

The Superhuman Character of Nature Playing Superlative Role in William Wordsworth's Poems

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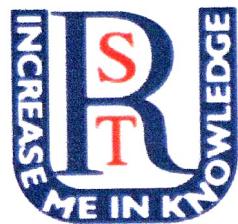
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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis titled “The Superhuman Character of Nature Playing Superlative Role in William Wordsworth’s Poems” has been composed by me in partial fulfillment of the requirements for M.A in English Literature Degree at Rajshahi Science and Technology University (RSTU), Natore. I would like to ensure that this thesis has been completely composed by me and made for the first time. I also acknowledge that I have duly cited all the references I have taken from different sources.

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Acknowledgement

It is of my pleasure that I have completed my thesis successfully by the grace of Allah despite many limitations. In doing my works, I have been assisted from various corners. Specially I am grateful to the respected teacher Sir Md. Minhazul Islam, Lecturer, Dept. of English, Rajshahi Science and Technology University who has guided, instructed and assisted me with his tolerance, sincerity and wholeheartedness till to end my thesis. I also congratulate respected Madam Mst. Suraia Khatun, Lecturer, Deptt. of English, Rajshahi Science and Technology University who has inspired and advised me to be attentive in my thesis work.

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**Dedicated to my
father who was
my guide, teacher
and an
enterpriser,**

**“The anchor of my purest
thoughts, the nurse,
The guide, the guardian
of my heart, and soul,
Of all my moral being.”**

Abstract

There were so many contemporary poets during Wordsworth and before him, but almost all of them composed poems using Nature as extrinsic element that were confined within the external and physical beauty of Nature. In case of Wordsworth, he composed poems finding Nature as the dominant element and he tried to discover an abstract power produced by the close communication between man and Nature. He showed that only Nature can provide peace and solace in the distressed and frustrated mind and nothing in this earth can do so. Wordsworth gathered a lot of bitter experience about life and the contemporary society. He was neglected by the then government and the critics. He observed Nature as a super character deserving the role of a great teacher and an abode of peace and realized that only Nature could restore his troubled state of mind. He had a reaction of the neo-classical view. That the poetic aims and the poetic practice of Wordsworth made a revolution in romantic age. He found Nature as the protagonist in his poems and discovered the superlative role of Nature. To find out the Superhuman role of Nature from the poems "Tintern Abbey", "Three Years She Grew in Sun and Shower", "The World is Too Much With Us", "Lines Written in Early Spring", "Michael", and "The Tables Turned", by William Wordsworth are taken and a short glimpse of contrast between the representation of Nature in the above poems and that of John Keats' poem "Ode to Nightingale" is cited also. However, the attempt to analyze the above poems to discover the Superlative role of Nature is discussed clearly. In conclusion, it is concluded that without the close contact of Nature, man can not elevate his career and suffers a lot ultimately due to detachment from the glory of Nature.

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Introduction

The established poets like Cowper, Burns, Byron, Shelley, Keats-all composed poems incorporating Nature and so they were all passionate lovers and admirer of Nature. But they perceived Nature from external point of view, meaning that they observed the physical and external beauty of Nature and confined themselves within a poetic arena. But William Wordsworth imitated Nature in a different point of view who entered into an innermost stage of imitation of Nature to discover a being- a super being, in other word a super character which was quite different from the general character. So the thesis is entitled to find out this Super human character of Nature playing Superlative role from criticizing his poems. From the diverse nature poems of different poets mainly some of the poems of *The Lyrical Ballads* of W. Wordsworth and John Keats's "Ode to Nightingale" have been selected to investigate and evaluate the role of the super human Character of Nature. The poems "Tintern Abbey", "Three Years She Grew in Sun and Shower", "The World is Too Much With Us", "Lines Written in Early Spring", "Michael", "The Tables Turned" by William Wordsworth and "Ode to Nightingale" by Keats are selected for analysis. All the selected poems of Wordsworth are taken from *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* by M.H. Abrams & Smith (1997), (4th ed.) and The poem "Ode to Nightingale" by Keats is taken from *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* (1970), (5th ed.) by

Mergaret Ferguson, Mary Jo Salter and Jon Stallworthy. It is his strong belief that Nature is not merely a source of beauty, but it serves a very important role. His absolute devotion to Nature implies that Nature plays a vital role like a guardian, teacher, a permanent source of peace and solace as a superhuman character.

Purposes of the Study

An experimental purpose is very necessary for the writer. The purposes are mentioned below.

- a) How does Wordsworth view the Romanticism in his poems?
- b) How can Nature show the way and the opportunities to find peace and solace in distressed heart?
- c) How does he treat and show Nature as a superhuman character?

To carry out this study, some poems of Lyrical Ballads by William Wordsworth have been taken as the Primary sources and criticism on Wordsworth observation of Nature of some critiques, web portals, Websites, e-books and appraisable Journals are used as secondary sources. Coding and decoding methods are applied to analyze Nature poems of Wordsworth. To clarify the mission of the thesis, the writer tries his best from the very first chapter.

