

# The Concept of Love for Man versus Love for Nature with Reference to William Wordsworth

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**Abstract:** William Wordsworth continues to be one of the most popular and widely studied poets from the nineteenth century. He is indeed the poet of nature as well as poet of man. The main purpose of my study is to explore his poems to analyze the poems in which reflection of love for man and love for nature can be captured. It is hoped that the study will provide the study of comparison between love for nature and love for man in words worth's poetry. The research was carried out by studying and analyzing William words worth's poetry with reference to his theory of love for nature versus love for man. The methodology of the study was the qualitative research. Within qualitative paradigm the design followed was that of a historical research. It is due to the fact that the source of the primary data is a historical text. It is hoped that the study will provide the understanding between the concepts of love of man versus love for nature in William words worth poetry.

**Keywords:** William Wordsworth, nature, versus love for man, words worth's poetry.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The human mind is capable of excitement without the application of gross and violent stimulants; and he must have a very faint perception of its beauty and dignity who does not know this.

Literature of English Romantic period cannot complete without the name of six poets, William Blake, William words worth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Lord Byron, Percy Shelly and John Keats. Actually Romantic poets change the scenario of the English literature. Romanticism, the movement which starts in nineteenth century and the term romantic first appeared in the eighteenth century and the meaning of romantic is 'romance like 'and William Blake in 1793 stated that 'a new heaven is begun'. The poetry which was written in decorated style and was called drawing room poetry is now going to change. When we read history of English literature we find that romantic writers and poets were greatly influenced by the French revolution and the acceptance and approval of this French revolution is the common theme among the most famous romantic poets. This is the time when literature begun to go into new direction. The new freedom of the common people and now it was the time the people think for themselves. To express themselves and the writers of romantic era were waiting to change the scenario and they were full of ideas that were very creative and very unique. That was the time when intellectuals wanted to break the bounds of eighteenth century and we found changes were taking place in various fields like politics, religion, painting, philosophy, music and literature. Interest in nature was increasing, human mood was related to nature's mood and poet and writer searched for the spiritual reality. The poets of romantic era wanted to capture man's mystic relationship with nature. We can say that a revolution came in English poetry after the arrival of poets like William Blake, William words worth Samuel Taylor, Coleridge, Lord Byron, Shelly and John Keats.

William Wordsworth who still stood at the top among all the romantic poets and the key figure of romanticism popular for the most beautiful poem ever written about Daffodils William words worth with his friend Samuel Taylor Coleridge invented and introduced a new style in poetry, in which poetry revolves around nature and common man, and their poetry collection lyrical ballads in 1798 bring revolution in English literature and romantic era as well. Both of the poets discussed the inner feelings, the inner emotions of human being which were not discussed before and the aim in composing poems in lyrical ballads was to choose the events experiences and position and locus of common life of common people. As words worth defines poetry as;

*'Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings; it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquillity'.*

In the preface of lyrical ballads William Wordsworth expressed that poetry is the inner feelings and the poet as a man in conversation with men and Wordsworth's subject of his poetry is always man and he used the same language of man, the relation of man with nature. As Caleb Williams wrote some lines about Wordsworth's poetry, Wordsworth produced a style of poetry which was psychologically persuasive and based on direct autobiographical experience. In his view, poetry was a philosophical vehicle and meditative activity formed from 'emotion recollected in tranquillity'; it was a means of apprehending a natural landscape charged with divine significance. In Wordsworth's poetry, we find that human nature is everywhere the same. He chooses situations and incidents from the life of people who live around us and was described by the language used by common people because this will make an eternal effect on the mind. Wordsworth could not even accept those poets who did not know the sympathies of men. According to him, powerful thoughts and powerful feelings make poetry everlasting.

William Wordsworth gives direction and guidance to all the coming poets, the guidance of writing the poetry in a simple way related to ordinary man and nature and indeed, this is the minimum requirement a poet must possess.

## 2. PURPOSE OF STUDY

It is understandable that William Wordsworth's poetry has been analyzed again and again through both biographical and psychoanalytical processes and it is surely not possible to write about the poetry of Wordsworth without dealing with the poet's personality himself, thus my approach is perhaps more textual or aesthetic in nature with emphasis on the concept of love for nature and the concept of love for man in his poetic work. I seek to discover what his poetry reflects about man and nature as he is called poet of nature as well as poet of man. The purpose of this research work is to introduce the reader about the writing style of William Wordsworth. The study also focuses on some aspects of romanticism and the impact of William Wordsworth's poetry on society. This research shows the power of nature on man.

## 3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This research will be limited to the writing style and ideas of William Wordsworth. His love for nature as well as love for man with some selected poems will be analyzed. This research helps the students to know deeply about William Wordsworth and his style of writing why he is so much concerned about man and also focus on his love for nature as he is called poet of nature and poet of man.

