

Tribhuvan University

**Far from the Maddening Crowd in the Selected Poems of William Wordsworth**

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled,  
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**Letter of Approval**

This thesis entitled "Far from the Maddening Crowd in the Selected Poems of William Wordsworth," submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, by Suman Raya, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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## **Abstract**

The research work projects the concept that human happiness and wellbeing depends nature's wellbeing. Wordsworth goes far from the maddening crowd and employs nature in his poems and demonstrates how human beings engaged with nature leads to pleasure and knowledge. The major idea of this research is to examine how nature is the source of life that brings harmony, joy, inspiration of life to sorely humanity. Examining through ecocritical perspective, this research takes into account the importance of the reciprocal relationship between man and nature as the major constituents of a vast ecosystem and helps the readers grow ecologically and achieve tranquility in an era suffocated by technological pollution. The research comes to the point that it's the interconnectivity between nature and human beings that gives harmony and solace to already maddened humanity.

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## **Introduction: Far from the Maddening Crowd in the Selected Poems of William Wordsworth**

The present research focuses on the issue of nature and human happiness. Wordsworth's poetry deals with the theme of man's relationship with nature. The inherent bond between human beings and nature is the core of his poetry. He uses nature as a source of human happiness and knowledge. For him nature is not simply a background for his poetry, but a central character in his poetry. Behind this depiction of nature and human relationship, there lies a deep ecological awareness in the poem.

William Wordsworth, one of the distinguished poets in the early nineteenth century England belongs to the Romantic Movement in literary canon. Being a key figure in the Romantic Movement, he is specially known for his love of nature and his poetry also resonated with deep philosophic questions regarding nature and human relation. Although often viewed as a nature poet, his poetry is not simply concerned with scenic and descriptive evocations of nature, but also with the issues of man, human nature and man's relationship with the natural world.

Historically speaking, M. H. Abrams in his book *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition* mentions that "the publication of the *Lyrical Ballads* in 1798 heralded the dawn of Romanticism in English poetry, and replaced the old and strict theory of poetry of the neo-classical age" (Abrams 45).

Different factors are responsible for this giant literary movement, Romanticism, like the French Revolution, reaction to neoclassical tendency to limit literature to the sublime use of language and refined poetic styles, the rationalization of nature, the age of Enlightenment and its objective conception of human existence, etc.

Wordsworth was the central figure in the English Romantic revolution in poetry.

Wordsworth expressed different ideas in his poem concerning poetry and creativity, thought and imagination, nature and life, childhood and growth and the universal soul in the nature which later became the recurrent theme in romantic literature.

Harold Bloom in his book *The Visionary Company: a Reading of Romantic Poetry* mentions:

Industrial revolution, French Revolution and changes in economy had altered the country by the time that Romanticism arose in Britain in early nineteenth century and many people had moved into cities for the purpose of work, which led cities to become congested and overcrowded. (30)

According to him modern men in the city madly indulged in materialistic gain resulting in their lack of concern for nature and humanity. In this sense, the city life turned to be just a maddening crowd. City's people's quest for materialistic gain excited their minds far too much and dulled their ability to think clearly. They became irrational and slowly loosed the ability to make the rational decision and end up forgetting the human's ever existed relation with nature. Regarding Wordsworth, Diches in his book posits that "Wordsworth's poems foster a sense of nostalgia for the times in which nature was more accessible and imagines of being in the lap of nature where he gets solace and joy" (46).

John Purkin in his book *Wordsworth* claims that "Wordsworth's poetic ideology and basic philosophy of life were influenced by Rousseau's idea of essential dignity of peasants and go back to nature" (Purkis 171). Nature, in his view, opens people's eyes; especially of those who are shut up within the walls of cities, to the beauty of this gloomy universe and opens their hearts to its divine message. He feels that Nature has a healing capacity and it is the cure for all sickness; therefore human beings should live in tune with nature without indiscriminate destruction of natural entities. Therefore, he goes far from the madding crowd and aims as a poet to seek for beauty in meadow, woodland, and the mountain top, and to interpret this beauty in spiritual terms. He returned for his material to the beauties of external nature and to the simple life of the peasants, hill-dwellers and cottagers who lives far away from



artificial civilization of maddening crowd, and in close association with nature. The attachment between man and nature is indispensable for the sake of survival. This is the central thrust of Wordsworth's poetry.

Nature to the romantics do not only mean the sights and sounds of God-made nature but it also meant that 'elemental simplicities of life' (Diches 50). Wordsworth prefers natural life over urban life. Therefore, he regards nature as a home where he can find security, certainty and surety for safety. Wordsworth introduces man as close friend of nature and in most of his poems he puts himself in the heart of nature. Man can take distance from the commotion of the industrial society and retreat to the peace and safety of nature based on the theme of return to nature, because nature has always been a safe haven for man. The Nature becomes a friend to him and a subject of human value. People develop inseparable tie to nature, and that connection sustains their physical, social and emotional wellbeing.

