CHAPTER IV

Wordsworth as the Poet of Man
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William Wordsworth is undoubtedly one of the greatest poets of Nature but he is equally important as a poet of Man and therefore he attaches his attention towards human beings. In all his poems, he reflects himself as a poet of Man and writes about the growth and development of men. The influences of earth and sky are everywhere felt in human features and characters, he has composed many poems on many figures. The present chapter shall comprise the poems which shall focus light upon those characters who somehow or other are leading their lives in utter agony and suffering.

I would like to start this chapter with the inclusion of 'Michael' as a first poem in which the purpose of the poet is to present the vigour and strength of an old man even at his old age. The poet beings this poem with a description of the scene where the main story centres. The scene of action is a valley around the tumultuous brook of Greenhead Ghyll, the valley is surrounded by mountains on all sides and a heap of unhewn stones by the side of the brook arrests the attentions of the visitors. It is associated with a simple pastoral story for the fire
side or the summer shade. It is the domestic tale which first reveals to the poet the grandeur of the life of the shepherds who live in the valley. Although it be a homely and rude story, he will relate it for the delight of a few simple people and for the sake of budding poets who may share his thought and feelings.

The poem opens with the form of narratives in which the story belongs to a boyhood memory and so immediately it gains the advantages that accrue to a prospect in the mind. It comes to us though with the guarantee that through it Wordsworth is laid to feel,

"For passions that where not my own, and think
(At random and imperfectly indeed)
On man, the heart of man and human life."^1

It comes to us with a sense of assimilated, ratified experience it is not merely a chain of peculiar events rather it is part of our common continuum of life, it is an accident also irrivilation of the potentials inherent in man, the heart of man and human life, the tone of the poem is sober contemplative and none of the parts is obtrude the poem deals with the condition of
human life of which Michael is representative, chosen because in his isolation as a shepherd and also among the hills he has an elemental dignity. There is an invitation for the readers to turn from the "public way"² and walk up stream³ along the tumultuous brook of "Green-head Ghyll"⁴. In such "bold ascent"⁵ the poet tells us, "your feet must struggle"⁶ because the pastoral mountains stand in face of the visitors. It states the theme of poem which is concerned with man's endless struggle against the forces that pull him down and sooner or later reduce all life to a dead level. The narrator continues-

"But courage? for around that boisterous brook The mountains have all opened out themselves And made a hidden valley of their own- No habitation can be seen; but they Who journey thither find themselves alone With a few sheep, with rocks and stones and Kites That over head are sailing in the sky."⁷

The hidden valley in this way is the world in which Michael lives. The "few sheep, the rocks, and stones" suggests the auster condition of Michael's life. Their is however a further and more
sinister touch in the Kites that fly over the scene and reminds the reader of the shadow of death that hangs over the valley the sheep and the shepherd himself. The scene as the poet tells is in truth an utter solitude the poet now draws attention to an object which as he says one might easily fail to notice.

"-------------Beside the brook
Appears a straggling heap of unhewn stones"

This is the object which is the occasion of the story. In a manuscript version there is a passage describing the shapeless crowd of unhewn stones lying together which keep themselves in a line looking full of life though in the last the dotage of a dying form is perceptible.

Wordsworth makes clear what is only strongly hinted at in the poem that the struggling heap of unhewn stones all that now remains of the sheep fold Michael is building in the poem a representation of man's life. The dotage of dying form links the process by which the forces of wind, sun and gravity cause the collapse of the wall with the more elaborate but equally
inexorable forces which reduce man himself to dotage and finally to death. What this poem is concerned with then is the process of dissolution and the reducing of man's achievement and his very life to shapelessness and disintegration.

It is a story of man's struggle to maintain himself and his values in a hostile universe. As Wordsworth says this tale of Michael heard when he is a boy leads him to feel for other men and to think, "On man, the heart of man and human life"9, He therefore undertakes to tell this history even though it be "homely and rude".10

The tale itself begins with a description of the shepherd. He is described as an old man who is stout of heart and strong of limbs. The whole process of his life is briefly laid before the reader-

"His bodily frame had been from youth to age of an unusual strength his mind was keen, Intense, and frugal, apt for all affairs, And in his shepherd's calling he was prompt And watchful more than ordinary men."11
Michael has been an unconscious peasant but has learned meaning of all winds. The storms for him are not a reason for seeking refuge but summons up to the mountains. He has been amid the heart of many thousand mist. In other words Michael represents courage, adventure and strength. The valleys, streams and rocks, the fields and hills among which he lives, have laid strong hold on his affection. They are to him-

"A pleasurable feeling of blind love,
The pleasure which their is in life itself". 12