## 4. LITERATURE REVIEW

Many writers and scholars wrote about William Wordsworth's work and they have expressed distinct views on his poetry. However, in this literature review chapter, we search for light on different discussions about William Wordsworth's love for nature versus love for man. According to Wordsworth, the beauty of nature not only gives happiness, satisfaction and pleasure to the present but also gives pleasure in the future also. According to Wordsworth:

*'God reflected himself through the nature and happiness can be achieved by worshipping nature.'*

According to Wordsworth, nature is the best mother, best nurse and a great teacher.

He said, *"the anchor of my purest thought, the nurse, and the guide, the guardian of my heart and soul of all my moral being."*

He loves mankind and always relates love of man to love for nature.

The World Book Encyclopedia [vol.16, 1990] says;

Wordsworth referred a reflective, vacant and pensive mood to a restless search for scientific knowledge. He believed that we learn more by communicating with nature or talking to country people rather than reading books. He believed that harmony with nature is the source of all goodness and truth.

When reading English literature we find that poets and writers focused on the aspect of nature as well as the importance of man. Thomas Hardy said that the universe is made up of everything which includes the moon, the sun, rivers, mountains, animals and the man. It is an irresistible force.

M.H. ABRAMS Identified Wordsworth as being social reformist and a poet who gives importance and who emphasis to the situations and problems of people facing in their life these days. He argues 'since William Wordsworth has been singled out for the holy services in a secular work of man's reputation.'

Actually romantic's focuses on the self-importance of individual and words worth agreed that without the help and need of the society an individual can understand nature.

Sometime question occurs that what does words worth means by common people. The term 'common people refer to those who lives near us and ordinary in their lifestyle way of living and usually belongs to the lower category of society and are always considered dispossessed in every aspect of their lives.

Chandajan wrote in his research paper that it must be thought however, that William Wordsworth was only interested in nature not in man at all. Indeed the poet's love for nature bring near to the love for man, actually Wordsworth poetry is expressive of the spiritual and moral domination on the personality and mind of man.

Richard D.MCGHEE in his famous book William Wordsworth's poetry of psycho analysis which was published in 2003, compared Wordsworth's poetry with that of Fried's philosophy of analyzing an individual. Like Fried, Wordsworth was deeply concerned about the thinking of common man and words worth sometimes psycho analyzed man in his poetry. He looked inside the man what are the inner thoughts of a man, he makes poetry of admiration and recognition and adjustments to changing demand of the environment. According to Richard Wordsworth's poetic aim is to Stimulate and excite mental activity of a reader. The aim to cure the disease of the time's stage of almost savage torpor Richard MC Ghay.

Another article published in a journal by love map put light on why Wordsworth wanted to write poetry on nature the attitude of Wordsworth towards nature is actually the part of the movement, part of the progressive attitude from the 'coarser pleasure' of the boyish days to the age of matures age of mystical and spiritual development, and this is the age where Wordsworth wanted to talk to God and wanted to see the reflection of God in nature and nature in God. He wanted to see nature as a symbol of relaxation. The sight which was ignored by an ordinary man bring wealth and pleasure to the poet.

## 5. DISCUSSION

### Love for Man:

*'OH! Mystery of Man, from what a depth*

*Proceed thy honors! Aim lost but see*

*In simple childhood something of the base*

*On which thy greatness stands; but this I feel'*

When discussing about William words worth we should read his most famous poem about the relation between man and nature.

*'My voice proclaims*

*How exquisitely the individual mind*

*To the external world is fitted;*

*And how exquisitely too*

*Theme this but little heard of among men*

*The external world is fitted on mind'*

When discussing William Wordsworth's poetry and his love for man and love for nature we find that in the development of his career and development of his inner feeling and social environment attracted him and he is very sensitive to his surroundings of human beings, the genuineness, good faith and simplicity of the modest and submissive classes of the society attracted and haunted him more. Actually he did not like the vicious ,the evils and the destructions caused by industrial revolution, he hates the crimes due to industrial revolution where the value of man become less in comparison with machines.

According to him the poetry which related to the common man, the atmosphere around us gives eternal and ever lasting effects on mind. So he choose to write his poetry on common man like shepherd, farmers working in the farm,. The main object of words worth for writing poetry about common people and common life and also to be written in common language to make it understandable by common people and to make it everlasting He has chosen the life of common people the simple and humble life because of truth in their feelings. As he said in lyrical ballads that

*“Poetry is the image of man and nature”*

There are many poems about peasants, farmers, reapers, labors and rural common folk. There are many reasons to choose to write poetry on these life, these simple life because poetry written in a simple manner about man gives fresh air in that suffocated atmosphere and second reason is his belief that poet as a man speaking to man gives powerful effect. ‘Wordsworth wanted to proceed through the feelings full of truth and passions and these feelings are same in mankind.