Representation of physical environment in literature has been a significant tradition in Wordsworth's poems. The healthier the land community, the happier and more harmonious human survival is. Bate in his book *Romantic Ecology: Wordsworth and the Environmental Tradition* claims that "human and the non-human elemental world of nature, the two entirely distinct ontological zones, have been brought together and intermingled in the poems of Wordsworth" (45). In his poems, there is a 'bio-centric vision of nature along with its focus on horizontal relation' (Glotfelty IX) of all the entities of the biosphere. Whether for utilitarian or aesthetic, religious or spiritual base, bio-centric value focuses on nature having its own right to be protected and promoted, and creation of harmonious relation among its all ingredients. In this concept not only the soil, rock and stone but community of plants, animals, humans live together on harmonious relation respecting one another's existence. Containing the bio-centric vision of nature, Wordsworth's poems help to establish a culture of

respect to non-human world. If the interconnection between human members and non-human members is understood, it can heal the wounds human have caused upon her.

Wordsworth formulated an innovative and in many respects original way of understanding the natural world; therefore, nature was envisaged no longer as a passive object, but regarded 'nature as organism' (Bate 50). As a result, nature starts to be taken as an animate being, animals, trees, plants, even stones and stars are as much active inhabitants of the universe as man himself having its own capacity to produce and reproduce. Human is no more regarded as conquer over nature entities but just a part of the ecosystem where all elements namely: biotic and a biotic are treated with equal importance. He advocates for the harmony between human and non-human elemental world therefore he is considered as a nature poet.

In *Preface of Lyrical Ballad* poetry was defined as the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings which takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility" (444). He recollected what he called 'spots of time' (Wordsworth 456) and interpreted them as illuminating the meaning of life and experience. In doing so, he especially focuses on how the nature was playing its part to develop the personality that he has become. Spiritual feeling of the human being is seen in his poetry. The distinction of Wordsworth lies in the fact that to him, Nature was not mere physical loveliness, but a revelation of God. He worshiped Nature, because he saw in all natural spirit of the Supreme Being. To him varied forms and phenomena all are manifestation of nature. He realized to love nature is to love man, who is part and parcel of nature. Nature is the great teacher and healer for him.

Wordsworth relies on nature as a source of imagination, and creativity leading to joy. His poems amounted to a fresh view of the organic relation between men and natural world where change in one element of nature affects whole natural system. For instance, the environmental degradation appears in proportion to human encroachment of nature and non-human world.

Pantheism is persistent topic in the poems of Wordsworth. He glorifies nature in his poems and mostly exhibit pantheistic views. He believes that if the God has created this universe, there must be presence of God in the things which he has created. For him, life source is present in all objects in nature, both biotic and abiotic. His poetry thus differs from Neo-Classical Great Chain of Being, idea where all forms of existence depend on an organized hierarchy. The critic Diches advocates that “technically romanticism marked the beginning of tremendous backward urge: backward towards the pantheistic, musical centre of spiritual radiation” (97). Thus, Wordsworth being the major figure of the romantic era, his poetry is therefore related to the polytheistic views of religion in which nature is considered as sacred with Gods present in every natural element. He saw in it a reflection of universal spirit of God that shows his pantheistic view in nature. Nature for him was all in all, a religion and the source of life that brought health, joy, peace, inspiration of life to sorely tired humanity.

Wordsworth as a poet of nature escapes the maddening crowd and goes in the world of nature, to get away from the realities of life. He employs natural landscape far from the maddening crowd in his poems as a remedy to a diseased world and shows how nature heals, nurtures and restores the soul from the enervating effects of industrialism and materialism. Thus, this research travels around how human far from the maddening crowd in the company with nature gets the happiness and joy. Nature remains as the source of human happiness and the notion of respect for nature becomes the soul concern in his poems. It hovers around the question that what connection does exist between human beings and nature as speaker in Wordsworth’s poems frequently advocates for return to the nature? In what sense does Wordsworth consider nature to be source of happiness? Why does he escape the city and use nature and natural landscapes in his writing?

So, in this research work, an attempt has been made, as Wordsworth frequently chooses to be far from the maddening crowd, to examine the interconnection and interrelation between human world and the non-human elemental world of nature. Therefore, this paper is an effort to analyze Wordsworth's selected poems like: "The Tables Turned," "The World Is Too Much with Us," "Expostulation and Reply," "Lines Written in Early Spring" in the light of ecological study in order to shed light on relationship between nature and man. In these poems, he condemns the act of maddening crowd for damaging the physical beauty of the world and also appeals for maintaining healthy relationship with nature.

### **Wordsworth's as a Nature Poet**

Wordsworth's poems have received a wide range of criticism from different critics. His subject matters are about the incidents and situation of common and rustic lives which are often far from the maddening crowd. In this response, E. Albert argues in the following way:

Regarding subject, Wordsworth declares his preference for incidents and situations from common life, to obtain such situation, humble and rustic life was generally chosen, because in that condition the essential passions of the heart find a better soil in which they can attain their maturity. (295)

In the words of Arthur Compton Rickett, the poetry of Wordsworth deals with the human beings and the non-human elemental world of nature. He argues, "Looking first of all at the poet's general outlook on life, it will be noted that he is concerned especially with two things nature and man" (308). In that sense Wordsworth becomes frustrated to see the broken bond of nature and man and goes far from maddening crowd with the aim of reestablishing nature- human relation.