The whole introductory passage serves to make of Michael a representative of man's struggle and consciousness. The mountains, hills and streams which surround him are not only an object of local interest, they are the representative of the world in which man exists and in which he struggles to realize himself and the life that is within him. We find Michael in the poem as a heroic figure who suggest to as how best we can maintain our lives in the context of the physical universe, and how man himself gives significance and value to world he inhibits.
The poet describes Michael's wife putting her into traditional occupations of women, she has two wheels of "antique form" one spinning wool and one for spinning flax and these wheels are alternately put to work. They have an only child, whose function in the poem is to be a successor of Michael. For this reason we are told that he is born when Michael begins to feel that he is old and is feeling his "one foot in the grave". His continuous dwelling at a lonely place has been described as-

"------he had been alone
Amid the heart of many thousand mists,
That came to him, and lift him on, the heights.
So lived he till his eightieth year was past." 

The total span of life is not passed in complete loneliness rather he is always in the accompaniment of his wife, - "his days had not been passed in singleness." 

In the accompaniment of his only son and the family, he is always eager in performing the humble task, he is also fighting for the existence against the assaults made for him the cottage has been described in terms which suggest the world itself,
"Down from the ceiling, by the chimney's edge,
That in our ancient uncouth country style
With huge and black projection overbrowed
Large space beneath, as duly as the light
Of day grew dim the House wife hung a lamp;
And aged utensil, which had performed
Service beyond all others of its kind."17

Here, cottage with its great fire place is made to suggest the vastness of the world, in which the house wife hangs a lamp that shines out to the ends of space-

"-------------For, as it chanced,
Their cottage on a plot of rising ground
Stood single, with large prospect, north and south
High into Easedale, up to Dunmail-Raise,
And westward to the village near the lake,
And from this constant light, so regular,
And so far seen, the House itself, by all
Who dwelt within the limits of the vale,
Both old and young, was named the Evening Star".18
Now it is evidently clear that Michael inhibits at such a place where nothing but seclusion is present. In such a condition, Michael is leading his life as a shepherd with a great care for his helpmate and equally he is more attentive and careful in keeping great love in his heart for his son. Even in precarious condition Michael is presented as a man who is responded to his misfortune with an elemental strength and dignity-

"----------Among the rocks,  
He went, and still looked up the sun and cloud,  
And listened to the wind; and, as before,  
Performed all Kinds of labour for his sheep,  
And for the land, his small inheritance.  
And to that hollow dell from time to time  
Did he repair, to build the Fold of which  
His flock had need. Tis not forgotten yet  
The pity which was then in every heart  
For the Old Man- and tis believed by all  
That many and many a day he thither went,  
And never lifted up a single stone."19
The quietness of this passage is extraordinarily impressive. The Old Man performs his task as before, carving for his sheep and for his land. He goes more over, to the dell to build the sheep fold but this is a task which he can no longer continue. The whole of the poem is focused in one quietly tragic time. The line "never turned a single stone expresses the ultimate defeat of Michael's life not only by the fact which he has already accepted that he must sooner or later be physically incapable of struggling against the weight of things but in the much more deeply felt through the breaking of the bond of natural piety and the loss of the son who is expected to complete the task left unfinished by the father.

The suggestion of a desolation that extends the individual story of Michael is clearly conveyed in the final paragraph, the Old Man sits by the sheep-fold with his faithful dog, leaving the sheep-fold work unfinished and he dies. Isabel, we are told survives her husband for three years or little more and-

"There, by the sheep-fold sometimes was he seen
Sitting alone, or with his faithful Dog,
Then Old, beside him, lying at his feet-
The length of full seven years, from time to time
He at the building of this sheep-fold wrought,
And left the work unfinished when he died.
Three years, or little more; did Isabel
Survive her Husband; at her death the estate,
Was sold, and went into a stranger's hand."20

The death of Michael and Isabel is in itself a part of natural
order. The son's defection, the sequestration of the estate and the
intrusion of the stranger's hand, however mark a breach of that
order the poet continues-

"The cottage which was named The Evening Star
Is gone- the ploughshare has been through the ground
On which it stood; great changes have been made wrought
In all the neighbourhood: - yet the oak is left
That grew beside their door; and the remains
Of the unfinished Sheep-fold may be seen
Beside the boisterous brook of Green-head Ghyll."21

Wordsworth has succeeded in turning the story of an
obscure shepherd into a deeply moving poem which touches on
concerns that are felt by all. His account of the shepherd and his task is utterly without condescension. Michael is represented as a fellow man like all men seeking to create an area of order and harmony around him and like all men looking to a new generation in order to carry on the task. The poet asserts his common feeling with Michael for both are engaged in the task of sustaining life, and both are dependent and hope that their task will be continued. The link between the poet and the shepherd is made with quiet mastery in the description of giving to the boy, of the shepherd's staff.