Chapter: One

A brief view of Wordsworth's autobiography:

According to R.D. Trivedi (1976), William Wordsworth was born in the April, 1770 at Cockermouth in the Cumberland highlands. His father, a lawyer died when he was fourteen, but his mother died prior to his father when he was eight. However he received his school education at his neighbouring village school of Hawkshed where he passed his days freely in playing and reading. Having entered in John's College, Cambridge, he took his degree in 1791. Before finishing his final semester, he made a tour to Europe where he came close contact with 'French Revolution'. Though he was ardent to French Revolution, he cured of it later. From his tour to Europe and subsequently living in France, he gathered a lot of experience about life, cares and anxieties, troubles and sorrowness of the common people which influenced Wordsworth work.

Wordsworth was closely associated with S.T. Coleridge and the result of this association was the publication of the *Lyrical Ballads*. However the second volume of the *Lyrical Ballads* was published in 1800. He was neglected by the government and abused by the critics. But gradually it started to turn and win the favour during the last two decades of his life. The University of Durham awarded him

an honorary degree in 1838 and the University of Oxford in 1839. During last few years of his life, he was honored as the Grand Old Man of English letters. He died on 23rd April, 1850 and was buried in the Grasmere Churchyard (P.331-332).

Distinction of Wordsworth

Trivedi suggested that William Wordsworth is one of the greatest Nature poets in England though before him some poets like Cowper, Blake, Burns and his contemporary poets like Shelly, Byron, Keats, Coleridge had been inspired by Nature. But there is a distinction in his works among those Nature poets. This distinction lies in the fact that almost all the poets except Wordsworth depicted merely the physical loveliness of Nature, but in his works Nature is portrayed in greater perspective which makes him quite different from them. In fact to him, myriad forms and phenomena of the beauty of Nature were nothing, but variety of revelation of a spirit which exists in a Super character. He found an absolute being indwelling in all natural objects. His mysticism was to invent a unified absolute character in diversity. He philosophised also that, to love Nature is to love Man being the vital clement of Nature and to show love to one's fellows is his cardinal principle (P. 332-333). He also tried to invent the fact that Nature deserving unique human role, is a great teacher and healer.

Influence of beneficent power of Nature in Wordsworth

Again Trivedi (1976) suggested that William Wordsworth once was troubled in spiritual crisis and realized that Nature could play a vital role in healing and soothing his mental instability. England declared war against France which was a great blow to him and was torn by a conflict between his patriotism and his loyalty to the principles of the Revolution. The crisis became stronger when Napoleon betrayed the revolution by entering upon a career of military aggression. He was sunk into a gloomy and despondent atmosphere, that all his desires for betterment of the common mass had been shattered into pieces. In this crucial period, Dorothy, his sister saved him from this gloomy state of mind and she directed him that he had lost to observe the beneficent power of Nature. However Wordsworth overcame his stress and strain in mind by re-discovery of nature which led him back to peace. It was his realization that only Nature could restore his troubled state of mind (P. 333).

Literature Review

Poems of W. Wordsworth have been criticized by many critics. Different types of theories have been taken up by critics while criticizing his poems. Every critic has criticized in different perspective, but all have taken the help of the respective text in analysis.

Xiaolin Huang, Feifei Pei, Changle Fu (2014) mentioned in *Advances in Literary Study* about Wordsworth's source of forming such a lyrical style and the process he expressed his ideal in singing highly of the nature.

Again Ralph Henry Talkin (1954) in his thesis "The Effect of Nature and Imagination upon Wordsworth as seen in the Prelude" mentioned Wordsworth as a great missionary to instruct all mankind in the sweet lessons of Nature.

ITA APRILLIAWATI, A2B006052 (2010), in his thesis says about structural elements like diction, figurative language and imagery and the extrinsic element in Wordsworth's "Lines Written in Early Spring" like Nature and its relation to the Romantic Period.

Jacqueline Woudstra, 3113566 (25/06/2012) in his thesis "Poetry, Nature and Self" said that William Wordsworth, Dorothy Wordsworth and John Keats had done great in Romantic literature;

they are all inspired by Nature and their imagination; the interaction it produced between authors and society; and struggle, self-definition and education are important aspects.

So, different writers or critics have focused on nature poetry of Wordsworth in different view and angle. In my thesis paper, Nature is the dominant aspect and which plays the vital and superlative role in the earth what Wordsworth actually thought all over his life time.