Wordsworth believes that he helps to bring this soul of nature closer to man that he could show how exquisitely the external world is fits to the individual mind

and the individual to the external world. Wordsworth always wants to highlight the point there is always amalgamation nature's soul and human soul. Nature is also a living entity, and there is a harmony between human beings and nature. The theme of nature-man interconnectedness is explicit in the poem "It Is a Beautiful Evening" where Wordsworth relay the message that in childhood one is innately connected to nature and united with its present moment and natural surroundings.

Jonathan Bate, in his book *Romantic Ecology: Wordsworth and Environmental Tradition* presents his idea on Wordsworth. He posits:

William Wordsworth sought to enable his readers better to enjoy or to endure life was by teaching them to look at and dwell in the natural world, such a proposition sounds unexceptionable: most people know the fact about William Wordsworth, that he wrote about Daffodils and that he in the lake district, and these two facts would seem to suggest that he was a nature poet. (4)

Jonathan Bate analyses the poetry of Wordsworth from the ecological point of view. Wordsworth's love for nature reflects his ecological awareness. Nature is the ultimate place for human expression, and conservation and promotion of natural beauty shifts into the conservation of ecology itself. The theme of ecological harmony and holistic unity between biotic and abiotic domain is found in the poem "The World Is Too Much With Us" where poet condemns maddening crowd for being 'out of tune' (8) with nature and appeals them to live in harmony with nature without indiscriminate destruction of natural objects.

Regarding on Wordsworth's view on nature some critics show their point of departure and reject Wordsworth's ecological stand as a mediator between human and nature. They claim that Wordsworth emphasizes on human imagination relates him to anthropocentrism which places human being above non-human being. In this regard, H. Bloom identifies Wordsworth as a poet of imagination not of nature. In *The*

*Visionary Company: A Reading of Romantic Poetry*, Bloom suggests that “the theme of the Wordsworth poetry is the nature of poet’s imagination and imagination’s relation to external nature” (40).

In this manner some of the critics tend to focus on the Romantics’ stress on human imagination to counter their celebration of nature and demonstrate human mind and imagination above nature. In contrast Wordsworth’s poetry shows the departure from Bloom’s idea and depicts human imbeddedness in nature. Wordsworth creates a mutual relationship between man and nature and rejects any hierarchy by creating symbiosis between biotic and abiotic world. For this view of Bloom on Wordsworth, Bate counter argues and claims:

The New Historians are in habit of reading text under the influence of Marxism; in so doing, they turn to history and ideology: the 1980s witnessed something of a return to history, a move away from ahistorical formalisms, among practitioners of literary criticism. (2)

The ideas of ecological harmony and holistic unity between human being and nature are pervasive in his poetry. He condemns the crowded cities and appreciates Nature, and by doing this, he apparently encourages ecological equality and environmental protection. McKusick maintains that “Wordsworth is not only one of the founders of English Romanticism, but had a vital influence on and contributed to the fundamental ideas and core values of the modern environmental movement” (11). His withdrawal to the natural landscape, rural area , and doing away with the tumultuous life of the technological society play such an important role in his being known as an ecological critic. In *Romantic Ecology*, Bate argues that “Wordsworth’s interest in the non-human i.e. nature, is a conservative ideology which is a quest for a harmonious relationship with nature” (19). Thus as an ecocritical reading of Wordsworth, as a worshipper of nature, his poetry is a form of advocacy for another, which is felt to be unable to speak for itself.

In this context, William Wordsworth has been widely studied from different perspectives. The present study, however, will make an attempt to analyze the poetry of Wordsworth on the basis of ecological principles to show his intimate relation with nature and the ecological awareness in his poems. Before delving into the main discussion, a brief history and application of ecocriticism school of thought are provided for better understanding and proving the claim.

Generally, ecocriticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the natural environment. The issue of the ecocritical emergence is quite recent as ecocriticism was officially heralded by the publication of two seminal works, both published in 1996: *The Ecocriticism Reader* edited by Cheryl Glotfelty and Harold Fromm, and *Environmental Imagination*, by Lawrence Buell. Indeed, even the term ecocriticism can be dated to the late 1970s. In this regard Buell argues that “the roots of ecocriticism precede modern and Romantic backgrounds: If environmental criticism today is still an emergent discourse it is one with very ancient roots” (2). With the emergence of ecocriticism as a new critical approach in the 1990s, Romantic poetry, in general, and William Wordsworth, in particular, became the icons of ecocritical studies. His views towards nature and man’s treatment of nature have supported his position as an important icon of ecocritical studies.

### **Ecocritical Sensibility and Wordsworth's Poetry**

Wordsworth’s poems are ‘ecological’ in theme which provide the modern man, living in a world haunted by materialism and technology, a new lens through which he can see the inseparable relation and harmony between nature and man. The frequent portrayal of natural elements in his poems suggests inseparable nature – human organic bond where they play complimentary role for one another. Nature with its quietness and beauty impresses the human mind and eschews it from evil tongues and worldly drudgery and transforms man from earthly to the spiritual world of

eternal joy. On the other hand human shows his deep respect for nature and takes it as guide and healer in the hour of weariness.