Next to Michael is The Leech-Gatherer entitled "Resolution and Independence" in this poem he has represented his meeting with a very old man who is a leech-gatherer by profession. Wordsworth meets him in 1800 when he is in difficult circumstance. The poem begins strangely; bright sunny morning; a radiant joy pulsating through Nature, followed quickly by "dejection", by "Dim sadness and blind thoughts" of dark days, of "solitude, pain of heart, distress and poverty" that may come. Against this chequered setting of light and dark of joy and pain, is placed a spectral figure- old, bent double, "motionless", solitary taciturn- a leech gatherer. We are made to feel in a flash that
here is a living, human symbol of the chequered setting- of the light and dark of life- a source of light and power to the poet, a symbol of life's dark ravages:-

"As a huge stone is sometimes seen to lie
Couched on the bald top of an eminence;
Wonder to all who do the same espy,
By what means it could thither come, and whence;
So that it seems a thing endued with sense:
Like a sea-beast crawled forth, that on a shelf
Of rock or sand reposeth, there to sun itself.
Such seemed this Man, not all alive nor dead,
Nor all asleep- in his extreme old age:
His body was bent double, feet and head
Coming together in life's pilgrimage;
As if some dire constraint of pain, or rage
Of sickness felt by him in times long past,
A more than human weight upon his frame had cast".22

The old man tells Wordsworth that he earns his livelihood by roaming the moor and gathering leeches from ponds. Wordsworth's art rises to great heights here. Silent suffering
against a background of profound solitude raises the figure to elemental heights of the tragic: he touches the world of the Infinite, and is transfigured into one of the "spots of time". The figure, the voice, the words are all enshrouded in a dreamlike mystery:

"Like one whom I had met with in a dream;
Or like a man from far region sent,
To give me human strength, by apt admonishment."23

The poet's gloomy thoughts come into his mind again. There is a weak hope ready to turn into despair. He feels the imaginary cold of poverty, the pain of imaginary failure, the shock of an imaginary fruitless labour, and the vision of imaginary bodily disease. He also remembers the mighty poets who have died in misery. He is puzzled and looks for comfort. So, in his excitement, he again asks the old man how he earns his living and what he does as an occupation. With a smile on his face, the old man then repeats his words, he says that he moves from pond to pond in search of leeches. He says to the poet,
"And said that, gathering leeches, far and wide
He travelled; stirring thus about his feet
The waters of the pools where they abide.
Once I could meet with them on every side;
But they have dwindled long by slow decay;
Yet still I persevere, and find them where I may."24

The Leech-gatherer is an "admonishment"- a moral force, a
source of strength. The end of the poem rounds off the spectral
figure with another trance- like Vision:-

"In my mind's eye I seemed to see him pace
About the weary moors continually,
Wandering about alone and silently.
While I these thoughts within myself pursued,
He, having made a pause, the same discourse renewed.
And soon with this he other matter blended,
Cheerfully uttered, with demeanour kind,
But stately in the main; and, when he ended,
I could have laughed myself to scorn to find
In that decrepit Man so firm a mind.
"God", said I, 'be my help and stay secure;
I'll think of the Leech-gatherer on the lonely moor".25
The poet is filled with shame to see such a firm mind in such an old man. He calls upon God to be his help and keep him free from anxiety. He also decides to remember the leech-gatherer of the solitary moor, if and when the fear of future poverty ever seizes him again. To him, the leech-gatherer is a symbol of courage, firm determination, habitual hard work, and steady effort.

Next to 'Resolution and Independence' or 'The Leech-Gatherer' is 'Guilt and Sorrow' which I shall include in this chapter for discussion. Wordsworth here, seems to have associated the ancient Britons of his "reverie" in the same way with the poor of his time. In this poem he is led unavoidably to compare what we know or guess of these remote times with certain aspects of modern society and with calamities, principally those consequent upon war "to which more than other classes of men, the poor are subject."26

The inevitability of the comparison may not seem so obvious. The connection, however, is subjective one. Wordsworth himself is now a poor man, socially rejected and the war, by separating him from Annette Vallon is proving calamitous to him personally. It is perhaps natural that in this process of self identification with Salisbury Plain, he should attribute his own troubles to its prehistoric inhabitants.
Guilt and Sorrow reflects the tortured state of Wordsworth's mind. It is a narration of the cruel wrongs suffered by an innocent woman as a result of war. The woman also suffers technically due to the guilt of her husband. Two victims meet in an atmosphere of darkness bad weather. The sailor murders a traveller, and Female Vagrant loses her husband and children in the war. The total picture that the poet has drawn in this poem is exploitation, tarbulation and miseries which fall upon the poor and innocent persons and so he attacks upon the whole of social order. Wordsworth expresses his dejection upon the sufferings which be fall upon people because of penal laws.