Chapter: Two

Influence of Wordsworth in the Romantic Revival

It is important to view the Wordsworth's influence in the "Romantic Movement". He showed a reaction against the neo-classical views and there was a movement towards the establishment of romantic tenets. The poetic aims and the poetic practice of Wordsworth made a revolution in romantic age. Ranji Lal (1991) viewed in his "An Evaluation of his poetry" that Wordsworth presented the rustic and humble characters in his poems, his distinctive theory and practice of poetic diction; his treatment of Nature; innovative imagination and feelings in poetry, the autobiographical element in his poetry and his view of the office of the poet and function of poetry, There was a psychological reason to choose the rustic life and presentation of simple language, because, in that condition, the essential passions of the heart had a better soil in which they can attain their maturity, are less under restraint and speak a plainer and more emphatic language; because the manners of rural life are more durable; and lastly because in that condition the passions of men are incorporated with the beautiful and permanent forms of Nature, it was only Wordsworth who presented vivid excitement in the passionate and pastoral world; the reflection of which some of the most modern fiction has caught from him. In his diction, "the

language of rustic people is a more permanent and a more philosophical language that is used by poets who tend to separate themselves from the sympathies of men and who indulge in arbitrary and capricious habits of expression in order to furnish food for fickle tastes and fickle appetites of their own creation". In a word, simplicity of rural and pastoral life which is surrounded with Nature is the keynote of his themes and treatment as also his style (P.81-82).

Wordsworth attitude to Nature can be clearly differentiated from that of the other great poets of Nature. He did not prefer the wild and stormy aspects of Nature like Byron or the shifting and changeable aspects of Nature and the scenery of the sea and sky like Shelley or the purely sensuous in Nature like Keats. It was his special characteristic to concern himself not with the strange and remote aspects of the earth, and sky, but Nature in her ordinary familiar, everyday moods. Nor did he recognize the ugly side of Nature red in tooth and claw as Tennyson did. Wordsworth is to be distinguished from other poets by the stress he places upon the moral influence of Nature and the need of man's spiritual intercourse with her (P. 47).

So, his romanticism is quite distinguished from that of other renowned poets. He showed a distinctive type of nature of the Nature in his philosophy.

Nature, the protagonist

Wordsworth, a Worshipper of Nature loved Nature more profoundly than that of any other English poet before or since. He treated Nature in an exceptional way the superiority and her best morality. He Philosophizes Nature in an innovative and original view. Nature is treated to him as a living personality pervading a spirit which is supreme and superior. It is his strong belief that perfect enjoyment is provided by Nature and the sole company to the sorrow-stricken heart and which can provide the mental peace and solace to them. He spiritualized Nature that the communication between man and Nature can create a true consciousness and that is the morality man can learn from her (Ramji Lal, 1991)

According to a critic's study (as cited in Ramji Lal, 1991)

His unique apprehension of Nature was determined by his peculiar sense-endowment. His eye was at once far reaching and penetrating. He looked through the visible scene to what he calls its 'ideal truth'. He pored over objects till he fastened their images on his brain and brooded on these in memory till they acquired the liveliness of dreams. He dwelt specially on the larger features of a scene, the mountain and the deep and gloomy woods, the cloud, the sky; he was enraptured about all by sunrise and sunset. He had a keen ear too for all natural sounds, the calls of beasts and birds, and the sounds of winds and waters; and he composed thousands of lines wandering by the side of a stream. But he was not richly endowed in the less intellectual senses of touch, taste and temperature. 'Fragrant', 'smooth', 'luscious', 'warm', - these are no epithets for Wordsworth's poetry, His is an austere world, it is almost bleak (P.47).

Wordsworth observed the universe and portrayed the beauty of Nature in delicate and subtle expressing to his senses. He can feel the eternal joy of spring, tranquil lake, summers day, evening, the sound of skating, landscape, mountains, stars. He has his eyes on the object of Nature. While industrialization was flowing over the cities and country, people hoped that French Revolution would bring a remedy to them but resulted in vain. Then they found Nature a place of security, a refuge or perspective,

Jacqueline Woudstra (20/06/2012) in his thesis, *ÖPoetry, Nature and selfÖ described* (p-4)

Georg Hans Schenk (1979) as cited in Jacqueline WoudstraÖs thesis,

The refuge to Nature and a more natural life started in people's own gardens, which had until then been arranged with the logic and precision of the Enlightenment. Letting go of this rational gardening and letting nature run loose was the first step (p.24).

Gardens should be wild, a place where fairies might live and where people could daydream. There they found a divine beauty, strength, a higher power. Nature of all things, is closest to an archaic world in which old values and magic are still somewhere hidden. And most of all, nature, has a tranquility that the city lacked, especially during the Industrial Revolution. Nature was fighting a losing battle against the modernization, with all its artificialities (Hans George Schenk, *The Mind of the European Romantics*,_(P. 175). Because of the hardships of the time, poets wanted to offer their readers an escape: a turn away from the modernization of society, the loss of rural life, the beginning of life in the city. David Duff wrote how these poets would "project their readers onto an

imaginative plane, where the time and place are forgotten" (Duff, David, 'From Revolution to Romanticism: The Historical Context to 1800' in: We, Durcan (ed), *A Companion to Romanticism* (oxford, 1998) p, 23). Return to nature and wild gardening had everything to do with the call for a more natural life. This call was answered in people's own lives and a new reverence for natural scenes, but also in the language used for poetry, William Wordsworth was a revolutionist in that prospect, wanting to do away with all the artificialities in his life as well as his poetry (p.4-5).

