

ENGLISH (HONS); Part-I; Paper-II; Unit:-1; POETRY.
TOPIC: "The World is too much with us"; Lec-Series -
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"The World is too much with us"; W. Wordsworth

"The world is too much with us", is a sonnet with romantic flavour, is written by William Wordsworth. William Wordsworth was a pioneer of Romantic movement and "Romanticism" as an artistic and literary movement, is supposed to have begun with the publication of "Lyrical Ballad" in 1798, as a collaborated work of W. Wordsworth and Coleridge. Romanticism offered a rebellion against rationalism and emphasized emotion, imagination, individualism, spontaneity and an appreciation for natural beauty.

In the early 19th century Wordsworth wrote several sonnets blasting what he perceived as "the decadent material cynicism of the time". "The world is too much with us" is one of those works. It reflects his view that humanity must get in touch with Nature to have spirituality. In this poem Wordsworth gives a fatalistic view of the world, Past and future, the words "late and soon" in the opening line of the poem describes how the past and future are included in his characterization of

manhood. The poet knows the potential of humanity's "Power", but fears that it is overpowered by the mentality of "getting and spending". The "Sordid boon" we have "given our hearts", used as an oxymoron, is the materialistic progress of mankind. The detriments. Society has an environment will proceed unchecked and relentless like the "winds that will hawling at all ours." The poet complains that "the world" is too much overwhelming for us to appreciate it, and people are so concerned about time and money that they use up all their energy. These people want to accumulate only material goods, so they see nothing in nature that they can "own" and have sold their souls.

Different from the rational society, Wordsworth does not see nature as a commodity. The line "little we see in nature that is ours" shows that coexisting is the relationship envisioned. The above mentioned line exemplifies the removed sentiment of man for nature, being obsessed with materialism and other worldly objects. The relationship between Nature and Man appears to be at the mercy of manhood because of the vulnerable way nature is described. In poem, "This sea that bares her bosom to the moon", gives the vision of a feminine creature opening herself to the heaven above

The phrase "Sleeping flowers" might also describe how Nature is being overrun ^{by} unknowingly and is helpless.

The lines, "I, standing on this pleasant
lea, a Pagan suckled in a creed outworn,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn",
reveal Wordsworth's perception of himself
in society. He displays romantic individualism
in his declaration that he would rather
be Pagan than lose his attachment to
the glories of nature. He wishes, if he
were a Pagan he would have glimpses
of great green meadows that would
make him less dejected. He would
see wild mythological Gods like a
Proteus and can make many shapes
and Triton who can soothe the
howling sea waves.

Thus, in this poem, we find
the rejection of rational, ordered and
materialistic contemporary society,
and emphasis on the romantic trait
of appreciation of the beauties and
wonders of nature. The poem is in
Petrarchan format of sonnet consisting
Octave and sestet with rhyming pattern
of abba abba cdc dcd.