



Modern Criticism of Wordsworth's 'Philosophy of Nature'

William Wordsworth has been very fully dealt with by wits, Journalists, Critics and Biographers. His position as the greatest poet of the nineteenth century, as one of the greatest poets of the English language, is not seriously questioned. The theme of the influence of nature on man is the noblest part of Wordsworth's teaching. In his maturity, Wordsworth linked nature with man.

DR. SATYA PRIYA MISHRA

Introduction :

Wordsworth has long been recognized as a great and important poet. Even during his lifetime, he was the centre of a circle of devoted Wordsworthians, in whose eyes he could do no wrong. Such respectful admiration was probably not very good for him, and doubtless encouraged him in the less agreeable habits of his old age, such as talking too seriously about himself, and too harshly about his fellow poets. However, not all his critics were admirers. His early work was violently attacked.

As a poet of Nature Wordsworth stands supreme by all means, he is considered as a worshipper of Nature, her intents devotee and high priest, his love of Nature was probably true, and more tender, than that of any other English poet. Nature comes to occupy in his poem an independent status and is not treated in casual or passing manner as by other poets before him. Wordsworth had a full fledged philosophy of Nature, a new and original view of Nature. The following lines are full of moral instructions;

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

(William Wordsworth, Immortality Ode -199-200.

Matthew Arnold as a critic of Wordsworth's 'Nature Poetry' :

Different ages have different tastes, with the result that people find in a poet what they want to find. The Elizabethan Hamlet is a different man from the beautiful velvet-clad Victorian Hamlet, who is different again from the antiheroic twentieth-century Hamlet. Similarly, the Victorian Wordsworth is a different poet from the Wordsworth of the French Revolution and The Ballads. This

Victorian Wordsworth is still very much alive today.

This Wordsworth is revealed very clearly by the reactions of two of the most intelligent men of nineteenth century England; the poet and critic, Matthew Arnold, and the philosopher, John Stuart Mill. Both these men had a great reverence for Wordsworth, and both found in him the same kind of comfort and inspiration. The nineteenth century was a period of acute intellectual doubt, the advance of scientific knowledge and the over rapid industrialization of England.

Matthew Arnold was powerfully affected by a sense of his own loss of faith; He was too intelligent to hide his doubts from himself, and yet emotionally he needed to believe. Eventually, instead of seeking in the Church, he came to look for it in literature and The beauties of Nature, and Wordsworth was to him a source of great consolation. He acclaimed him as the greatest of the Romantics. Arnold admires nothing of his earliest work, he is very much a devotee of his poems like The Solitary Reaper and the Immortality Ode. Wordsworth, to Arnold, is a nature poet and little more. So we conclude that Arnold is both a critic and admirer of great romantic poet Wordsworth.

John Stuart Mill a strong critic of Wordsworth's 'View of Nature' :

J. S. Mill was another doubt ridden Victorian, Like Arnold, he suffered a severe loss of faith, though not of faith in God. He had a most peculiar up bringing; his father was a great believer in the intellect and in the reformation of society, and he had his son learning Greek by the age of three. He realized that though he was brilliantly clever, and crammed full of information, he had no heart, no feelings,

Assistant Professor (Department of English), R.P.G. College Sujanganj, Jaunpur (Uttar Pradesh)

no pleasures in life, and above all no real understanding of others. In this acute gloom he first came across the poetry of Wordsworth, which was, he says, 'a medicine for my state of mind'. It taught him that life was still worthliving; it taught him to feel for my ordinary men. But both Arnold and Mill agree that Wordsworth is a man of feeling, emotion and tenderness.

The idea of Wordsworth as a nature poet, solely and exclusively, has been carried over into our own century from the Victorians, and is still very much alive today. However, there has recently been a revival of enthusiasm for his earliest work. This is not surprising, in view of the nature of the modern poetry, much of which is determinedly anti-romantic. Our taste has gone against nature-poetry, and we have started to look for the other Wordsworth. There are many Modern Works on Wordsworth of varying interest. T.S. Eliot, William Empson, Helen Darbishire and Herbert Read have all made important assessments of him. Perhaps the most exciting recent full length work is F.W. Bateson's *Wordsworth : A Reinterpretation*, first published in 1954, which interprets Wordsworth's poetry in the light of his life. He insists, as Leavis insists, that Wordsworth was not a man of inner tranquility and peace, but a man torn by violent inner conflicts.

Conclusion :

All in all, William Wordsworth has been very fully dealt with by wits, Journalists, Critics and Biographers. His position as the greatest poet of the nineteenth century, as one of the greatest poets of the English language, is not seriously questioned. The theme of the influence of nature on man is the noblest part of Wordsworth's teaching. In his maturity, Wordsworth linked nature with man.

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Various Themes in William Shakespeare's Plays and Poems

William Shakespeare was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. He wrote 37 plays, 154 sonnets and many poems. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon". **Key Words :** Love, Revenge, Jealous, Conflict, Romanticism and Forgiveness.

DR. SATKALA

Introuction :

Many people believe that William Shakespeare is the best British writer of all periods. His many works are about life, love, death, revenge, grief, jealousy, murder, magic and mystery. He wrote the blockbuster plays of his day - some of his most famous are Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, King Lear, As You Like It, Othello, Twelfth Night, and Hamlet.