Wordsworth did his best to turn the contemporary view of Industrialization and Modernization to his Naturalistic view; Where Nature deserves the only power to provide peace and solace to the affected humanity. In my thesis, I will try to show how Nature can play a vital role having superhuman quality, in the poems. "Tintern Abbey", "To the Tables Turned", "Three years She Grew", "Michael", "The world is Too Much with us", "Lines Written in Early Spring", in the following chapter.

Chapter: Three

Chapter three is dealt with the poems like "Tintern Abbey", "To The Tables Turned", "Three Years She Grew", "The world is Too Much with us", "Lines Written in Early Spring", "Michael" and the summaries to develop my view about the Superhuman nature of Nature.

The poem "Tintern Abbey" is a reflection of Wordsworth's Philosophy about Nature and men. However Ramji Lal (1991) in his "William Wordsworth, An Evaluation of His Poetry" criticizes and examined the poem in three parts-- i) Description of the scene (lines 1-22) ii) Development of the poet's view of Nature (Lines 23-113), iii) Address to his sister Dorothy (lines 114 onwards) (p. 215).

In Lines (1-22) of "Tintern Abbey", Wordsworth started his poem,

Five years have past; five summers, with the length
Of five long winters! and again I hear
There winters, from their mountain springs
With a soft inland murmur,- One again
- - -

The Hermit sits alone,

When Wordsworth was a boy, the beauty of Nature to him was physical, But now he became matured and his feelings to the beauty of Nature turned to be thoughtful. In the above lines, his description of Nature is incomparable which shows his close observation of the beauty of Nature Waters rolling from the mountain springs; steep and lofty cliffs;

The landscape; the dark sycamore; the orchard tufts; groves and copses; the pastoral farm; the hedgy rows etc- all these description of the objects of Nature signify his close observation of Nature and the description is as lively as visiting with direct eyesight.

The second part of the poem lines (from 23 to 113) shows the healing influence on a troubled mind.

-----These beauteous forms
 Through a long absence, have not been to me
 As is a landscape to a blind men's eye;
 But oft in lonely rooms, and 'mid the din
 Of towns and cities, I have owed to them
 In hours of weariness, sensation sweet.
 Felt in the blood, and felt along the heart;
 And passing even into my purer mind,
 With tranquil restoration:

- - -

It is only Nature which can cure the affected and distressed mind and provides that joyous mood in which one can relieve of the burden imposed on the mind by the riddle of the universe. Lines 36-42

Nor less I trust,
To them I may have owed another gift,
Of aspect more sublime than blessed mood.
In which the burthen of the mystery,

In which the heavy and the weary weight
Of all this unintelligible world,
Is lightened;

Only Nature can create a world of ecstasy forgetting the physical and material world. In lines 42-50, Wordsworth expresses that Nature develops an insight by which we can signify the meaning, purpose and the significance of the universe,

Lines 42-50

.....That serene and blessed mood,
In which the affections gently lead us on
Until, the breath of this corporeal frame
And even the motion of our human blood
Almost suspended, we are laid asleep
In body, and become a living soul;
While with any eye made quiet by the power

Of harmony, and the deep power of joy,
We see into the life of things.

As Ramji Lal (1991) sees that Nature can bestow a power of tranquility “by the power of harmony” (p.210), then we can identify or signify every thing in the universe.

The objects of, Nature and the beauty is not for only temporary joy and it provides celestial joy, peace and tranquility. Nature provides a healing influence on the grief-stricken hearts. The intercommunication between man and Nature results a spirit which is moral, because Nature has an ennobling influence on man that creates a communication between men and Nature. This communicative power creates joy and a perfect bliss.

In the lines from (95-104)

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 in the mind of man;
A motion and a spirit, that impels
All thinking things, all objects of all thought.
And rolls through all things.

Nature can form and shape man's own personality and character so that any evil can not affect the mortal equilibrium. Wordsworth advises her sister to submit herself completely to the lap of Nature. Through Dorothy, his sister he represents the whole female community on this earth. In lines 137 to 149, his view is clearly shown about the optimism of intimacy with Nature.

Therefore let the moon

Shine on thee in the solitary walk;
 And let the misty mountain-winds be free
 To blow against thee! and, in after years,
 When these wild ecstasies shall be matured
 Into a sober pleasure: When thy mind
 Shall be a mansion for all lovely forms.
 The memory be as a dwelling-place
 For all sweet sounds and harmonies: oh; then,
 If solitude, or fear, or pain, or grief,
 Should be thy portion, with what healing thoughts
 Of tendes joy will thou remember me,
 And these my exhortation!

The voice of Nature has formed his purest and noblest thoughts and he finds the universal morality. In the lines from 111 to 113, he regards Nature as—

The anchor of my purest thoughts, the nurse,
 The guide, the guardian of my heart, and soul,
 Of all my moral being.

Three Years She Grew in
Sun and Shower

William Wordsworth

Three years she grew in sun and shower,
Then Nature said, "A lovelies flower
On earth was never sown;
The child I to myself will take;
She shall be mine, and I will make
A lady of my own,

" Myself will to my darling be
Both law and impulse: and with me
The Girl, in rock and plain,
In earth and heaven, in glade and bower
Shall feel an overseeing power
To kindle or restrain.

