

Tintern Abbey

‘Tintern Abbey’ is one of the triumphs of Wordsworth’s genius. It may be called a condensed spiritual autobiography of the poet. It deals with the subjective experiences of the poet and traces the growth of his mind through different periods of his life.

This poem presents the poet's second visit to Tintern Abbey while he specially recollected his poetic idea of the Abbey where he had gone in 1793. Tintern Abbey impressed him most when he had first visited this place. He has again come to the same place where there are lofty cliffs, the plots of cottage ground, orchards groves and copses. He is glad to see hedgerows, sportive wood, pastoral farms and green doors. This lonely place the banks of the river and rolling waters' from the mountain springs present a beautiful panoramic light. The solitary place reminds the poet of vagrant dwellers and hermit's cave.

The poem is in five sections. The first section establishes the setting for the meditation. It emphasizes the passage of time : five years have passed, five summers, five long winters...., but when the poet is back to this place of natural beauty and serenity , it is still essentially the same.

The second section begins with the meditation. The poem now realizes that these 'beauteous' forms have always been with him, deep-seated in his mind, wherever he went. This vision has been

'felt in the blood,

And felt alone the heart ,' that is .

It has affected his whole being. In hours of weariness , frustration and anxiety , these things of nature used to make him feel sweet sensation in his very blood and he used to feel it at the level of the impulse. From this point onward wordsworth being to consider the sublime of nature and his mystical awareness becomes clear. Wordsworth 's idea was that human beings are naturally uncorrupted.

The third section contains a kind of doubt. He doubts, for just a moment, whether this thought about the influence of the nature is in vain, but he can't go on. He exclaims:

'yet, oh! How often amid the joyless daylight, fretful and unprofitable fever of the world have I turned to thee. , for inspiration and peace of mind. He thanks the 'sylvan wye ' for the everlasting influence it has imprinted on his mind.

Though the poet has become serious and perplexed in the fourth section , the nature given him courage and spirit enough to stand these with a sense of delight and pleasure. The poet is able to feel a joy of elevated thought, a sense sublime and far more deeply interfused. He feels a sense of sublime and the working of a supreme power in the light of the setting sun. the poet comes to one important conclusion , for all the formative influences, he is now consciously in love with the nature.

The fifty and last section continues with the same meditation from where the poet addresses his younger sister, whom he blesses and gives advice about what he has learnt. He says that nature has never betrayed his heart and that is why they had been living from joy to joy.

The poet has expressed his honest and natural feeling to nature's superiority. It has the quiet pulse, suggestion of 'central peace' which is felt in all his great poetry. This is the beauty of Wordsworth's language.

End

