

Some Glimpse of Nature in Wordsworth, Keats and Arnold

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Abstract

Nature plays very important role in the life of human beings. It touches the human Soul and inspires poets, painters, scientists and philosophers who have admired the beauty of nature in their own way. The poets observe nature with their imaginative and emotional idea, the scientist with vision and intellect and the philosopher with his intuitive vision of higher reality. Wordsworth believed that the company of nature give to the human heart and he looked upon nature as exercising a heal's, influence on sorrow-stricken hearts. In Wordsworth's belief nature is capable of alleviating the tormented mind of man.

The scientist's attitude towards the beauties of nature is not that of a poet or a mystic. It is the attitude of the realist. The scientist takes off the veil from the charming aspects of nature and goes a deep into its beauties. Matthew Arnold, the great Victorian is found to carry on the great tradition of Wordsworthian love for nature.

Key Words – Nature, Poet, Scientist, Philosopher, Imagination, The Force of nature, Environment, Mortality of man, Imortality of Nature.

It is the life of nature, which is everywhere recognized not more

growth and cell changes but sentient, Personal life. The beautiful objects and aspects of nature have always exercised a deep and profound influence on the human heart, and man has loved nature from the dawn of civilization to the present day. Nature elevates the human soul and ennobles it with its purity, sublimity and grandeur. Poets, Painter scientists and philosophers have admired the beauties of nature in their own way. Nature has given the correct and healthy environment continuous growth her life. The air breathe in to live, the food we eat to exist and grow, the water we drink to quench our thirst are all the basic gifts of nature, without which life could not have excited and grown on this planet.

The smiling flowers, the blue expanse of star-bespangled sky, the boundless seas, and snow-capped hills have reacted differently on poets, scientists, and philosophers. The poet observes nature with imagination and emotion, the scientist with reason and intellect and the philosopher with his intuitive vision of higher reality.

Poets have been thrilled with delight at the varied beauties of nature and they have expressed their warm appreciation of these beauties in their admirable poetic work. The imagination of the poet enables him to enjoy nature with a fullness of heart, which no scientist can feel in his life. The poet's appreciation of nature is not only imaginative but is equally emotional because the beauties of Nature stir the hearts of the poets to the innermost depth and send waves ecstasy through their frames, dawn and spring beautiful landscapes, rippling waves,

and floating clouds all delight the poets. The clouds the scenes of spring and autumn, the birds of flowers, dawn and sunset are rendered in poem after poem of exquisite beauty by poets like Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Byron, Keats, Tennyson, Bridges, Davies, Masfield and many other poet's of all times and different countries. Quoted lines below arrest our attention:-

The world is too much with us late and soon.

Geeting and spending, we lay waste our powers

Little we see in nature that is ours. (1)

William Wordsworth from whose pen these lines flow, is touched to the quick to see the precious lives of our being wasted in mad pursuit materialism. We are so engrossed in the materialistic activities of lives that we have no time to stand and stare at the beauties of nature. We are out of tune with nature, which is the source of solace and comfort to us. We are drawing ourselves away from the lap of nature and putting ourselves in to the clutches of cross materialism, in to the worship of Mammon. This has snatched all our peace of mind pushed us in to abyss despair and frustration. Worldliness has so overpowered us that we are steadily but surely tending to lose the spiritual value of life. Our roots lie in nature and by drawing ourselves from away the nature. We are drifting ourselves from the source that supports and sustains. Being engrossed in getting and spending, we are wasting away the precious lives of ours that are a trust to us. We Shall be able to attain self-realization only if we came near to nature, listen to the music that is inherent in its harmony music that soothes and chastens. The chirping birds, the flowing rivers, the budding sky and the setting sun and every flower that opens all these provide us with thought to deep for tears. They bring us near and nearer to the creator, who is the source of harmony and peace if only man could cease even if temporarily, the humdrum pursuit of materialism and care to listen that harmony he would certainly hear it.