"She shall be sportive as the fawn
That wild with glee across the lawn
Or up the mountain springs;
And hers shall be the breathing balm,
And hers the silence and the calm
Of mute insensate things

"The floating clouds their state shall lend
To her for her the willow bend;
Nor shall she fail to see"

10

20

Even in the motions of the storm
Grace that shall mould the maiden's form
By silent sympathy.
“The stars of midnight shall be dear
To her; and she shall lean her ear

In many a secret place
Where rivulets dace their wayward round,
And beauty born of murmuring sound
Shall pass into her face.

30

“And vital feelings of delight
Shall rear her form to stately height,
Her virgin bosom swell;
Such thoughts to Lucy I will give
While she and I together live
Here in this happy dell”
Thus Nature spake- the work was done-
How soon my Lucy's race was run!
She died, and left to me
This heath, this calm, and quiet scene:

40

The memory of what has been,
And river more will be.

This poem is one of finest lyrical poems of Wordsworth. His philosophy regarding Nature has been portrayed through the depiction of premature death of his child, Lucy. He believes strongly that Nature can shape and form the career of human being as she (Nature)

is doing to Lucy. With her (Nature) careful nursing, Lucy is growing physically and mentally developed as seen in lines (31-34) in the poem. Again in the poem is replete with a beautiful picture of Nature and natural scenery.

Sportive fawn roaming cheerfully; the floating clouds; motion of the storm; midnight stars; dancing of rivulets; murmuring sound all these depictions of Nature are lively and alive.

Though the formation of Lucy's physical and mental growth and the shaping her character by careful nursing of Nature, Wordsworth shows that Nature deserves the power to mould the career of the whole human being. He shows Lucy as the delegation of the whole human community. So, he philosophizes that Nature is the best guide, teacher and mother.

The Tables Turned

-William Wordsworth

Up! up! my Friend, and quit your books;
Or surely you'll grow double.

Up! up! my Friend, and clear your looks;
Why all this toil and trouble? 4

The sun above the mountains head,
A-freshening luster mellow
Through all the long green fields has spread,
His first sweet entering yellow. 8

Books! His a dull and endless strife:
Come, hear the woodland linnet,
How sweet his music! on my life
There's more of wisdom in it. 12

And hark! how blithe the throstle sings!
He, too, is no mean preacher:
Come forth into the light of things,
Let Nature be your teacher. 16

She has a world of ready wealth,
Our minds and hearts to bless--
Spontaneous wisdom breathed by health,
Truth breathed by cheerfulness. 20

Our impulse from a Vernal Wood

May teach you more of men,
Of moral evil and of good,
Than all the sages can.

24

Sweet is the lore which Nature brings;
Our meddling intellect
Mis- shapes the beauteous forms of things;
We murder to dissect.

28

Enough of Science and of Art;
Close of those barren-leaves;
Come forth, and bring with you a heart
That watches and receives

32

Wordsworth's "The Tables Turned" has made my point of view clear that only Nature can provide spontaneous wisdom which is a store house of wisdom. He asserts that reading can not provide enough wisdom that Nature can, rather being sedentary in reading makes man bulky, so that he may lose physical fitness; so Nature deserving all kinds of wealth can provide us physical and mental health and then spontaneous wisdom and truth would come out.

Man is becoming busy with themselves in the society. Though they try to discover newness or new things, but Nature can give more than they do in secular world, as Nature belongs to everything which

is justified. In lines 15-16, Wordsworth asserts that Nature is the best teacher and only the truth can be learnt from Nature only.

In the last eight lines, Wordsworth's philosophy about Nature has become clear that modern science or arts are barren, those are quite unable to provide us enough peace or happiness, rather humanity provided by Nature are dissected and ruined. So my point of view Nature plays a superhuman role that nothing in the universe can show, or play.

The World is Too Much With Us

-William Wordsworth

The world is too 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!

4

The Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;

For this, for everything, we are out of tune;

8

It moves us not,- Great God! I'd rather be,

A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;

So might I standing on this pleasant lea,

Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;

12

Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;

Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn.

“The World is Too Much With Us” is a sonnet by Wordsworth, He is always engaged to teach his readers about the significance of Nature. He complains that people are so busy to accumulate wealth, they have been unable to see anything in Nature. “Little we see in Nature that is ours” (Line- 3), but we should appreciate the beauty of Nature as “This sea bares her bosom to the moon” (Line- 5); “The winds that will be howling at all hours” (Line -6). Wordsworth criticises the materialistic view of the contemporary society. “Getting

and spending" has become the culture of the modern society and so that they have become so insensible to the beauty of Nature. So he advises to develop the sense of beauty to find out the super humanity from Nature.