The poem opens with the description of a lonely traveller. He sets out in an atmosphere full of darkness. The traveller does not get any shelter during the furious and temptous winds. No tree, Green Meadow and brook are visible. Everywhere the traveller finds the scene of destruction. The severe cause of the poet's distress about humanistic feeling is the carnage and Killing created by war. The time changes and the pleasure fondly makes its dwelling in his imagination. Suddenly the husband finds himself with his wife. He sees the tears in the eyes of his wife which compel him to feel pain and suffering.
After Killing the traveller he becomes a Vagrant. He walks on the plain and meets a Female Vagrant and both make their way to a place in order to get shelter from the storm. The story told by the Female Vagrant is disappointing. It is enough to make Wordsworth feels unhappy from the society and its norms prevailing in his time. The Female Vagrant relates an unhappy story-

"Two years were passed since to a distant town
He had repaired to ply a gainful trade;
What tears of bitter grief, till then unknown,
What tender vows our last sad Kiss delayed!
To him we turned:- we have no other aid:
Like one revived, upon his neck I wept;
And her whom he had loved in joy, he said,
He well could love in grief; his faith he kept;
And in quiet home once more my father slept."27

The result of war as the woman describes is potent enough to create unhappiness and dejection,
"We lived in peace and comfort, and were blest
With daily bread; by constant toil supplied.
Three lovely babes had lain upon my breast;
And often, viewing their sweet smiles, I sighed,
And knew not why my happy father died,
When threatened war reduced the children's meal,
Thrice happy! that for him the grave could hide-
The empty loom, cold hearth, and silent wheel,
And tears which flowed for ills which patience might not heal."28

The pathetic condition of the woman certainly tentalizes the core of the heart of the poet, he very confidently focuses light upon the poor conditions of the people of the society. The woman certainly has suffered a lot before she happens to meet the traveller. She on account of dire losses is in hopeless condition. She has shed the tears of the bitterest sorrow after seeing her children starving-

"Twas a hard change; an evil time was come;
We had no hope, and no relief could gain:
But soon, with proud parade, the noisy drum
Bleat round to clear the streets of want and pain,
My husband's arm now only served to strain
Me and his children hungering in his view;
In such dismay my prayers and tears were vain:
To join those miserable men he flew,
And now to the sea-coast, with numbers more, we drew."29

She gets her children perished and belonging destroyed.
She is unprotected and unsupported, she is left alone to bear the loss. The story really is touching and shakes the heart and arouses sympathetic notions,

"The pains and plagues that on our heads come down,
Disease and famine, agony and fear,
In wood or wilderness, in camp or town,
It would unman the firmest heart to hear.
All perished— all in one remorseless year,
Husband and children! one by one, by sword
And ravenous plague, all perished, every tear
Dried up, despairing, desolate, on board
A British ship I waked, as from a trance restored."30
The war is nothing but a harbinger of havoc and destruction. It creates a scene of awe and terror, people suffer and meet dire loss. A large number of soldiers and people are killed in the battle. The wounded soldiers and persons are heard crying. Everyone is disappointed from all sides—

"No help I sought; in sorrow turned a drift,
Was hopeless, as if cast on some bare rock;
Nor morsel to my mouth that day did lift,
Nor raised my hand at any door to knock.

I lay where, with his drowsy mates, the cock
From the cross-timber of an out house hung;
Dismally tolled, that night, the city cock!
At morn my sick heart hunger scarcely stung,
Nor to the beggar's language could I fit my tongue." 31

The Female Vagrant's condition is thoroughly moving and puts every reader into the state of utter dejection. She has experienced extreme sorrows and sufferings and has been found weeping and shedding tears at all the times. We also find that her sorrows are endless and she shall never be meeting happy condition. She walks all alone in the plain and tries to seek help from the houses in the streets,
"Through tears the rising sun I oft have viewed, 
Through tears have seen him towards that world descend 
Where my poor heart lost all its fortitude: 
Three years a wanderer now my course I bend-
Oh! tell me whither- for no earthly friend 
Have I- She ceased, and weeping turned away; 
As if because her tale was at an end, 
She wept; because she had no more to say 
Of that perpetual weight which on her spirit lay".32