Wordsworth own scheme of the three Ages or stages in the mental history of every individual-childhood, the age of sensation, youth, the age of simple ideas and emotions. Manhood, the age of complex ideas and emotions is too much generalised in his poetry. The divinization of nature which began in the modern world at the Renaissance and proceeded during the eighteenth century. culminates for English literature in Wordsworth:-

“It was Wordsworth’s aim as a poet to seek for beauty in meadow, Woodland and the mountain top, and to innterpret this beauty in spiritual term.” (2)

The scientist’s attitude towards the beauties of nature is not that of a poet or a mystic. It was attitude of realist. The scientist murders the beauties of nature by dissecting them. To him to the beauties of nature do not appear so majestic and grand as they do to the poet. The scientist takes of the veil from the charming aspects of nature and goes deep in to its beauties.

The forces of nature, ones so dreaded and dark, are seen by the scientist to be intelligible, orderly capable of adaptation to the purpose of man. Scientists kill the purely aesthetic and imaginative delight in beauties of nature. John Keats a well-known poet of romantic era complains against the scientist.

**There are awful rainbow once in heaven;
we know her woof her texture; she is given
in the Dull catalogue of common things. (3)**

Hear the scientists destroy the beauty of rainbow by reducing it to the prismatic colour.

Philosopher and mystic have found deeper meaning in the beauties of nature. Tolstoy in his essay **Condition Of Happiness** points out that the conditions of the happiness in life is the capacity of man to enjoy the beauties of nature. The creatures in the air and sea; and the others that live on land are all for man to enjoy in someway or the other, as man is the noblest of nature's creations and he thus gets at all.

Nature support to keep environment neat and clean. Nature teaches man the lesson of peace innocence, purity, Love, harmony, simplicity, hope and faith in the glory of God. It is believed that nature is the greatest storehouse of wisdom, apart from being a source of eternal happiness. Following lines below approve this idea:-

**one impulse from the vernal wood
May teach you more of man
Of moral evil and of good
Then all the sages can.(4)**

Arnold as poet of nature, in many other things besides, was profoundly influenced by wordsworth. He praised wordsworth for discovering joy in nature and communicating it to his readers. The significance of Arnold's nature poetry is brought out only when we understand his attitude to religion. He was very fond of Dante's line-

In La Sua Volonade nostra Pace (5)

But he could not find his peace in the will of Lord. That was the cause of his restlessness. For him nature, in away takes place of God, but it remains distant and alone so man may except no mercy from it. Arnold felt the contrast between the mortality of man and the immortality of nature in the manner of wordsworth himself.

Rais'd are the drippingors,
Silent the boat; The lake;
lovely and soft as a dream;
Swims in the sheen of the moon.
The mountain stand at its hed;
Clear in the pure june night.

But the valleys are flooded with haze.

Rydal and Fairfield are there

In the shadow Wordsworth lies dead.

So it is, So it will be for eye.

Nature is fresh as of old.

Is lovely : a mortal is dead. (line-1- 12)

One should notice in this passage the realism of discription and Arnold's eyes. For the clear contours of the mountains, and the contrasting haze filling the valleys. The mountains the vastness of the ocean and the sky, the darkness of the night illumined only by the man or the stars, these passes in the mind of Arnold.

Arnold belongs to the age of Browning, Hardy, Zola and France. Hance he takes greater care in describing the exact local scene. He does not have to go for from towers discover nature,. It seem to surround man and his habitations everywhere. In brief, Matthew Arnold, the great victorian is found to carry on the great tradition of Wordsworthian love for nature. In his love for the quiet aspects of nature in his approach to nature as a source of peace and calmness. Arnold remains definitely a close follower of Wordsworth.

The romantic poets tried to heal sarrows of human beings by writing there verses about nature. Thus romantic poets believe that nature is a source of inspiration . They use simple language and personified nature as God, man etc.

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