Due to technological advancement and industrial progress, life of early nineteenth century urban life had become complicated and corrupted. In the name of modernization, exotic wilderness was turned into concrete jungle and people became self-centered. Though small numbers of people were fulfilling their vested interest out of that chaotic situation, mankind at large were suffering and they had fallen from their paradise of innocence and bliss. In such situation too, Wordsworth saw divinity in the man who lived in the company of nature and led simple life. Nature represented to him as a remedy for all the evils which are plaguing mankind. In this respect, Wordsworth echoed Rousseau's and subsequently, the Romantic belief that a reversion to the original state of nature would create a formative influence on man and restore his original status and happiness. In other words, whenever he is troubled and dejected by crowd of city, he goes far from the maddening crowd to nature in search of solace and eternal joy. Without nature, he is reduced to a mere mortal, and a very poor creature. In the company of nature he finds more for the real happiness and wellbeing of man rather than in crowded urban life. Wordsworth stood more for real happiness and well-being of mankind as a whole and tried to reveal the interconnectivity between man and nature.

In this research paper, I have discussed Wordsworth's poems on the ground of attaining and maintaining harmony and 'organic unity' with nature and human beings. For the purpose of this research paper, the reference will be made, to a groups of critics includes Jonathan Bate, Harold Fromm and Cheryll Glotfelty who have made some efforts to pursue Wordsworth's works. The study also focuses on the ideas of ecocritics such as Kroeber and McKusick as those critics who support Wordsworth's ecological position as a mediator between human being and Nature.



In his poems, Wordsworth shows his concern in favor of protecting nature by talking about its status quo and any upcoming threats from human and technological structures which supports Bates' argument that "poetry is the place where we save the earth" (283). William Wordsworth uses completely new approaches of seeing, responding and comprehending the nature and he brings together the distinct ontological zones: human and nature, these two zones reflect as the organic vision of nature in his poem "The World is too Much with US." This poem reflects on eco-friendly image far from the maddening crowd in order to concentrate on various aspects as beauty, solitude and spiritual guide and source of life of human nature relationship. Similarly, it is as a moral guide, can give consolation during the critical hours of frustration, depression and anxiety. Nature appears to be a transforming force which empowers human being with creativity and knowledge. But at the same time he seems quite worry towards the modern science and technology and ignorance of natural world which give emphasize to materialistic and utilitarian world. Which makes isolate and selfish to people and they take nature as material source and their profit. Therefore Wordsworth claims through this poem, modern people lose the connection with nature and they are fragmented. Thus, he feels the urgency to reestablish the human-nature broken bond and takes himself far from the maddening crowd, in the company of nature.

In this poem "The World is Too Much with Us," Wordsworth argues that we do not care the beauty of nature even though our life is too short. Further he provides some reasons not to care the beauty of nature, is that modern human's mind is occupied by money and material things rather than beauty of nature. An ecocritic McKusick in his book *Green writing: Romanticism and Ecology* states:

The truth is, men have lost their belief in the invisible and believe and hope, and work only in the visible . . . only the material the immediate practical not a divine and spiritual, is importance to us" (20).

Likewise Wordsworth also argues that modern human beings engage with material world and habituate scientific invention, lose spiritual their connection with divine power that is nature. Wordsworth states that, in today's world of modernization and technology, man's values has replaced by money. Modern man remains busy in calculating profit instead of worshipping the beautiful and good things in life, nature being one of those things.

In the sonnet he argues that human nature is preoccupied with "getting and spending" (2), to which pursuits we have "given our hearts" (4), is connotation of the mannerism of human being who are much more concerned with profit and loss than feeling and sentiment. Further "we are out of tune" (8) with nature, we do not appreciate the beautiful sea which "bears her bosom to the moon" (5) or howling winds that "are up-gathered now like sleeping flower" (6). Therefore poet opposes the modernization and the concept of modern people's towards nature.

The first thing comes to mind upon reading these lines is Wordsworth's clear disenchantment to "the world" (1) which is too much materialistic, and poet's deep knowledge and connection with the nature and natural events like the moon shining over the ocean and the blowing of the strong winds. The second thing is why speaker pays attention to such minute details of his surroundings and care about them? The logical answer is that these things are all a part of speaker's instinct, in other words, nature is perceived in his personality. Speaker is so much resonated with nature that he can predict slight impending changes in the nature. He wants creates harmonious relationship with animals and his environment; therefore, he is a part of nature. Throughout the poem, speaker is the symbol of peace and harmony. From an ecological perspective human beings are to create a symbiotic relation with nature so that it benefits all sides, that is to say, man is a member but not a ruler, his existence depends on all parts of ecosystem, the same thing speaker does toward animals, humans and nature.

The view of the speaker in the poem agrees with Kroeber's ecological view that "Ecocriticism keeps faith on bio-centric vision of nature along with its focus on horizontal relation of all the entities of the biosphere" (112). Bio-centric value focuses on nature having its own right to be protected and promoted, and creation of harmonious relation among its all ingredients. In this concept not only the soil, rock and stone but community of plants, animals, humans live together on harmonious relation respecting one another's existence. Thus containing the bio-centric vision of nature, Wordsworth's poems help to establish a culture of respect to non-human world. If the interconnection between human members and non-human members is understood, it can heal the wounds human have caused upon her. So Wordsworth runs far from maddening crowd as hard as he can, to preserve the organic bond of ecosystem.