The woman is sorrow-stricken. Wordsworth tells to Francis Wrangham that Adventures on Salisbury Plain is written to expose the vices of the penal law and the calamities of war as they affect individuals. Wordsworth has exposed the whole social order of the 18th century England. The revolutionary conclusion is left implicit but there can be no doubt what the reader's reaction is expected to be a society that harries the woman and the sailor both of whom are fundamentally good at heart in the relentless manner described in the poem. If it makes depressing and often unconvincing reading, it remains unforgettable nevertheless because of the intensity of the pessimism. The poem has been concerned with the fate of individuals crushed under the juggernaut of modern society, its villain is the whole
contemporary social order- Wordsworth has rebelled against the world and the laws of the world, and he regards them as tyrannical masters, convinced that he is right in some of his conclusions, he nourishes a contempt for mankind, the more dangerous because he has been led to it by reflection. The description of woman and her suffering is most moving-

"A woman stood with quivering lips and pale,
And, pointing to a little child that lay
Stretched on the ground, began a piteous tale;
How in a simple freak of thoughtless play
He had provoked his father, who straight-way,
As if each blow were deadlier than the last,
Struck the poor innocent Pallid with dismay
The soldier's widow heard and stood aghast;
And stern looks on the man her gray-haired comrade cast."33

Wordsworth takes into consideration about the guilt's and tyrannical laws which are exercised only to create troubles and disturbances. He is also of the view that the innocent and the poor persons who obey laws have been unimaginably suffering.
"Bad is the world, and hard is the world's law
Even for the man who wears the warmest fleece;
Much need have ye that time, more closely draw
The bond of nature, all unkindness cease,
And that among so few there still be peace:
Else can ye hope but with such numerous foes
Your pains shall ever with your years increase?
While from his heart the appropriate lesson flows,
A correspondent calm stole gently o'er his woes."³⁴

The woman who comes in the cart has been an object of social injustice - She is in the last stage of her life-

"A pale faced Woman, in disease far gone.
×       ×       ×       ×
Though even to die near one she most had loved
She could not of herself those wasted limbs have moved."³⁵

The woman relates the hopeless story of her life and believes that an end of it is due and she will breathe her lost within few moments. She longs for the door of her father's house,
"My life Heaven Knows, hath long been burthensome; 
But, if I have not meekly suffered, meek 
May my end be! Soon will this voice be dumb: 
Should child of mine e'er wander hither, speak 
Of me, say that the worm is on my check-
Torn from our hut, that stood beside the sea 
Near Portland light-house in a lonesome creek, 
My husband served in sad Captivity 
On ship-board, bound till peace or death should set him free."35

She suffers due to her absent husband, a gentle man but technically guilty of the murder of a traveller whose body is seen in neighbourhood. Her husband is fled and can not be found. She resents that her husband is one of the gentle persons and too Kind to rob a bird of its food. The sailor hears all these things patiently, the recognition follows and he implores her forgiveness but by now she is passed of her speech, although she forgives and dies,

"The soldier's Widow lingered in the cot; 
And, when he rose, he thanked her pious care 
Through which his Wife, to that Kind shelter brought,
Died in his arms; and with those thanks a prayer
He breathed for her, and for that merciful pair.
The corse interred, not one hour he remained
Beneath their roof, but to the open air
A burthen, now with fortitude sustained,
He bore, within a breast where dreadful quiet reigned.\textsuperscript{37}

As we have seen in the preceding poems that William Wordsworth is primarily concerned with men who somehow or other are living in precarious conditions. He is found taking interest in those figure and persons who generally keep themselves away from society, association and friends. In this connection I would like to include "The Old Cumberland Beggar" for discussion and to throw light upon the feelings of the poet towards old persons. The poet selects an old Cumberland Beggar for his description who is poor, infirm and bent double. The Cumberland beggar is known to the poet from his childhood and he is walking solitary and in a helpless condition. He is sitting beside the way near to a piece of stone from were persons are coming and going. The beggar belongs to the class of the beggars who is found sitting on a fixed place on fix days who take alms
either in shape of money or in kind. Wordsworth knows him from a long time and has come to know the way in which people are giving something to him. The beggar sitting by the unpeopled hills is taking his food always in loneliness, his life style and life condition are pathetic and mark us to feel his helplessness and poor condition.

"--------In the sun,
Upon the second step of that small pile,
Surrounded by those wiled unpeopled hills,
He sat, and ate his food in solitude."^38

The poet knows the beggar from his childhood who has been old enough but now he does not look older. He travels lonely and marks helplessness upon his countenance. He begs by sitting on the road side. The horseman and others do not throw carelessly alms rather they stop and safely lodge the coin within his hat. He is respected everywhere by everybody. He does not become angry upon the children who shout to him from behind,
"Him from my childhood have I known; and then
He was so old, he seems not older now;
He travels on, a solitary Man
So helpless in appearance, that for him."\(^\text{39}\)