There are many poems he wrote about common man like “My heart leaps up”

*‘My heart leaps up when I behold*

*A rainbow in the sky;*

*So what it when my life began;*

*So is it now I am a man;*

*So be it when I shall grow old*

*Or let me die*

*The child is father of the man,*

*And I could wish my days to be*

*Bound each to each by natural piety’*

He wrote many poems analyzing man and nature. When we read and analyze his poem MICHAEL. We find his concern about common man, the working class. When writing poem Michael in simple and narrative style because of deep relation with common man .actually and he clearly mention in the beginning of the poem Michael that ‘I will relate the same for the delight of a few natural hearts; and with yet fonder feeling, for the sake of youthful poets, who among these hills will be my second self when aim gone’

In the poem words worth portrays the unfortunate story of a shepherd for his readers to felt sympathy. We search deeply about words worth we find that love of nature brings him to the love for man.

*‘Love, now a universal birth*

*From heart to heart is stealing*

*From earth to man, from man to earth*

*It is the hour of feeling’*

French revolution made words worth poet of menthe revolution cultivated the seed for love of man and built him as a poet of man. The man who sings the songs of nature now became the singer of the nobility and greatness of humanity. We find Autobiographical element in his poetry ‘the experiences of life. He observed that the life of common people, the people around us were disgraced and were not appreciated by the society. They were totally rejected because of the simplicity which they have and that simplicity brings out the eternal beauty in their character and it is all because of nature .nature makes the character strong. In his everlasting poem Lucy gray which is based on true event about the death of a young girl who went out in the storm to find her mother buther never came again Mary bolman said that the poem Lucy gray is the most powerful poem of all his childhood ballads. William words worth in this poem wanted to show the solitude. In this famous and poem with enduring effect words worth wanted to explain that how a young highland girl became a part of the nature as he said her main aim is to show complete loneliness and solitude as well as ‘signifies the child as viewing the day moon that no village or town girl would always notice ‘because of her association with nature the character of Lucy can live on forever. Another poem about a cottage girl’, we are seven ’a remarkable poem about the innocent feelings of a

girl. Words worth showed the poem as a discussion between a poet and a little cottage girl about the brothers and sisters she have and she told that they are seven she even counted the two siblings who were died. Sometime this poem sees very simple and we can assume it a childish poem but there is a deep meaning inside the poem that a simple Girl an innocent girl is blind of that reality, the reality of death she even doesn't know that her brother and sister can't come again in the world.

There are many other poems which reflect his love for mankind. As a poet he has a belief in the strong vision and powerful imagination and this power laid him near to god. He got power by imagination and by love for nature and this power to see the world is not limited it will give him satisfaction and eternal joy and happiness. Although, Words worth in English literature is called poet of nature but he is also a poet of man and what he writes about man is eternal and philosophical and moral.

### **Love for Nature:**

*'The world is two much with us, late and soon*

*Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers*

*Little we see in nature that is ours*

*We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon'*

William Words worth is known in the history of English literature as the commentator and interpreter of nature and still his greatness as a poet and exponent of nature is not been challenged. His love of nature is immeasurable and he has an immense knowledge of nature. Truly he has been called 'the keenest eyed of all modern poets for what is essential and deep in nature'. Now the question arise that why words worth wrote on nature, before him the poems were written on heroes, kings, knights and their stories the poetry written on nature was rare but the poem solitary reaper by words worth change the scenario of the English literature and feelings and attachment to the earth reflects so beatifically that it makes him the giant figure and poet of nature.

As he portrays his poem Tintern Abbey, when he was haunted by seeing the lofty cliff sand the sound of rivers once again.

*'Do I behold those steep and lofty cliffs?*

*That on a wild secluded scene impress*

*Thoughts of more deep seclusion and connect'*

As a poet of nature we find him at the peak of its height. According to words worth in all the objects of nature there is a divine sprit. He found healing effect with the company of nature. William words worth accepts the mysterious relation of nature with man, as a moral influence of nature he believes that between man and nature there is 'mystical intercourse' and words worth considered a complete man who grew up in the laps of nature. As nature is a teacher who teaches the lessons of loving humanity, who gives wisdom and courage, without which any human being life is incomplete. Words worth's own childhood was spent in the lap of nature, he saw scenes related to nature in his surroundings like grassy hills, flowing rivers, trees, flowers. In his boy hood nature was a playground for him where he played under the trees, over the mountains in green valleys. He tells about love for nature that in his childhood the nature was only a playing area for him, but as he grows he found nature to give philosophical feeling an aromatic feelings in the mind of him because at that age he saw the humanity sufferings he said