With the word "world," poet refers to the society-the social sphere from where he wants to scape far away in the company of nature. Speaker is upset to see people oblivious of the fact that human and nature are interrelated. People in the "world" are absorbed in consumerism and they are no longer are supposing them as part of nature. The poem's tone of complaint continues as the speaker describes a rift between humanity and the nature. Speaker is a representative individual who shows concern for nature. On the other hand maddening crowd of the modern industrial city has no knowledge of natural events and their surroundings. They exploit the rural environment to provide them with income and their role in the world is that of violator of ecosystem in a sense of creating discord between nature and humanity which causes humanity "out of tune" (8) with natural. He further says which means humanity and nature are alienated from one another. So maddening crowd's act in the society distorts the ordered pattern of natural life. So, he argues that modernization and scientific invention are filthy achievement because human relation is limited only within commerce.

Being a romantic poet, Wordsworth valorizes nature and criticizes the modernization and innovation. Further he says that nature provides the ultimate good on the human mind. He emphasizes the importance of nature to an individual's intellectual and spiritual development. According to him a relationship with nature helps individual connect to both the spiritual and social world. Love of nature can lead to a love of human kind, as ecocritic, Jonathan Bate claims, "physically and psychologically human beings are influenced by nature" (45). But now modern human being forget natural and spiritual world and they detach themselves from the nature. Humanity's innate empathy and nobility of spirit becomes corrupted by artificial and materialistic notion. In contrast, people who spend a lot of time in nature retain purity and nobility of their soul. But question can arise, is human being detach from the materialistic world? Can they escape from the toxic modern science and technological world?

"The Romantic ecology reverences the green earth because it recognizes that, nether physically nor psychologically can we live without the green things" (Ramazani & Bazregarzdeh 4). It means our life is totally depended on nature so, without nature we cannot imagine our existence. Therefore, Wordsworth suggests consuming the beauty of nature but we should not forget to respect and conserve it. Similarly Bate argues that "A respect for the earth and skepticism as to orthodoxy that economic growth and material production are the be- all and end- all of human society" (9). Here Bate and Wordsworth seem similar in the case of consume and respect of nature. But here poet seems quite worry due to the modern human's activities.

Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers,

Little we see in nature that is our

We have given our hearts away, a sordid boom! (2-4)

These lines show how much poet is upset with modern men's neglectful treatment of nature. The phrases "getting and spending" and "sordid boon" show how human beings are occupied by materialistic concept. Here "sordid boon" refers to our filthy scientific achievement which has made polluted to nature. So, Wordsworth accuses the modern age of having lost its precious connection to nature and everything that can bring meaning to this potentially constructive relationship. He feels that nature has a healing capacity and it is the panacea for all ailments; therefore human beings should live in tune with nature without indiscriminate destruction of its objects. He bewails the cruelty of man to nature in the poem which elaborates the theme of modern man's indulgence in "getting and spending" resulting in their lack of concern for nature.

As the earth centered approach, ecocriticism assumes that human knowledge begins with earth on the Vedic attitude of relation between man and earth. Raimindo Punikarm claims "Earth is the foundation of the basis out of which emerges all the exist on which every things rests" (Punikarm 120). Ecological reading helps to establish a culture of respect to non-human world. If interconnection between human members and non-human members are understood, in many ways it can heal the environment wounds human have inflicted up it. But human beings forget the earth and have trod generation to generation. An ecocritic Glotfelty states:

We are facing the global crisis today not because of how are ecosystem functions but because of how our ethical system functions. Getting through the crisis requires understanding our impact on nature as precisely as possible but even more it requires understanding those ethical system and using the understanding to perform them. (Glotfelty XXI)

His dissatisfaction over man's indiscriminate assault on Nature makes him say: I would rather be /A pagan suckled in a creed outworn; (9-10). Wordsworth's

conviction is that the pagans had greater respect for Nature than the urban men. He desires to be a pagan and thus shapes and renews his reverential attitude to Nature. Rickett, in this regard, claims that “Apart from the sanctifying touch of Nature, men and women are poor creatures to Wordsworth” (311). For Wordsworth, farther we travel from Nature, the paltrier we become. Preservation of nature becomes all the more important because it keeps human beings pure and enhances their moral, ethical and spiritual prowess. Respect to Nature dissuades people from polluting and destroying it. In this way, Wordsworth projects his deep ecological awareness in his famous poem “The World is Too Much With Us.” In last two lines he stands in a “lea” overlooking the “sea” and elaborates on those potential glimpses:

So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,  
 Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;  
 Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;  
 Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn. (11-14)

This connection between natural life and the speaker reinforces the claim concerning Wordsworth’s ecological consciousness and that how Wordsworth draws our attention toward the sympathy and loyalty of animals as if they are human. Thus, Wordsworth’s escape from maddening crowd and the move towards nature can be considered one of the first few attempts to attract the attention of mankind towards the endangered ecosystem as Worster claims:

A search for holistic or integrated perception, an emphasis on interdependence and relatedness in nature, and an intense desire to restore man to a place of intimate intercourse with the vast organism that constitutes the earth” (82).