Lines Written in Early Spring

- William Wordsworth

I heard a thousand blended notes,
While in a grove I sat reclined,
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts.
Bring sad thoughts to the mind. 4

To her fair works did Nature link
The human soul that through me ran;
And much it grieved my heart to think
What man has made of men. 8

Though primrose tufts, in that green bower,
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;
And 't is my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes. 12

The birds around me hopped and played,
Their thoughts I can not measure:
But the least motion which they made
It seemed a thrill of pleasure. 16

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.

20

If this belief from heaven be sent,
It such be Nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What man has made of man?

24

The poem is a contrast between the pleasure, joy and peace that is provided by Nature and the shortcomings, mistakes and injustices man does to man, In the first four lines ----- it is seen that the poet (the speaker) is in a pleasing mood enjoying and watching the beauty of Nature. But at the same time he is affected mentally that humanity is destroyed by misdoings of men. They have failed to think that peace, happiness and enjoyment can be provided by the beauty of Nature only. But they are engaged in seeking peace and happiness falsely in the society, rather they infect injustice among themselves. It is only Nature which is endowed with the beauty, joy and pleasure. Nature does everything right, but man fails to comprehend it by rejecting Nature.

In the poem “**Michael**” we see a contrasting feature between life in the natural environment and that of urban. Luke went to the city to earn money; at the first stage he was quite normal, but gradually

city life produced a corrupting effect upon him and at last he went to excitement. In the poem, Wordsworth shows that natural life is pure, holy; any artificial corruption can not attack herein Natural environment, rather Nature teaches to lead a perfect life where pure and fresh enjoyment is prevailing in the valleys, the streams and rocks. Wordsworth expresses his deep love for Nature in lines 62-64 of "Michael"

"And grossly that man errs, who should suppose
That the green valleys, and the streams and rocks,
Were things indifferent to the shepherd's thoughts. Line" (p- 236)

Michael loved her son very much and he taught him (Luke) to be as affectionate as Nature. In lines (74-77),

"Those fields, those hills-what could they less? had laid
Strong hold on his affections, were to him
A pleasurable feeling of blind love,
The pleasure which there is in life itself" (p- 225)

The love between father and son (Michael and Luke) is as true and perfect as Nature. Because this deep love has been produced from the objects of Nature-the fields, the hills, the streams, the rocks are the source of pure love and affection. Luie's childhood has been spent through the pervading love in natural environment which is true and perfect, joyful and peaceful, But when Luck went to the city, the

surroundings of the city life has made him corrupted gradually. So, Wordsworth, a philosopher and teacher philosophizes that close contact between man and Nature produces an elevating effect upon us which teaches to be simple, noble and perfect.

However, at this stage of this thesis, this chapter has provided a synopsis of the above poems mentioned. The following chapter will analyze the subject matter of my thesis in a better way.

Chapter: Four

Superhuman Role of Nature

In this chapter analysis of the poem mentioned above has been carried out using the theories discussed in chapter two to find out the superhuman role of Nature.

It is true that so many poets and writers have composed different poems and articles through the portrayal of Nature. But Wordsworth portrayed Nature in a different perspective and view which has made him quite distinctive from others. He only emphasizes on the moral character of Nature and the necessity of man's spiritual communication with her. In the study an attempt to review the subject matter; the superhuman role of Nature in selected poems of Wordsworth has been made.

Tintern Abbey-----

Wordsworth Philosophizes that Nature is the guide, parents and abode of mental peace; she provides inspiration to the distressed, restless and affected mind of man. Nature is the source of all happiness and peace and he (Wordsworth) gets the inspiration from real life of the common, rustic and pastoral people and so their real

language has come in expression of his poetic diction. Industrialization or Modernization, the etiquette and culture of urban people are not chosen in the materials of his poems. The life of rural area with natural surroundings are mostly chosen for his poetic materials.

Ramji Lal (1991) observes that according to Wordsworth, society and the crowded unnatural life of cities lend to weaken and pervert humanity; and a return to a natural and simple living is the only remedy for human wretchedness (P.48).

“Nature never did betray
The heart that loved her” (Lines 125-126)

Nature ennobles the human minds and makes in a way that any evil can not affect or disturb the mental position. People may criticise or take into task or monotony of social relation anything can not hit. But with the contact of Nature everything will turn as blessings and this is the benediction of Nature.

Again Ramji Lal (1991) sees that Wordsworth's love for Nature leaded him to be spiritual and intellectual. He observed the sufferings of mankind and heard “the still, sad music of humanity”. He became thoughtful. Therefore, whenever he looked at Nature, he was filled with deep thoughts. He then seared for an inner meaning and a secret

significance in Nature. He not only appreciated the physical beauty of Nature, but also went to a deeper feelings and emotions which led him into thoughts. In all the objects of Nature, he searched for a living presence, on a spirit. In "Tintern Abbey" from lines (97-104), it has been clear that he found the presence of a spirit in the light of the setting sun, in the round ocean, in the blue sky, and in all things. He found the educative influence of Nature and the power to shape human character. He noticed Nature as the nurse, the guide, the guardian of his heart and the soul of moral learning. He believed that there must be a spiritual communication between man and nature (p.218-219).