*'To me the meanest flower that blows can give*

*Thoughts that do often lie too deep for leers'*

Every scene of the universe caught his attention and he think of the spirituality behind it. Then he saw scene of a rising sun, it is not simply a colorful scene for him but he thought deeply as a moment of his spiritual development;

*'My heart was full I made no vows, but vows*

*Were then made for me; bound unknown to me*

*Was given, that I should be, else shining greatly,*

*A dedicated spirit'*

Aim of William words worth is to combine spirituality with nature. His poetry gives us pictorial effect like when he wrote his poem spring he click the scene like an expert photographer

*'The budding twigs spread out their fan*

*To catch the breezy air;*

*And I must think do all I can,*

*That there was pleasure there'*

Like poets like Tennyson, Words worth did not portrayed the ugly figures of the nature like 'red in teeth and claw' he wanted man to learn from the beautiful world of nature. His poem I wandered lonely as a cloud is considered as the most ever read poem in English literature. It is the fascination of words worth upon nature and shows the relation of man with nature. This poem when ever read gives us feeling of happiness and in starting line when the poet said, 'I wandered lonely as a cloud' he gives a sentimental feelings of being alone and the feeling of happiness arise when suddenly he saw a crowd of daffodils, they were in a line like stars, they were shining and the sight of beautiful daffodils change his mood and now he feel relaxed the mood of sadness changed into happiness and these thoughts and happiness give him courage in the future also.

*'They flashed upon that inward eye*

*Which is the bliss of solitude*

*And then my heart with pleasure fill*

*And dances with the daffodils'*

According to him the connectivity with nature is very essential and nature is not only means the landscape, but as all the aspect and complexity of life and death. Words worth wanted man to be aware of the environment and think about it and thinking is naturally the quality of romanticism. When we observe his classic poem Tintern Abbey we find his whole theory of love for nature in it. His style of writing in this poem is wonderful and this poem is regarded as a poem of intellectual supremacy. His theory of getting relief in the moment of stress and trouble is shown in Tintern Abbey. In the opening lines of the poem words worth describes the scene of natural beauty, beauty of mountains on which water is rolling, the lofty rocks, the cottage grounds, unripe fruit orchards these are the close observations of the nature but in the second part of the poem the poet talks about the mystery of nature and mystery of life which gave him relaxation in his memories and he find that nature gives healing effect on man's anxiety. This poem reflects two thinking of a person. The thinking as a boy and thinking as a man is different towards nature. In his boyhood his love for nature was purely physical and sensuous but as he grows up his attitude changed. Now he love nature as a spiritual power because his heart is feeling the suffering of humankind and this made words worth another thoughtful man and the last section of the poem is a tribute to his loving sister Dorothy and at that moment he combines feeling of love for nature with feeling of love for mankind. Actually this poem is a thesis of his whole philosophy we can't understand his love of nature versus love for man without analyzing this poem. Some phrases of Tintern Abbey are often quoted like '

*'We see into the life of things.'*

Or

*'The fever of the world, the still and sad music of humanity'.*

And the most enduring line of the poem

*'Nature never did betray the heart that loved her.'*

He advised her sister to let the moon shine on her face and the wind blow on her so she will put under nature's influence.

Nature plays a dominant role in all his poetic work. He found in childhood as the best time of human's life because this is the time which is much closer to nature as well as God.

## 6. CONCLUSION

*'And I have felt  
A presence that disturbs me with the joy  
Of elevated thoughts, a sense sublime  
Of something for more deeply interfused  
Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,  
And the round ocean and the living air,  
And the blue sky and the mind of man  
A motion and a spirit that impels  
All thinking things, all objects of all thoughts  
And rolls through all things'*

William words worth change the scenario of the English poetry. The subject he choose for his poetry is the inner feelings and the inner world of man.he related nature with man in his poems we find nature versus man.the external world like trees, rocks, stones, mountains, they all tried to talk to man they all give satisfaction they all are friends of man in loneliness. His whole poetry revolves round the man and the nature and he relates nature with the feeling of man.he called his poetry as a 'Philosophical vehicle' and meditative activity. Wordsworth concept of nature is that nature is a living source and it is finding in man. Nature is as much in man as man is as much in nature. We cannot make our mind that he is the poet of nature only; he is also the lover of humanity. However, his love of man developed at a later stage in his poetic career and although it was a French revolution which makes Wordsworth poet of man that revolution cultivated his soul and made him poet of man. We cannot even considered him as a poet of nature and he relates nature with human and speaks still and sad music of humanity and this love for man versus love for nature gives him highest place in English literature. When he think about man, he began to think deeply to the growing problems of man and these thinking give him new ideas and he was deeply concerned with humanity, with the nature of evil and good. His belief that the moral action works for the welfare of humanity I conclude my thesis on' concept of love for man versus love for 'by his saying;

*'Man is good of himself and under the direct teaching of nature will live  
Most happily and develop most completely.'*

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