He is bending daily due to old age and feels tired of his journey that he makes everyday in collecting alms. He is unaware of leaves and straws scattered in the way due to the lost of eyesight. Everything whether a man or a woman or slow paced waggon which moves on the road and goes ahead does not become on object of his consideration. Though the old man has lost vigour, courage and strength, yet he is not a burden on this earth. All the villagers whose door he knocks for alms finds a record of past deeds and charity. He is loved and respected. He gets proper helps although he feels dejected due to his exhausted strength. He needs a happy life even in the tattering stage of his life. He lives only for himself-

"Then let him pass, a blessing on his head!
And while in that vast solitude to which
The tide of things has borne him, he appears
To breathe and live but for himself alone,
Unblamed, uninjured, let him bear about
The good which the benignant law of Heaven
Has hung around him; and, while life is his,
Still let him prompt the unlettered villagers
To tender offices and pensive thoughts."\(^{40}\)

The old beggar while walking among the hills is very much
attracted towards the sound of birds which become an object of
his pleasure. He at the same time is taking too much sympathy
to them although he is all alone and alienated-

"And let him, where and when he will, sit down
Beneath the trees, or on a grassy bank
Of highway side, and with the little birds
Share his chance - gathered meal and, finally.
As in the eye of Nature he has lived so in the eye of
Nature let him die!"\(^{41}\)

The poet is warning to the people of this world not to have a
different opinion about the beggar. The proud persons, wise
persons have been advised by the poet to consider the beggar an
important man. He is not one of the meanest creations of the God and also is not a burden for the society. He due to his activeness is not depending upon others for his life. It is because of his old age the beggar gets proper response from every people. The poet also is advising to the men of the world that the acts of love and Kindness certainly bear an influence upon the human soul.

William Wordsworth gives a message to us through this poem that Old Cumberland Beggar has got an elemental dignity and is leading a life in his own way, neither he is burden nor he creates any problem for others. He is very silently and patiently sitting beside road at a fixed place on fixed days is collecting the alms for his life. We have to nothing but to pray. The Old Cumberland Beggar because he has got a strength even in an old age and is alive.

Next to "The Old Cumberland Beggar" Ruth Shall be taken up for discussion to focus light upon the attitude of the poet towards miserable character. Ruth is a result of an account of hearing about wanderer of Somerset Shire. The poet delineates the suffering of a girl Ruth who is deserted by an American youth as well as her father. The suffering of Ruth starts from the time her mother dies exactly at the age of seven years and her father
makes her more miserable after marrying a second wife. She leaves home and becomes a vagrant and is found wandering over hills and dales. In this way she grows up and becomes an object of the love of a wild American youth who has crossed over to England after the American war of Independence-

"When Ruth was left half desolate,
Her father took another Mate;
And Ruth, not seven years old,
A slighted child, at her own will
Went wandering over dale and hill."42

The story of Ruth enables to remember the story of Vaudracour & Julia where the falling of love with an unknown person and a stranger is injurious and unfruitful. Wordsworth has suggested in the poem that the houses of both, lover and beloved should be in the same state. They should not be having racial and cultural differences.

The story meets an unhappy ending because the marriage between unknown lover and beloved is not accepted by their families. Here in Ruth he finds the same thing coming into light
because an American youth, during his stay in America has been influenced by the tumultuous, irregular and violent manifestations of the Nature in the wild tropical regions as a result he has become irregular, passionate, losing all self-control and the nobler aspirations of the soul. He is a slave to low desires and every effort for making an improvement is useless-

"The slave of low desires;
A man who without self-control
Would seek what the degraded soul
Unworthily admires."\(^{43}\)

The misery of Ruth found increasing further when the good mind of youth changes completely and he is dull and keeps an unrestrained life. He deceives Ruth and silently sails to America-

"Meanwhile, as thus with him it fared,
They for the voyage were prepared;
And went to sea-shore,
But, when they thither came, the Youth
Deserted his poor Bride, and Ruth
Could never find him more."\(^{44}\)
Ruth in this way is left in a precarious condition and deplorable plight. This undoubtedly is an unbearable condition for Ruth whose miseries are increasing by leaps and bounds. As a result she loses her senses and moves about; She is shut up for a time in a lunatic asylum. She after sometimes is released after showing the signs of recovery. Ruth is singing the songs of sadness in the prison. She also has forgotten the sun, the rain, the dew, she does not even remember the month of May or other months. Ruth has passed three seasons in the Asylum under a miserable condition and thereafter her releasement she becomes vagrant and is trying her best to find a shelter and her bread.

