THE PREFACE

With respect to his the treatment of Nature, Man and Soul, the aim of the present study is to analyze the poetical works of William Wordsworth. William Wordsworth is one of the most distinguished poets of the Romanticism and he is regarded as a great poet of Nature. He is well-known for his distinct theory of poetry, and poetic diction as well. In his poetry he imparts great significance to the use of common language. His innate love of nature leads him to love of man. He depicts how man has destroyed nature in this commercial and industrial world. The impact of French Revolution instilled in him the feeling of love of man. His all poetical works are woven with the theme of Nature and Man that is thought provoking and inspiring for young scholars. It emphasizes that we should not leave nature and we should live life naturally in her company.

The present study is brought into the final shape after personal visits to libraries, and research centers, having literary interactions with scholars, seeking guidance of professors and after critical analysis of the several relevant research papers, reviews, books and other available relevant study material.

The first chapter of the present work interprets poet’s major works along with social and literary ethos of the age. It attempts to describe prevailing social and literary tendencies and traces the influences which played a vital role in making up the mind of the creative artist in the long course of his life. It also presents scenario of French Revolution, several movements and various social literary ups and down and changes in the contemporary society. To achieve this end, the chapter is divided into two sections the first section presents an introduction to the poet and his
works and the second section deals with the spirit of the age i.e. socio-cultural and literary milieu.

The second chapter deals with poet’s theory and function of poetry. He defines poetry as ‘a spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion in tranquility.’ He emphasizes that the language of poetry should be the language spoken by common people in the simplest sights of life and nature.

The third chapter deals with Nature in which it has been delineated how the law and power of nature controls the universe and all activities of human world; how his childhood days were spent in the midst of beautiful sights and sounds of nature and how his love of nature passes through various stages. He addresses the spirit of Nature both as a rejoicing Spirit and as a teacher of the mind and heart. Moreover, he advocates that man lives happier and healthier in the midst of nature. He regards Nature as a great source of love, power and inspiration.

This chapter discusses in detail all the four stages of development of his love for nature. The fourth chapter deals with man in the poetry of Wordsworth. Here an attempt is made to show that Man has always been at the centre of creation but always fallen from God’s grace due to his own faults. Man and nature are part of the same cosmic design. Nature is crowded with animals and other lower creations but their great variety and ingenuity are testimonies of the creator’s wonderful power. His poetry throws light of the influence of Nature in the form of moral and spiritual value on the mind and personality of Man. Nature, of course, may dominate, but “the still sad music of humanity” is never ignored. A close study of Wordsworth poetry reveals the poet as a great democrat
who rejoices in singing the songs of day-to-day life of poor and common community. He endorses his belief in the basic goodness of man.

The fifth chapter presents a study on the treatment of Soul in the poetry of Wordsworth. In this chapter, the nature of the universe whether alive or dead, mechanical or organic whole, chaos or cosmos with or without a divine power, nature of soul and Wordsworth’s concept of spiritual reality are discussed at length.

The sixth chapter concludes the whole study and sums up the presentation of poet’s theory of poetry and diction along with depiction of Nature, Man and Soul in this poetry. On the basis of above study, an attempt is made to evaluate poet’s achievement and his vision of life.

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