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“Wordsworth’s Concept of Nature”

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Abstract :

William Wordsworth was one of the founders of English Romanticism. He is remembered as a poet of spiritual and epistemological speculation a poet concerned with the human relationship to nature. He used the fierce vocabulary and speech for the common people. He is regarded as the most celebrated and the influential Romantic English poet. He was born at cocker mouth, Cumberland in 1770. As a poet of nature, Wordsworth stands supreme. He is “a worshipper of nature” i.e. Nature’s devotee or high priest, Nature occupies in his poems a separate or independent status and is not treated in a casual or passing manner. Wordsworth believed that the company of Nature gives great joy to the human heart. In “Tintern Abbey” he expresses the joy he feels on re-visiting a score of nature. Not only is the actual sight of the scene pleasing, the very memory of the scene has in the past soothed and comforted his mind. According to him, Nature deeply influences human character. He tells his sister Dorothy that “Nature never did betray the heart that loved her,” that Nature gives human beings lofty thoughts. He advises Dorothy to let the moon shine on her and the winds blow, on her i.e, to put herself under Nature’s influence.”

Keywords : - William Wordsworth, nature poet, worshipper of nature, view of nature, nature is the best teacher.

Healing Power of Nature : - The solitude of nature becomes a healing and restorative force for him. He compares the tranquility of nature to his discomfort in towns and cities', His view on nature is a source of love, perpetual joy, soothing and healing power, knowledge and spirituality. Nature and God becomes one for him. He believes that nature is the universal spirit guiding anyone who like to be guided by her. In boyhood words worth felt an animal pleasure pleasure in nature. Like a deer, he ran races over the mountains, and on the banks of rivers and streams. It seemed as if he was running away from nature. The fact was that he loved nature. In the second stage, nature become all in all to words worth . The sounding cataract (waterfall) haunted him like a person. Nature was his beloved. He felt a deep love for the tall rocks, mountains and the jungle. He loved only the sensuous beauty of nature. In the third stage, he no longer cared for the pictorial beauty of nature . Now he came to read the hidden meaning of rapture. In running water of the brook, he heard the still, sad music of humanity. The water of the brook gave him the idea of the tears and troubles of humanity.

Nature as a guide - To the Romantic poets, nature was a source of wisdom. Wordsworth is a special- advocate of this theory, he says that nature is a guide and teacher to humans. The child living in the lap of nature, according to him, will grow in moral stature. 'Three years she grew in sun and shower' tell us of how Lucy grew to perfection, nurtured by nature. In the 'ode on the Intimations of Immortality', Wordsworth speaks of the joy that a child finds in being close to Nature.

Ojoy ! that in our embers
Is something that doth live,
That nature yet remembers
What was so fugitive –

Child is capable of feeling the spirit of divinity shining from everything surrounding him. He finds a peculiar joy and peace in meadow, grove and hills. But as he grows up, the corrupting influences of material considerations draw him away from nature and god and he can no longer find that joy. But by recollecting child hood experiences, he understands the immortality of the soul.

Bond between Nature and Man : - Wordsworth felt that man could fit amidst the inter-playing forces of nature. 'In three years she grew in sun and shower', Lucy is taken up and incorporated into the life of nature. Wordsworth regards child hood as the best time of human life which is very much close to nature as well as to God. He

addresses the child 'Best philosopher' 'Mighty prophet' and 'seer blest'. Because the child unconsciously knows those deep truths of life and nature which learned philosophers among men are trying find out in darkness lost, the darkness of the grave'. The Individual mind and the external world are exquisitely fitted to each other. In child hood, the bond is instinctively realized, when the eyes see a divine radiance in nature. The "celestial light" fades as we become engrossed in worldly affairs. "man and Nature, mind and external world, are greased together and in unison complete the motive principle of the universe. They act and react upon each other, so as to produce an infinite complexity of pain and pleasure. When the individual mind and external nature are in harmony with the natural objects. The poem highlights the enormous influence of nature on human existence. It portrays nature is a nourishing force that creates and preserves life. The development of Lucy and her bond with nature represents how well people and the environment get long. Wordsworth's 'The Daffodils' is also a nature poem.

Nature : A Great Teacher :

William Shakespeare in his play 'As you like it' has very poetically said, 'tongues in trees, books in the running brooks sermons in stones and good in everything'. It is quite true nature is the best teacher. His works often reflect a harmonious relationship between human us and the natural environment. Nature has always been a source of inspiration and wonder for humanity, with its vast landscapes, diverse ecosystems, and intricate systems of life. But beyond its beauty, nature can also teach us important lessons about the world and ourselves. It emphasizes the idea that we can learn valuable insights and wisdom from observing and interacting with the natural world. In this article, we will explore the expansion of this idea, looking at how nature can teach us important lesson about life, sustainability, and our place in the world. He believed that nature had a spiritual influence on human beings. He saw nature as a source of moral and emotional guidance.

