their works. It was also an Age of Modern Magazines.

His Life:

William Wordsworth was born on April 7, 1770 at Cockermouth, a lake district of England. He was born to John Wordsworth and Ann Cookson Wordsworth. His mother demised when he was seven and his father demised, when he was thirteen years old. He lived in the heart of the Lake District so he got

a chance to indulge in childhood pleasures. He played in an open air. Nature nurtured him and it always remained a good companion to him. He had to depend financially on his uncles for his studies. He studied at Hawkshead Grammar School, where he received education in Classics, Mathematics and Literature. He studied at Cambridge University and completed his graduation in 1791. In 1793, he published 'An Evening walk', 'Descriptive Sketches', in which he used a regular classic couplet. He dedicated himself to poetry.

He was close to his sister, Dorothy Wordsworth all his life. He travelled to many places like France, Switzerland and Italy. He came into contact with the French Revolution. It affected his work and he started writing about the people's life and their troubles. He spoke of a 'Common Man'. He planned to write a long philosophical poem in three parts, by the name 'The Recluse'.

William's friendship with Samuel Taylor Coleridge began in 1796. They published 'lyrical Ballads' in 1798. He wrote an autobiographical poem, 'Prelude', which became a crowning achievement of Romanticism. His philosophy of childhood was sum up in 'Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood' in 1807. In 1802, he married Mary Hutchinson. On Southey's death, he was honored as a 'Poet laureate' in 1843. He

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wrote about an ordinary man and his simple life. Naturalism was represented in many of his works, 'Goody Blake', 'The Thorn' and 'The Idiot Boy'.

Themes:

The themes of William's writings were the simple incidents from a common life. He used those situations in his emphatic language with a colourful imagination to give an unusual impact upon the reader's mind. His diction opposed the pretentious and conventional diction of 18th century. His writings had the elements of Romanticism and Naturalism. He used his natural style of writing. He was a real prodigy to transform his imagination into a poetic form.

Uniqueness:

Wordsworth started a new inclination of writing independently on the essential qualities of human nature. He emphasized on the realistic approach towards Nature. His love towards Nature was bountiful. For him, Nature seems to be a personification of the celestial spirit. It was clearly known with 'Lines written above Tintern Abbey'. He regarded Nature as the utmost of all teachers. He believed in spiritual communion of indwelling soul of the universe and the soul of man. Spiritual force was meant to be superior to all. He wrote 'The Excursion' to depict the spiritual power and capability that lift ourselves through conscious effort. He used contemplative and analytic mood to express his works. His productivity was unhindered. He wrote 'The Old Cumberland',

'Cumberland Beggar' and sonnets. Sonnets were dedicated to National Independence and Liberty. His best works include 'Borders', 'White Doe of Rylstone'. He had an impulsive overflow of powerful emotions. He died at Rydal Mount on April 23, 1850.

Other Works:

- The Ruined Cottage (1798)
- Three years she grew (1798)
- Ode to Duty (1805)
- My Heart Leaps up (1807)
- The Solitary Reaper (1807)
- Simon Lee (1815)
- Peter Bell (1819)
- Ecclesiastical Sonnets (1922)

Recognitions:

- In 1838, he received an honorary doctorate in Civil Law from the University of Durham
- In 1839, Oxford conferred upon him the degree of D.C.L. (Doctor of civil law)
- In 1842 the Government awarded him the pension of 300 pounds per annum.
- In 1843, he was honored as a 'Poet laureate'

Conclusion:

William Wordsworth is known as a Nature worshipper. His works deals with his personal experiences and love towards Nature. Nature is transfused and reflected as a divine spirit. Nature shapes, nurtures and motivates us to achieve excellence in our lives.

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