"-- Such pains she had,
That she in half a year was mad,
And in a prison housed;
And there, with many a doleful song
Made of wild words, her cup of wrong
She fearfully caroused.
Yet sometimes milder hours she knew,
Nor wanted sun, nor rain; nor dew,
Nor pastimes of the May;
- They all were with her in her cell;
And a clear brook with cheerful knell
Did o'er the pebbles play.
When Ruth three seasons thus had lain,
There came a respite to her pain;
She from her prison fled;
But of the Vagrant none took thought;
And where it liked her best she sought
Her shelter and her bread. 45

She completely becomes of Nature and starts breathing again in the fields, dales, valleys and woods. She enjoys a free life after coming to the banks of Tone where she takes rest. She is leading a lonely life under the greenwood tree and the sufferings had certainly made her bold and vigorous. She loves vernal leaves too much and is always keeping a harmony of affection towards them. She is always living under the greenwood tree because she is homeless. She has become a true daughter of Nature and is passing her days in her lap. The journey of her life is passing in a hopeless condition. She is going out on the road whenever she wants food or is suffering from hunger. She goes to the door side and starts begging alms from the horsemen travellers-
"Of mind, than body's wretchedness,
From damp, and rain, and cold.
If she is prest by want of food,
She from her dwelling in the wood
Repairs to a road-side;
And there she begs at one steep place
Where up and down with easy pace
The horsemen- travellers ride".46

Ruth, although is suffering from poverty and misery yet she is making her loneliness full of happiness. She is keeping a flute of hemlock stalk and is always found producing music especially for the comes and goers. The woodmen also are attracted towards the music and the poet himself has been enchanted. The songs and the music although are there yet the unhappiness of Ruth is endless. She has wept and mourned. Ruth is a happy child in the beginning of her life but becomes ill fated and the last phase of her life is more unhappy and pitiable.

"The Affliction of Margaret" is to succeed "Ruth" in which we find the attachment of the poet to the human hearts that often live too deep for tears. The poet William Wordsworth takes into account the case of a poor widow of Penrith Town who
consciously or unconsciously is always inquiring about her son. She is very often found asking to the passers-by about her son - who is absent and no news has come to her for the last seven years. She has got doubt enough about the life of her son and thinks something unnatural about her son. She is also considering about the death of her son and also about the lying of his- dead body into the grave which he takes to be a bed for him somehow or other she wants to be assure of his life situation and ultimately wishes him to be in a good condition, it is certainly too much surprising for a mother to have received no news from the only child. She is always dwindling and shaking between two extremes of life and death-

"Where art thou, my beloved Son,
Where art thou, worse to me than dead?
Oh find me, prosperous or undone!
Or, if the grave be now thy bed,
Why am I ignorant of he same
That I may rest; and neither blame
No sorrow may attend thy name?"
The poem presents a picture of pining of the mother who certainly has been missing her son for last seven years. So for as her son is concerned he is well born, well bread and has been an object of commendation. His qualities have been of parexcellence. She is also waiting for the appearance of her son's ghost even he is dead. She wants to satisfy herself even by hearing the death news which will bring an end of her suspicion. She is confident of the innocence of her son. She is not to believe in the negligence from the side of her son. Whatever may be the reason she is always curious to welcome her son.

The mother has passed many unhappy days but she has never lessened her love for the son. She has got a belief about the nature of her son who in any way can not desert her mother. He shall always be providing a kind help in the time of unhappy conditions. She tells the moving story of her life which she has passed by shedding tears constantly like dew drops. She has wept many times in a lonely way and no body was able to know that she is too much sad about the loss of her son. She also advises her son not to feel sad about his mother because she is fully satisfied in her miseries. He should take no consideration about which she is keeping with her. She does not like to achieve worldly grandeur, worldly honour and also worldly things which a man is always trying to keep with-
"I've wet my path with tears like dew,
Weeping for him when no one knew.
My son, if than be humbled, poor,
Hopeless of honour and of gain,
Oh! do not dread thy mother's door;
Think not of me with grief and pain;
I now can see with better eyes;
And Worldly grandeur I despise,
And fortune with her gifts and lies."^43

The mother many times thinks to fly up to her son which she can not do because she is enchained by the time. She thinks as if she has been imprisoned in a cell or she is kept in lion's den or is drowned into the sea. Her expectation is that the ghost of her son shall visit her if he is dead because the appearance of ghost is an assurance of death of him. She is keeping with fears of many kinds and even the rustling of leaves and floating of clouds make her tremble with anticipation of something turning up. The whole poem makes such view that no body is properly realizing the depth of her heart.

William Wordsworth who undoubtedly is superior in describing the miseries, sufferings, unhappinesses of human beings has excelled here again in describing the hopeless
condition of Margaret. The analysis of the poem indicates that Margaret's miseries are unending and no limit. An analysis of Mother's heart which is filled by uncertainties regarding the fate of her only child, the tearing between her motherly pride and motherly affection can come only from William Wordsworth who has seen human beings from the eyes of Nature dwelling not on accidents of temperaments and disposition which create difference between man and woman, but on those qualities of humanity where Man and Nature touch and blend together.