The Table's Turned -----

Our impulse from a vernal wood
May teach you more of men,
Of moral, evil and of good,
Than all the sages can (Line 21-24)

Wordsworth's view has been clear from the above lines of the poem. He has viewed that reading on the table can not provide enough knowledge or wisdom, but wisdom is incorporated in the objects of Nature which can provide the vital power both for physical and mental. Reading books can not teach everything real, but the reality is a power which is inhibited into Nature. So, Nature can give and teach everything which is real. Because it is his (Wordsworth) belief that book is created by man, but Nature is created by a Holy and Super spirit. If inter communication between man and Nature is created, the best wisdom and morality will come out which any sage in the material world con not provide.

The World is Too Much With Us.

In this poem Wordsworth showed the materialistic interest of people. "Getting and spending" is their only object. They have no room to ponder over the beauty of Nature, The sense of beauty is in a vacuum position which is a part of Nature.

“For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not, Great God!”

Why men is so busy while there is a lot of beauty for pleasure and enjoyment available in Nature:- Wordsworth viewed it in an angry mood; how men can communicate with higher Nature if they spend time in worldly business with fruitless result. So in this sonnet, Wordsworth teaches us to be relieved of “Getting and spending” in materialistic world and think about the communication with Nature which can connect with a Heavenly spirit.

Lines Written in Early Spring.

In this poem, Wordsworth viewed that man does injustice to man, wrong conception of enjoyment and pleasure is pervaded throughout the materialistic world; but he saw the pure enjoyment and pleasure is available in the beauty of Nature. Man can not do or provide what Nature can, and they have lost their belief that Nature is a source of supreme joy.

If this belief from heaven be sent,
If such be Nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What man has made of man?

21

24

Man has not the least ideas about the holy plan of Nature. So, Wordsworth appealed to haven to provide the sense to comprehend the beauty of Nature, and which can communicate with the higher spirit.

Huang et.al. (2014) mentioned in the thesis ‘On Lyrical Poetry of Wordsworth, a poet of Nature’, that the contemporary social background serves as the second reason why Wordsworth’s lyrical poems make so much room for nature. After the Industrial Revolution, England was the scene of complicated social contradiction and changes. The bourgeoisie had become the rulling class. In order to make profit, they developed industry which ruined the purity and tranquility of nature. Living in the crowded and noisy society, Wordsworth felt greatly miserable. Only in nature, can he find beauty and purity going into his own thinking. Natural world is his ideal world. The great neo-classic writers dealt with men as members of an organized, usually an urban society; of this society the author regarded himself as an integral part, its highest standards were those he spoke for. As the worshiper of nature Wordsworth made a major departure in this respect. He described himself, in “The Prelude” as “musing in solitude”, And in almost all Wordsworth’s poem, long or short, the words “single”, “solitary”, “by oneself”, “alone” constitute a leitmotif; his imagination is released by the sudden appearance of a single figure or object, completely against an undifferentiated

background. In such a lonely state Wordsworth got close to the nature. His mind and heart became pure and free from the bitterness and the trouble of the human society. Only can nature purify human's mind (P.114).

Michael

In "Michael", Wordsworth showed a contrasting feature between urban life and pastoral life. Pastoral life in rural areas is very simple, pure and perfect as living with the objects of Nature; those provide permanent joy and pleasure, peace and happiness. Luke departed from the surroundings of Nature to the mechanical modern atmosphere in the city. Gradually he was becoming detached from the simple and pure life in the lap of Nature. Ultimately he became corrupted with urban life and escaped himself by exilement. Luke once was a part of Nature and then happiness, joy, pleasure-everything was present, but when he got out from the lap of Nature, he became strayed and spoilt himself; "He in the dissolute city gave himself/ To evil courses" (Lines- 439-440). So, this is the reason why Wordsworth emphasized the necessity of close communication between man and Nature.

Treatment of Nature in Keats poetry

Keats also loved Nature passionately, and portrayed the beauty of Nature in a perfect way. In his poems Nature is showed physically which reflected his gloomy and melancholy state of mind. Greek mythology was also a sort of fascination in his poem like "Ode on a Grecian Urn". Nature is like fairies, plants, streams in his poems. Keats portrayed Nature from his own point of view mingling with his sense and imagination. He himself or any other character the subject-matter of his poems.

Ode to A Nightingale

-John Keats

My heart aches, and a drowsy numbness pains
My sense, as though of the hemlock I had drunk,
Or emptied some dull opiate to the drains
One minute past, and Lethe-wards had sunk:
'Tis not through envy of thy happy lot,--
But being too happy in thine happiness,
That thou, light winged Dryad of the trees,
In some melodious plot
Of beechen green, and shadows numberless,
Singest of summer in full-throated ease.
Away! Away! for I will fly to thee,
Nor charioted by Bacchus and his pards,
But on the viewless wings of poesy

Though the dull brain perplexes and retards:
Already with thee! tender is the night,
And haply the Queen-Moon is on her throne,
Cluster'd around by all her starry Fays;
But here there is no light,
Save what from heaven is with the breezes blown
Through verdurous glooms and winding mossy ways.