Wordsworth's view of Nature :

Wordsworth begins by telling us that he used to enjoy the various objects of nature through the senses in his childhood. That is to say, that he appreciated the familiar objects of nature like the meadow, the grove, and the stream for their sound,

colour or sight. During his childhood, the poet did not read any deeper or inner meaning into nature. He loved and admired nature for its external beauty or outward loveliness. He hadn't experienced any human sufferings, nor had he developed a serious and sober attitude towards life then. He was content to take delight in the sound and colour of beautiful objects of nature. Wordsworth tells the difference between his enjoyment of nature in his earlier and maturer years. He suggests that in his man hood he goes to nature in a different mood. His appreciation of nature is more sober, refined, and restrained. He has been pondering over the fact that man is mortal and this the setting sun reminds him of the mortality of man. He can perceive something nobler or the wiser even in the humble and common place objects of nature.

‘To me the meanest flower that blows can give
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.’

Lesson of Nature :

Wordsworth's poetry frequently explores themes related to nature, including its beauty, power and ability to inspire deep emotional responses. Nature teaches us humility and harmony. Whenever we are bestowed with power, fame, and success we should not look down upon others, rather be humble and down to earth. Rose is appreciated for the fragrance and beauty despite thorns. It has thorns to make us realize that we all are imperfectly perfect. We have both good and bad qualities, strengths and weaknesses. No one is perfect. We should adopt this approach towards life and appreciate goodness of others and stop breeding on flaws. Seasons also come with lessons. In winter we see a transition from fruit laden or chids to withered trees. This teaches us that beauty is just nine days wonder. Nothing in this world is permanent. The beauty of spring fade away in autumn. It teaches us that time is like spindle. Spring is a sign of hope. It teaches us that those who endure hardships, in winter are bestowed the blossom; withered tress again bloom.

Nature always teaches us patience. It takes nine months for a zygote to bloom into a body and months for a seed to turn into sapling and a sapling to turn into a full blown tree. It teaches us that process of growth requires patience and time. Nature made us realize that there is some supreme power working behind the scenes. Blooming flowers, dancing paddy fields, fruit laden orchids, huge

mountains, oceans and rivers, ravishing springs, changing of seasons, alternating of day and night all this makes a person fall in love deeply with the creator.

According to Wordsworth, “ Nature is a teacher whose wisdom we can learn if we will, and without which any human life is vain and incomplete.”

He believed in the education of man by nature. In this he was somewhat influenced by Rousseau. This inter relation of nature and man is very important in considering Wordsworth’s views of both. Above all, Wordsworth emphasized the moral influence of nature. He spiritualized nature and regarded her as a great moral teacher as the best mother, guardian and nurse of man and nature. Thus, nature is best fitted for the position of man’s teacher. She brings ‘sweet love’ as contrasted with the bookish knowledge which is an ‘endless strife’. Hence Wordsworth stresses the necessity of ‘Wise passiveness’, the attuning of the mind to the mood of nature so that the whole scene may sink into it or the mind may drink in the influence like a child at the breast of the mother. Thus, it follows that influences of ‘deeper birth’ are likely to come in solitude.

Return to Nature : - ‘Return to Nature’ was Wordsworth’s motto. The love of nature led him to the love of man. His interest in the simple and ordinary types of humanity is illustrated by his treatment of their simple joys and sorrows, their thoughts and afflictions, their general goodness and their daily interest.

Bradley has rightly observed, : “ There have been greater poets than wordsworth, but none more original. He saw new things or he saw things in a new way.”

Wordsworth tells us how love of nature leads to love of man. The very title of the book is: Love of nature leading to love of man. He was the spokesman of the nature. Human ‘beings’ greedy made him angry and he wanted to use poems to express his own dictum of human evil. The over-exploitation of nature would eventually make man lose all hope. But W. Wordsworth also had a glimmer of hope for nature. His love of nature promoted him to write poems to call people to care the nature. Human beings not only needed to concern their own interests but also the benefits of the next generations. W. Wordsworth was convinced that the relationship between man and nature was intimate and indivisible. His poem expressed his love of nature, his strong criticism of the destruction of nature and his desires to construct a harmonious society. His theory of nature also took many realistic enlightenment to modern life. With the rapid development of contemporary society and the increasingly tens relationship between mankind and nature. We should pay

more attention to the signification of nature environment than economy. Adhere to the rational development and construct a harmonious ecological environment is very necessary.

In brief , we can say that nature is a great teacher. No wonder our ancestors used to look up to nature to understand about life. The things like the sun, moon, trees, rivers, etc , all were treated as divine beings. We learn a lot from them and they teach us a lot about how to live happy life. Divinity exists in all aspects of life. When we are aware of ourselves , we become aware of God in everything big or small. We then learn to live life well and become complete. So nature is always treated as our best teacher. His poetry frequently explores themes related to nature, including its beauty, power and ability to inspire deep emotional responses. His works often reflect a harmonious relationship between humans and the natural environment.

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