Wordsworth locates man and nature in an intricate web to find out solace in the desolate world. The modern world is the world of suffering, tragedy, frustration, alienation and fragmentation as expressed by Eliot in his poem “The Waste Land”

behind this consequence, technology has the great role that encourage the people violate the harmony with nature and exploit it for endless material gain. In this way, Wordsworth advocates for the harmony between human world and nature thus projects his deep ecological awareness the poem “The World is Too Much with Us.”

There is a significant role of the Romanticist poets, especially Wordsworth, in the ecological awakening of human beings as Bate claims:

Wordsworth remains the founding father for a thinking of poetry in relation to place, to our dwelling upon the earth who has tried to bridge the gaps between human beings and nature and reestablish the broken bond. (205)

A good example of the emphasis on the interconnectedness of human being and nature is Wordsworth’s “Lines Written in Early Spring”. Wordsworth places the speaker in the middle of nature and shows that nature is right and loyal to human being in its turn and it is man who should take the blame for the broken bond between him/her and nature. Here, Wordsworth is in favor of protecting nature by talking about any upcoming threats to natural world from human and technological structures as ecocritic Kroeber claims, “Wordsworth in this poem, shows a romantic antipathy toward society, and celebrates in contrast, the uncorrupted nature of nature” (41).

In the poem Wordsworth shares troubling awareness that human have reached the age of environmental limits, a time when the consequences of human actions are damaging the planet's basic life support systems. This awareness sparks a sincere desire to contribute to environmental restoration as ecocritic Donald Worster argues, “We are facing a global crisis today, not because of how ecosystems function but rather because of how our ethical systems function” (113). So here, Wordsworth resembles Worster’s opinion that getting through the crisis requires understanding our impact on nature as precisely as possible, but even more, it requires understanding those ethical systems and using that understanding to reform them.

The poem "Lines Written in Early Spring" starts with lines describing the persona in a relaxed condition, in a calm natural landscape. He is enjoying the tranquility and peace he finds in the harmony of all elements of nature, where "thousand notes" are "blended" to make a harmonious one and interestingly this sound runs through the persona and fills him with joy and exuberance, I heard a thousand blended notes/ While in a grove I sate reclined (1-2). According to Garrard, "wilderness has an almost sacramental value: it holds out the promise of a renewed, authentic relation of humanity and the earth, a post-Christian covenant, found in a space of purity, founded in an attitude of reverence and humility" (59). Wordsworth's description of the landscape is in line with the concept of Garrard's wilderness, an undisturbed wild environment where speaker hears thousand blended notes.

The wilderness is represented as a place with a special significance, a place of healing and redemption. This serenity and sacramental value of wilderness preserve up to the point where human respect non-human world. For Bate, "Wordsworth values a world in which people live in rhythm with nature" (23). This rhythm is quite felt in "I heard a thousand blended notes" when Wordsworth expresses his ecological ideas on the representation of Kroeber's saying "The instinctive act of humankind is to stand and listen, and learn how the trees on the right and the trees on the left wailed or chanted to each other in the regular antiphonies of a cathedral choir" (23). Moreover, Worster claims, "if ecocriticism has taught us anything, it has taught us to view 'settings' not just as metaphors but as physical spaces that inform, shape, and are shaped by cultural productions" (21). In this way, the poem celebrates the harmonious symphony of nature but all of a sudden sad moments from the very first lines disturb the joy. While persona is enjoying the dynamic nature, a bunch of sad thoughts attack him and fills him within sorrow, "In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts/ Bring sad thoughts to the mind" (3-4). What disturbs the sweet moments of affinity with nature is the thought which is produced by maddening crowd and the



way crowd has been corrupted by so called modernization; therefore, poet believes that nature and its monolithic structure can restore this affinity and finally he escapes to the natural world. As Bate claims that “humanity only survives in nature,” (22) Wordsworth too argues that people who live in the company of nature are happier and content which emphasizes upon the interconnectedness of the human being and nature.

According to ecocritical view point there is an eternal bond between nature and human where the existence of one is unimaginable without another. Glotfelty claims, “There is always organic unity between man and nature. Man is a part of nature affecting it and affected by it” (48). The following lines best speak the idea that nature is linked to humanity through the very idea of soul that nature’s soul is not that different from humanity, and that, although it has been forgotten by the rest of the world, it is man’s natural state to be close to nature. This idea resemble to the idea of Bate that “to be close to nature is man’s innate state” (55). Though man creates harsh and harrowing effect in the nature, at the end it’s in the company of nature far from the maddening crowd that man gets joy and solace. In other words nature always bestows her favors upon man despite man’s disrespectful treatment of her and disturbing the ecosystem.

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 man? (4-8)

These lines can support Wordsworth’s ecological position as a poet of Nature and serve as a justification for the union of the above-mentioned critics who rely on Wordsworth’s contributions to the rise of the ecological awareness of human beings. As a whole, the views of the aforementioned critics highlight Glotfelty’s view that “survival depends upon man’s ability to change himself rather than his environment

and upon his ability to accept limitations rather than to curse fate for limiting him” (169). Thus man should maintain the harmonious relation with all the biotic and abiotic elements in the ecosphere which makes the earth livable place for all the species.