Theme of Love : The theme of love is recurring in William Shakespeare's many plays and poems. Here are some key resources on love in Shakespeare: As the world's most romantic poet and dramatist, Shakespeare's words on love have seeped into popular culture. When we think of love, a Shakespeare quote instantly springs to mind.

If music be the food of love plays on!

Romeo and Juliet is widely regarded as the most famous love story ever written. Shakespeare's treatment of love in this play is masterful, balancing different representations and burying them at the heart of the play. For example, when we first meet Romeo he is a love-sick puppy experiencing infatuation. It is not until he meets Juliet that he really understands the meaning of love. Similarly, Juliet is engaged to marry Paris, but this love is bound by tradition, not passion. She also discovers that passion when she first meets Romeo. Fickle love collapses in the face of romantic love, yet even this we are urged to question: Romeo and Juliet are young, passionate and heady

The Greek goddess Venus falls in love with the earthly human Adonis in Shakespeare's first published work, the poem Venus and Adonis. And the most soothing line from this poem :

Love comforteth like sunshine after rain.

The play All's Well That Ends Well, providing a love theme to readers, a most famous line is here :

Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none.

Protagonist Helena's unrelenting love for Demetrius in A Midsummer's Nights Dream goes beyond the physical, as

she is hooked on Demetrius despite his faults and foibles.

*Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind,
And therefore is wing'd cupid painted blind.*

As You Like It is another Shakespeare's play that positions love as a central theme. Effectively, this play pits different types of love against each other: romantic courtly love versus bawdy sexual love. For example, Rosalind and Orlando quickly fall in love and poetry is used to convey it, but Touchstone soon undermines it with the line, "the truest poetry is the most feigning".

Here Shakespeare, compares the journey of the individual through life to the differing parts an actor plays on stage:

*The entire world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,*

Theme of Jealous :

Othello is full of intense jealousy. All of the action and consequences that unfold are the result of jealousy. Iago is jealous of Cassio's appointment as lieutenant over him, he also believes that Othello has had an affair with Emilia, his wife, and make plans for revenge him. Roderigo is jealous of Othello because he is in love with Desdemona. Roderigo is essential to the plot, his actions act as a catalyst in the narrative. It is Roderigo who goads Cassio into the fight which loses him his job, Roderigo attempts to kill Cassio so that Desdemona stays in Cyprus and eventually Roderigo exposes Iago. In this way William Shakespeare shows the jealous of each character.

Theme of Conflict :

In Macbeth In the play Macbeth, there are examples of external and internal conflicts three main conflicts are Lady Macbeth is pressuring Macbeth into murdering

Duncan, Macbeth's feeling of guilt after he murders Duncan, and Macbeth losing his sanity after Banquo is

murdered. An external conflict occurs when Macbeth decides he no longer wishes to murder Duncan. An external conflict occurs when Macbeth decides he no longer wishes to murder Duncan. The internal and external conflict is going on all character with Macbeth and Lady Macbeth after and before murder.

King Lear is a complex play that can be understood on many different levels and from a variety of critical perspectives; it cannot be said to have one particular meaning. Lear alienates Cordelia, the loyal daughter, while her two sisters plot to seize power. Add to that some nobles, both loyal and treasonous, and you have a plot with plenty of conflict. One of the broadest themes to emerge from this play is the classic conflict of good vs. evil. The wronged daughter, Cordelia, only does what is right, and the villainous son, Edmund, plays every underhanded trick in the book to rise to power.

Theme of Order, Disorder and Change :

In King Lear Shakespeare often deals with the balance of order in his plays. King Lear challenges order from the opening scenes. Lear tests his daughters, and values the exaggerated proclamations of love from Regan and Goneril. These unnatural statements carry more weight with him than Cordelia's heartfelt silence. Regan and Goneril continue to break natural order by turning against their father and plotting to rule the kingdom. They even go so far as murder and suicide - huge crimes against natural order. Cordelia, on the other hand, remains true to her role as daughter and refuses to rebel against her father, even after he mistreats her.

Theme of Revenge :

The play Hamlet's major theme is Revenge and death. It is the death of the King Hamlet that triggers the events in the play one after another. When the Prince Hamlet hears about the news of his father's death, he comes back to Denmark. He is shocked at the early remarriage of his mother with his uncle. He is visited by the ghost of the king and informs him that the king is murdered by his uncle, Claudius. In the whole play the theme of revenge is going on. Prince Hamlet wants to take revenge to his uncle who killed his father and married to his mother.

Themes of Forgiveness :

In the Tempest by William Shakespeare - The Tempest has many themes but forgiveness is the main theme the play, what is up for debate is to what extent the author realizes this forgiveness. After reading the attitudes and actions of the major characters in the play, specifically Prospero, little, if any, true forgiveness and reconciliation is shown in The Tempest. Prospero makes his forgiveness of Antonio, for instance, hinge directly upon the restoration of the dukedom Antonio had stolen from him:

*For you, most wicked sir, whom to call brother
would even infect my mouth, I do forgive
Thy rankest fault all of them; and require
my dukedom of thee, which perforce, I know
Thou must restore.*

Conclusion :

To conclude, that there is no single theme which William Shakespeare didn't discuss in his plays, poems and sonnets. His aim of writing was not mere entertainment of the audiences but to show the conflict, anger revenge, disorder that privileged in the society. He is known the romantic love poet also when he write poems on love. There is no other poet, writer, novelist, playwright and essayist in comparison to Shakespeare.

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