



GENERATING HAPPINESS THROUGH NATURE BY ROMANTIC POETS

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ABSTRACT

Romantic poets love nature and celebrate in its various dimensions. They wrote about the beauty of green meadow, thick forest, thin flowers, high hill, small rills, river banks, rural scenes, seasons, and beauty of birds, furious animals, soft lambs, fresh air, wild wind, sun rises and sets, starry nights and calm sea in their verses. Almost all the romantic poets touched every nuances of natural beauty. They tried to heal sorrow of the human beings by writing their verses about nature. This paper tries to focus few works of Wordsworth, Shelly and Keats and their treatment of nature.

Key Words: Nuances, mirth, demise, bestows, ascertain, capacity, desolate, evokes, carefree

INTRODUCTION

Romantic poets love nature and celebrate in its various dimensions. They wrote about the beauty of green meadow, thick forest, thin flowers, high hill, small rills, river banks, rural scenes, seasons, and beauty of birds, furious animals, soft lambs, fresh air, wild wind, sun rises and sets, starry nights and calm sea in their verses. Almost all the romantic poets touched every nuances of natural beauty. They tried to heal sorrow of the human beings by writing their verses about nature. Romantic poets believed that nature is the source of inspiration. Nature has answer for all unanswered questions of the mankind. Poets teach people how to love nature and how nature loves them. They viewed several perspectives of nature and its greatness. They use simple language to portray humble beauty of nature. They personified nature as God, man, ghost etc... Theme of the nature and its beauty were widely handled by famous poets Wordsworth, Shelley, Keats and others. This paper focuses how these romantic poets have treated nature.

Wordsworth

Wordsworth drew attention of the readers towards the beauty of nature. He personifies nature and natural objects most imaginative way. Wordsworth feels melancholic about the gulf between nature and humanity. He urges human beings to understand nature in order to get happiness. Further, he emphasizes how nature brings joy and in his poem *Lines written in Early Spring*. Modern life has made man to forget this beauty of nature. Urbanizations, globalizations gradually swallow rural, natural beauty of the village which also sways mirth of men and women. In order to regain those rural visuals Wordsworth writes:

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,
..... And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played,
Their thoughts I cannot measure: --

But the least motion which they made,
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

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.(9-20)

Wordsworth stresses on the point of how modern life is divorced from nature in his poem *Tintern Abbey*. He writes:

These beauteous forms,

Through a long absence, have not been to me
As is a landscape to a blind man's eye:
But oft, in lonely rooms, and 'mid the din
Of towns and cities, I have owed to them
In hours of weariness, ...(22-17)

Wordsworth treats nature as a friend, guide and guardian. He believes this nature will bring happiness to his sister to lead a better life after his demise in the world. This hope is not only for his sister alone but also for entire mankind. Nature bestows on us both wealth and health. To ascertain his thought, he writes:

the banks
Of this fair river; thou my dearest Friend,
My dear, dear Friend;... (114-116)

Wordsworth understands that nature has the capacity to heal if a man treats her as a friend she will cure all ailments of him. He strongly believes that nature never betrays anybody and he writes;

Knowing that Nature never did betray
The heart that loved her; 'tis her privilege,
Through all the years of this our life, to
lead

From joy to joy: (122-125)

Shelley

Shelley is a lover of nature. He finds cheerfulness in it. Shelley was an idealist and abstract thinker. He was a revolutionary and ardent lover of democracy too. He treats poetry as a tool for pouring his thoughts to the world. Shelley was the one who loved the desolate rocks and caves, the fury of the storms, lightning and thunder, the waves dancing fast and bright, and the lightening of the noon-tide ocean flashing around him. Shelley evokes natural beauty and attitude of a bird in his poem *To a Skylark*. He describes carefree way in which the bird flies. He brings the attention of the bird and teaches us to enjoy natural attitude of it. Shelley urges human beings to get bliss with nature through this bird. He asks the Skylark the source of its happiness:

..What object are the fountains
Of thy happy strains?
What fields, or waves, or
mountains?

What shapes of sky or plain (71-74)

Shelley accepts that natural things are the source of happiness. He feels human beings are beyond the happiness of this bird. If they give up hate, pride, fear and sorrow they will reach the steep of joy like Skylark. He writes:

...if we could scorn
Hate, and pride, and fear;
If we were things born
Not to shed a tear (86-89)

He points out another misery of mankind is fear of death which is completely ignored by the bird while flying high on the sky. The poem teaches that man should not have fear of death and do enjoy the present moment. Another poem of Shelley makes a request to the West wind to make human beings happy. In his *Ode to the West Wind*, he earnestly appeals:

Drive my dead thoughts over the
universe

Like withered leaves to quicken a
new birth!(63-64)

Those words are not only for Shelly but also all the men and women in the world to be happy.

Keats

Keats expresses the beauty of both real and artistic forms of nature. Keats looks at Nature with wonder and awe, and simple delight. He believes that "A things beauty of is a joy forever". Like Shelly, he also seeks the help of nature to generate happiness. In his poem *Ode to a Nightingale*, he writes:

My heart aches, and a drowsy numbness
pains

My sense, as though of 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 thy happiness,--- (1-
6)

Keats is astonished to see happiness of the nightingale. Before hearing the song of the bird, he tried many ways of forgetting worries and but nightingale's song makes him completely happy, so he wants to merge with the bird as one. It indicates unite with nature gives eternal happy for the

mankind. Another poem of Keats, he praises the artistic beauty of nature. Keats is not satisfied with the beauty of present. He yearns for eternal beauty. He portrays that artistic beauty of nature in his poem *Ode on a Grecian Urn*. He writes:

Ah, happy, happy boughs! that cannot shed
leaves, nor ever bid the Spring adieu;
And, happy melodist, unwearied,
Forever piping songs forever new;
More happy love! more happy, happy love!
Forever warm and still to be enjoyed,
Forever panting, and forever young; (21-27)

Keats presented artistic beauty can also enlighten humanity through his poems. Nature in any form will bring happiness to the world.

CONCLUSION

Wordsworth, Shelly and Keats state nature has bestowed, safety, unwearied joy to mankind. They have handled almost all aspects of nature's beauty in their poems. Both Shelley and Keats are ardent lovers of nature but their views and appreciation are quite different. Keats was a pictorial artist and lover of concrete beauty of nature. But Shelley is an idealist and ethereal dreamer and loves reflected glory and loveliness. The approach of the two poets may vary but their love for nature should be appreciated. Wordsworth approaches nature as a power of beauty and balm for happy, peace, and calm. It is to say where Wordsworth's imagination isolates and focuses and Keats fills in and enriches, Shelley's dissolves and transcends. These three romantic poets have tried their best to bring humanity happy and shake all their sorrow through natural beauty and rural settings. To conclude nature is our best guide to lead a happy life.

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