He notices that not just man but birds are also happy in the company of nature. He says that everything they did was "a thrill of pleasure" (14). Even the blooming bushes seem to have this same pleasure. The poet continues his description of the spring air breathed by the beautiful roses and the happy fly of the birds in the spring sky. No matter how melancholic someone feels, they can find comfort in nature as Mckusick asserts, “for Wordsworth the growth of the human mind is completed only when Nature “entices the brooding soul out of itself, toward nature first, then toward humanity” (128). For him, Nature is an inspirational force which gives him joy and happiness.

And 'tis my faith that every flower  
 Enjoys the air it breathes  
 But the least motion which they made,  
 It seemed a thrill of pleasure. (11-14)

All over the nature, the poet finds the dynamic nature controlled by a sublime soul spreading through all its members, “And I must think, do all I can /That there was pleasure there” (19-20). In the poem the speaker presents the nature as a living being, in the movement verbs used “trailed” (10) for periwinkle, “breathes” (2) for flowers. Wordsworth’s use of personification and imagery throughout the poem, again, make the relationship between man and nature more vivid and to the point which reveals Wordsworth’s concern with nature. Wordsworth does his best to create the idea of a living, breathing world that is only a fraction removed from humanity. As a result, nature starts to be taken as an animate being, animals, trees, plants, even stones and stars are as much active inhabitants of the universe as man himself having

its own capacity to produce and reproduce. Here view of Wordsworth resembles with Goltfelty's view that "nature is no longer regarded a passive object to be envisaged but regarded 'nature as organism' (X). Ecocritics formulated an innovative and in many respects original way of understanding the natural world, as a result, nature starts to be taken as an animate being, animals, trees, plants, even stones and stars are as much active inhabitants of the universe as man himself having its own capacity to produce and reproduce. Human is no more regarded as conquer over nature entities but just a part of the ecosystem where all elements namely: biotic and a biotic are treated with equal importance.

Although intoxicated by the dominant joy of this natural scene, once more the poet remembers the distance man has with nature due to the technological lifestyle and the consequential indifference man has got from mechanical lifestyle toward nature:

If I these thoughts may not prevent,  
 If such be of my creed the plan,  
 Have I not reason to lament  
 What man has made of man? (21-24)

Throughout the poem, there was an attempt by nature to heal the injured soul of the speaker but at the end, despite the best effort of nature herself, the speaker's spirit is still melancholic and low thus negating the healing effect that Wordsworth claimed nature possessed. "Romantic poetry is the true expression of the nostalgia of human being as a result of man's separation from Nature, or better say, mother Earth (Diches 65). Here, Wordsworth too becomes melancholic and laments on man's immersing in machinery life and his hostility and negligence toward nature.

By the names that Wordsworth has chosen for the title, personification of natural object, as well as the setting in the poem, from an ecological perspective, makes Wordsworth an advocate and lover of nature and the natural world. His

frequent visit to the natural landscape suggests that Wordsworth gets a call for returning to the bosom of nature, an escape from the madding crowd to the idyllic countryside, a description of life in pastoral mode, and a depiction of human's happiness in line with nature.

As the earth centered approach, ecocriticism assumes that human knowledge begins with earth on the Vedic attitude of relation between man and earth. Raimundo Punikarm claims "Earth is the foundation of the basis out of which emerges all the exist on which every things rests" (Punikarm 120). Ecological reading helps to establish a culture of respect to non-human world. Wordsworth increases the ecological consciousness of the human being by emphasizing his/her reliance on nature for survival. In the line with Punikram, McKusick, an ecocritic, makes an argument that "Wordsworth's poetry neither objectifies nature, which makes it touristic detachment, nor advocates the Cartesian mind/body dualism that creates despotism of the eye" (56). The ecocentric world view of Mckusick is found in the poem "Expostulation and Reply" where Wordsworth attacks the objectivity of our conventional ways of knowing, doubting about the possibility of a conversation between man and the natural objects in the world:

"The eye—it cannot choose but see;  
We cannot bid the ear be still;  
Our bodies feel, where'er they be,  
Against or with our will.  
—Then ask not wherefore, here, alone,  
Conversing as I may, I sit upon this old grey stone,  
And dream my time away." (17-23)

The above-mentioned lines highlight Wordsworth's emphasis on the existence of a spiritual and mental distance between human beings and their environment, which stem from anthropocentric views about nature. So, biospheric egalitarianism

rejects all these concepts and asks for man's respectful treatment of nature. A careful reading of "Expostulation and Reply" and "Tables Turned" clearly shows that Wordsworth received the best part of his education from nature. Here, Wordsworth is not recommending an abandonment of books and learning, but is simply urging a restoration of the balance between book-learning and the direct inspirations of nature.

Since the main objective of this paper has been to reveal Wordsworth's attitude towards nature and its relation with human being, his poem "The Tables Turned" is a strong evidence which shows Wordsworth as a believer in the great power of nature to educate human mind. Here, Wordsworth asks his friend to leave his books and come out into the open air, since he can learn more about man and about moral good and evil from the spring woods than from all the sages:

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? (1-4)

In the poem, Wordsworth's requests his friend, whom the poem describes as somewhat unreasonably attached to modern books of moral philosophy, to reject all human knowledge gained through reading books. Wordsworth says that he learned moral law from nature. Observing and learning from nature with an open mind and heart and free emotions is the key to learning. He believed that this universe is pervaded by a Great Mind and this great mind is shared by all human beings. Wordsworth says that those who become aware of the presence of the Great Mind can perceive the essence of things. Wordsworth says that nature nurses and purifies our animal sensibilities and feelings that we receive from our birth. For the poet, the first stage in experience, the beginning of each man's education, is the reception of impressions through the avenues of the senses.

