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## Wordsworth's Concept of Nature

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#### Abstract:

*William Wordsworth, an outstanding stalwart of the English Romantic poetry, was born at Cockermouth in Cumberland on April 7, 1770. He was the second son of John Wordsworth, Attorney at law. His college years were less happy. He felt like 'a fowl of the air' - tutored for captivity. Wordsworth composed his great poetry between 1798 and 1808, although he pursued his vocation till the end of his life. As a young man, he was inspired by the French Revolution and always backed up for freedom. But as an elderly poet he denounced his democratic allegiance. But as a poet he was always fascinated by natural surroundings and has been thought of as the poet for 'children' – the poet of 'daisies' and 'pet lambs' and 'pretty cottage girls. His poetry is replete with the strong emotions for the working classes as well as love for nature. It is a fact about him that he wrote as he lived and he lived as he wrote. His poetry has its heart in his life and his life found a voice in his poetry. Wordsworth has a kind of nature that sends its roots deep, that owes much to the soil from which it sprang. In fact, it was Wordsworth who first placed Nature higher than man. Apart from Shelley and Keats, Wordsworth's nature is blessed with peerless sense of spirituality and morality. He regards Nature as the best gift of God and the only source of*

*consolation from the pangs of life. This article aims at making an in -depth study of Wordsworth's concept of nature through his major poems.*

**Key Words** – *Captivity, Vocation, freedom, democratic, allegiance, surroundings, humanity.*

It is a fact, acknowledged universally that all the poets of Romantic school were sincere lovers of nature and Wordsworth was the most prominent of them. He delineates many aspects of beauty and truth seen in nature. His keen observation of nature is most comprehensive and embracing. There is hardly any sight or a sound from the mountain or from a bird note or from the thunder which is not reflected in some beautiful manner in the poetry of Wordsworth. His nature is lavishly enriched with spiritual energy and provides the bliss of solitude . He looks on nature, not simply as a creation of God , rather God himself 'manifested' . Moreover , to Wordsworth , Nature is an embodiment of the 'Divine Spirit' . The poet finds life in nature , discovers soul in nature , and in his words , nature has a mind , which is directly connected with the mind of man . In this regard , Stopford A . Brooke remarks- "It had ,he imagined , one living soul,which entering, flowers, stream , mountains, gave each of them a soul of its own . Between this spirit of nature and the mind of man, there was a pre arranged harmony ,which enabled nature to communicate its thoughts to man, and man to reflect upon them, until an absolute union between them was established".

Wordsworth has an accuracy and truthfulness of representation in his nature poetry. All of nature from the loftiest peak to the tiniest flower, is portrayed as having equal value . He is well-satisfied in describing the bird and the flower ,the wind and the tree, the river and the mountain in the same picture as they are. The poet is curious to hear them in their own speech and unknown language. He can describe a scene faithfully in their actual form and can give a vivid expression to the sensuous delight of the world of nature. In this regard, the joy of daffodils is of worth-mentioning:

“Continuous as the stars that shine  
 And twinkle on the milky way  
 They stretched in never ending line  
 Along the margin of the bay:

.....

The waves beside them danced, but they  
 Outdid the sparkling waves in glee.”

To Wordsworth, nature is a moral teacher and guide to man. She is not only law but impulse also which kindles and restraints. She is a comforter and consoler of man. She is the guardian and guide of man's heart. She is the giver of man's thought:

“One impulse from the vernal wood  
 May teach you more of man  
 Of moral, evil and of good  
 Than all the sages can.”

Wordsworth's poetry, directly or indirectly, deals with a cute and lovely manifestation of nature. His uniqueness in magnifying nature for many relations with man, is felt in the present century. To him, nature provides remedy for each sort of wound which a man faces in his day – today life. The eternal nature articulates in man's nature. Man's persuasive quest for joy, peace, wisdom and health lie in the interior range of nature. According to him, nature has a holy plan to keep every object happy forever. But man invites sorrow and misery by violating 'Nature's holy plan' in order to be more happy. Wordsworth argues in this regard:

“And much it grieved my heart to think  
 What man has made of man”.  
 ( Lines written in Early Spring)

To Wordsworth, nature is a living entity and has a stout sense to feel pleasure and pain like human- beings. All objects of nature have distinct life of their own. They are but part of the collective life of nature. Therefore, they are bound together by a common tie of love and sympathy. In fact, the outward beauty of nature bears a deep – in- dwelling living spirit at work-

“And I have felt  
 A presence that disturbs me with joy  
 Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime  
 Of something far more deeply interested,  
 Whose dwelling is the light of setting sun .”  
 (Tintern Abbey)

In a nutshell, Wordsworth emphasizes that the whole of the universe is, thus, permeated with one life, one soul. Nature is the reflection of living God. He confirms that nature is alive and possesses her own personality. It gives special life and separate soul to everything-the flower, the hill and the valley. As a result his love of nature turns into reflection, mysticism and spiritualism. He realizes “a presence” in nature that imparts him ‘the joy of elevated thoughts.’ To Wordsworth nature is superior to any other as well as the educator of human mind and senses alike. Nature fills the poet with an ecstasy and the glow of which illuminates throughout his literary career. Above all, nature is true guide to wisdom and goodness.

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