However the mother does not leave the idea of herself and she is constantly waiting for him from day to night, she in this respect is found longing infinitely. The memories which come to her and the questions which are present in her heart they are always unanswered. She ultimately finds a affinity in the circumstances and situations which are present round her. She is requesting to the natural phenomenon to come to her and also to enable to herself, it is because she does not have an earthly friend excepting the shadows, the clouds and others.

William Wordsworth has often been found taking interest in the solitary a lonely character. It has been an enchantment for the poet to take into account. The solitary figures living far away
from the touch of human beings, it is generally found that the main cause of captivation towards the lonely character for the poet is there alienated dwelling. The Solitary Reaper undoubtedly focuses a light upon the theory of Wordsworth's poetry but at the same time it is describing the inclination of the poet towards a girl reaping the field. The poet presents a lonely figure of a girl who is performing two activities simultaneously, she is reaping the corn in the Highlands and singing a sad song.

William Wordsworth idealizes the Solitary girl and also her song. He at the same time comments that her song is more musical than that of a nightingale or the Cuckoo. He further advises a passers-by either to stop or to pass gently and in this way he hopes not to create any disturbance in her Song. The melancholic song is overflowing the whole of valley and the comparison of that song can be noted that such a song has never been heard before:

"BEHOLD her, single in the field,
Yon solitary Highland Lass!
Reaping and singing by herself;
Stop here, or gently pass!"
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,
And sings a melancholy strain;
O listen! For the vale profound
Is overflowing with the sound.
No Nightingale did ever chaunt
More welcome notes to weary bands
Of travellers in some shady haunt."

It must be kept into mind that William Wordsworth is striking a democratic note so far as the theme of the poem is concerned. He selects a simple peasant girl who stands as the subject of his poem. This is something new in English poetry because the poets in the eighteenth century are mainly concerning with town life and cities. They have never written about the common man.

William Wordsworth who has always been interested in republicanism and democratic way of thinking, has selected here a Scottish girl to become a heroine of poem. It is very much concerning to the democratic feelings of the poet. He sometimes has also commented that he chooses incident from humble and common life as themes for his poems. William Wordsworth takes into account the importance of the Solitary Reaper's song which
certainly has been of great influence. The poet also is not able to understand the theme of song because he guesses its theme in his own way. He is also making a comment that whatever may be the theme, the poet is mainly concerning to the sadness of the sad song of the reaper-

"Will no one tell me what she sings?  
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow  
For old, unhappy, far-off things,  
And battles long ago:  
Or is it some more humble lay,  
Familiar matter of to-day?  
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,  
That has been, and may be again?  
Whate'er the theme, the Maiden sang  
As if her song could have no ending."50

William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy have made many roamings in the countryside and have met many reapers singing while they are at work. This is taken into account by his sister in her diaries and other manuscripts. William Wordsworth
sees such a reaper with a sickle in his hand and stands motionless. He after sometime goes ahead and climbs up the hill with the music of the song which he can not hear after sometime-

"I saw her singing at her work,
And O'er the sickle bending;
I listened, motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more."
REFERENCE


2. Ibid. p. 104, l-1.

3. Ibid. l-2.

4. Ibid. l-4

5. Ibid. l-5.

6. Ibid. l-7

7. Ibid. p-104, ll. -6-12.

8. Ibid. p-104, ll. -16-17,

9. Ibid. p-104, l-33.

10. Ibid. p.-104, l-35.

11. Ibid. p.-104, ll.- 42-46.

12. Ibid. p.-105,ll 76-77.

13. Ibid. p.-105, l-83.

14. Ibid. p.-105, l. 90.

16. Ibid. p.-105, l.-78.

17. Ibid. p.-105, ll-110-116.

18. Ibid. p-105-106, ll-131-139.

19. Ibid. p-110, ll. 455-466.

20. Ibid. p-110, ll. 467-475.

21. Ibid. p-110, ll. 476-482.


23. Ibid. p-156, ll. 110-112..

24. Ibid. p-157, ll. 121-126.

25. Ibid, p-157, ll-129-140.


28. Ibid. p-23, ll. 262-270.


32. Ibid, p-25, ll. 442-450.

33. Ibid, p-26, ll. 469-477.

34. Ibid, p-26, ll. 505-513.

35. Ibid, p-26, ll-545-549.


43. Ibid, p-154, ll. 153-156.
44. Ibid. p-154, ll. 187-192.


46. Ibid. p-155, ll. 233-240.


48. Ibid. p-92, ll. 34-42.


51. Ibid. p-230, ll. 27-32.