- - -

The song of the nightingale is so sweet that it affects him like numbing drugs on his senses. There is mythological allusions, fairy tales, nature and his imagination. Nature is accompanied with his imagination. He was no much engrossed in imagination that he would want to fly on the wings of imagination to escape from the physical world; herein lies his sense of melancholy and indolence.

Keats could not provide any message for the common people, rather he, with the best description of Nature; using the chariot of mythological view coloured his imagination in verses. In case of Wordsworth Nature is depicted in a superhuman view; where physical picture of the beauty of Nature is justified for a world of heaven. He has not painted the objects of nature with his imagination; rather he has tried to drive his imagination to connect man with Nature, So that they will be bole to search for purity, raising to nobility, achieving peace and happiness both physically and mentally.

However, this chapter has properly analyzed the superhuman role of Nature in Wordsworth's poems and its treatment upon famous poet, Keats. The result of the analysis will be given in the following chapter.

Chapter: Five

Findings

In this final chapter, an attempt to highlight the result of what has been analyzed in the preceding chapter has been found.

The writer has investigated carefully the poems of William Wordsworth above mentioned in the previous chapters; that he (the writer) showed Nature as the Superhuman character focusing the salient features of Nature as depicted by Wordsworth, the Nature poet. In "Tintern Abbey" the Nature scene is described; observation of Nature of the poet; and address to his sister Dorothy.

In boyhood Nature was physical, but in maturity his treatment of Nature turned to be thoughtful and he could closely observe the beauty of Nature. In the second part of the poem, a hidden power of Nature to heal the troubled and distressed mind is focused. Only Nature can cure the affected people providing an atmosphere of peace, solace, joy and pleasure and a relief from the cares and anxieties by the riddle of the universe. Nature can drive to a world of ecstasy which is created through the close communication of man with Nature; a world of tranquility to signify everything in the universe. Nature has a power to form man's own character in a way that no evil can touch in the earth. Wordsworth suggested her sister, Dorothy to

submit herself in the lap of Nature. Wordsworth found the presence of a spirit in the elements of Nature and observed Nature as the nurse, the guide and the soul of moral learning.

In “The Tables Turned”, Wordsworth viewed that reading can not provide enough wisdom, rather only Nature can teach everything which is real. He philosophised that inter relation between man and Nature can create the best wisdom and morality that any sage can not provide.

In the poem “The World is Too Much With Us”, Wordsworth observed that people of the contemporary society, were busy with “Getting and spending” having no room to ponder over the beauty of Nature resulting the empty position of the sense of beauty. He advised those people burdened with materialistic achievement to communicate with Nature to search for a Heavenly spirit that would provide them real peace and happiness.

In the poem. “Lines Written in Early Spring”, Wordsworth provided a contrasting feature between the source of joy, peace and happiness in Nature and the mistakes and injustice done in the society for false peace and happiness. Nature can provide everything right and real, but man fails to understand by rejecting the communication with Nature, as Nature is the abode of all happiness and peace. They are

quite unable to comprehend the holy plan of Nature. So, Heaven should provide them the ample sense to seek the beauty of Nature which can connect with the ultimate higher spirit.

In the poem “Michael”, Wordsworth showed that detachment from Nature could spoil man’s life and even be despised, as we see in Luke’s life. Luke from the very beginning of his childhood was connected with the objects of Nature, and so he was in a pleasant state of mind; joy was flowing over himself. Nature always teaches to be perfect, peaceful and joyful; if any encumbrance is happened between man and Nature, it would be painful and despicable. The surroundings of the city life is replete with artificiality where any ray of Nature’s beauty can not enter, can make a man corrupted and inhuman. So, the message of Wordsworth being a teacher and philosopher is that close contact between men and Nature produces simplicity, nobility and an elevating effect upon man that provides a celestial joy, peace and happiness.

Again Nature’s presentation in Keats’s poems makes us to be melancholy and sordid, though he presented the beauty of Nature physically avoiding to teach or indicate a perfect way to follow for us. His portrayal of Nature was of his own, not universal. He was guided by a strong imagination. He wanted to paint the whole earth with a colorful imagination that produced an atmosphere of melancholy,

gloomy and depression of spirit. In fine, it can be said that presentation and treatment of Nature in Wordsworth's poem is didactic on the other hand majority of the romantic and neo-classical poets presented Nature physically leaving no room to follow.

Conclusion

In this thesis, “The Superhuman character of Nature playing a superlative role in William Wordsworth’s poems”, the presentation and treatment of Nature in Wordsworth poems is clearly showed with the reference of different literary works. Wordsworth treated Nature as the guide, teacher and healing power to the mentally distressed people. The main motif of this research was to discover the Superhuman Character of Nature which plays a superlative role to elevate human’s career. This thesis attempts to accomplish that and the findings shows that man without the contact with Nature can not develop or up heave their career; detachment from the glory of Nature, man’s life will be meaningless and insignificant and they will loose their morality and human quality.

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