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. (9-16)

He sees a link between human soul and nature and urges “Let Nature be your teacher.” He focuses on nature's relation to man and man's relation to nature. Throughout his poetry, he showed his multi-faceted view of nature by discussing this relationship. To him, nature is a source of education, comfort, moral guidance, and spirituality for man. Wordsworth felt that there is a lesson in every aspect of nature, even in the songs of birds and green meadows. In the company of nature, we rather have "a heart / that watches and receives" 23-32). Observing and learning from nature with an open mind and heart and free emotions is the key to learning. Wordsworth says that he learned moral law from nature. He believed that this universe is pervaded by a Great Mind and this great mind is shared by all human beings. Wordsworth says that those who become aware of the presence of the Great Mind can perceive the essence of things. Wordsworth says that nature nurses and purifies our animal sensibilities and feelings that we receive from our birth.

We might object that an impulse from a vernal wood cannot in fact teach us anything at all about good and evil. However, we find the lines that follow more easily acceptable:

Sweet is the lore which nature brings;  
 Our meddling intellect  
 Mis-shapes the beautiful forms of things;  
 We murder to dissect. (25-28)

In addition to that, he goes on to say that nature is the ultimate source of wealth, health, cheerfulness, etc. and is ready to bestow them on man if only man returns to his/her forgotten mother, nature. Although Wordsworth respects our imagination, he criticizes “Our meddling intellect” (26) and the destruction it causes;

the speaker wants the reader to “Come forth and bring with you a heart / That watches and receives” (31-32).

In the poem, speaker William and speaker’s friend are the embodiments of the two sides of life; the natural and the artificial. Speaker is an advocate of the power nature whereas his friend is attached to artificial things man has created. Speaker’s actions, experiences, and his lifestyle are so much interwoven in his environment that he is considered as a traditional man and this traditionalistic behavior, as Wordsworth shows in the 19th century, is a call for returning to the peace once man had with nature. From an ecocritical point of view, he is “a fair product of nature” (Bate 55). Speaker’s character has no hard boundaries but is always in flux; always a product of relations with whatever surrounds him. His exceptional skill in hearing, his fair and humane treatment of the nature along with his knowledge of the weather makes him the lover, supporter, and symbol of nature. Speaker is so much endowed with nature that he sees life in natural objects. The poem’s tension between city and country is exemplified most pointedly in their conversation. Although speaker is an educated and proud man, he is still a simple country man fed on old-fashioned principles.

Wordsworth creates such landscapes that unobserved and obscure objects stand out and the purpose is to remind the reader of the neglected nonhuman views and inspire him or her toward the environmental literacy. The values that ecocritics set for Wordsworth is that “he shows the possibility of nature writing not always in search of stability, not simply hostile to change and incursion” (Bate 60). In other words, Wordsworth does not separate nature and man and the relationship between the two is always fluid and shifting. Unlike his contemporary writers who had chosen a natural setting for their novels through which human actions took place, Wordsworth elevates the role of nature to the level equal to human beings. As is the case with ecocriticism, by illustrating the relationship between man and nature and setting, his characters in line and sometimes to the test with their environments,

Wordsworth urged the readers to attain a need to identify the values ingrained in nature and deal with the environmental problems.

### **Conclusion**

In a world with deep ecological and environmental crises, poems of such great poet as William Wordsworth remind readers of rural, idyllic life where man lived in harmony and accord with his environment. Wordsworth as a Romanticist shows his concern and involvement in the sympathetic relationship between man and nature, man and animal, and man with man are the manifestations of his ecological consciousness. In his poems, the larger portion of the novel concerns the description of nature and rural customs. Wordsworth's eloquent and elegant emphasis on the values inherent in nature and his portrayal of urban life draws a distinction between a pastoral world he wants to live in and the urban society from where wants to scape always. The poet is always longing to live in a local ecosystem in which nature plays a major part in his happiness. Upon reflecting on such a harmonious relationship between man and nature in his poems, readers are ecologically informed of the values of ecological thinking in the hope of respecting and preserving nature.

To sum up, William Wordsworth creates the ecological awareness towards the modern people, who treat nature neglectfully. He contends towards the modern science and technology and modern people's notion over the nature as well. On the one hand he seems quite upset and aggressive towards the modernization and science and technology on the same time through this poem he creates the ecological awareness and even he searches the mutual relationship between modern people and nature. He also suggests consuming the nature but at the same time advises them not to forget their responsibility to respect and protect nature. In this way Wordsworth's poems are able to open the eyes of modern people and make a responsible toward nature from the ecological crisis. Thus, it is not only the inevitable for saving the world from ecological degradation, but also our survival. We can do it only by getting away from



the tendency of materialism and consumerism to start cherishing, conserving and then enjoying nature. Thus, Wordsworth's poetry is a call to reconnect human being and nature and to remind man of his/her reliance on nature for survival. As a result, Wordsworth intends to show the value of survival of human being in nature.

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