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Religion, Nature and Humanity: Wordsworth has done it again

William Wordsworth defined the Romantic era with his exceedingly influential poetry. Several key themes in his work made him boost to popularity, and the ones that stand out the most are his blatant indifference toward religion and his divine narrative of nature. In his poems, readers can catch a glimpse into his mind and understand how the turmoil of his time affected what he wrote. Wordsworth's work exemplifies the delicate nature of life by writing about ordinary experiences or people and turns them into incredibly profound poetry. The poets of the Romantic era served the time well but not nearly as accurately as Wordsworth did; his influence created a domino effect and inspired many Transcendentalist poets as well as stirring up curiosity about traditional religious values.

We Are Seven illustrates a clear perspective that Wordsworth had on religion. It does not read as though he was agnostic or atheist in any way, but rather that he put God in a box on a shelf with a sign that says "break in case of an emergency". His relationship with writing about religion seems only to come about when something serious such as death is the topic; it also fluctuates between nature as the main theme in his work. This poem specifically, however, reflects on how Wordsworth does not understand the meaning behind keeping someone's memory alive, or that when someone physically leaves the world they are never truly gone. From this quote by the little girl: "I take my little porringer, And eat my supper there..." (Greenblatt, Lynch; 289), it is shown that the girl would like to keep her siblings in her daily life despite them

not being alive to share a meal with her anymore. This metaphorical circumstance gives the impression that Wordsworth validates the role God plays in the little girl's life but doesn't quite understand the reasoning behind her staunch belief in God. This is because the little girl's faith goes a tad bit deeper than his does; Wordsworth does not know how to equate his standing with his faith because all he knows is basic Christian bylaws (Haney). There is further evidence of Wordsworth's feelings in *We are Seven*, which proves he does not feel much connection to God: " 'Twas throwing words away; for still The little Maid would have her will, ..." (Greenblatt, Lynch, 289). In essence, Wordsworth does not have much reaction to the idea that the little girl says there are seven siblings instead of five; he believes that explaining this to her is futile. It makes perfect sense through reading Wordsworth's poetry that he cannot fathom an actual God. It sounds like he has pre-conceived notions that God was not someone who existed on Earth as he does in Heaven.

One other major theme in Wordsworth's writing is his adoration for nature. *The world is too much with us* is a shorter poem that displays his amazement saying "This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon; The winds that will be howling at all hours..." (Greenblatt, Lynch, 358). The imagery that is described to the audience is significant to Wordsworth and makes the reader empathetic to his message which is to appreciate nature before it's too late. He also mentions the names of other non-Christian gods "Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea; Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn." (Greenblatt, Lynch, 358). This touches on the aspect that Wordsworth was more or less tempting himself to think outside the box and compare other variations of nature coming to be other than his own. This poem also shines a light on the political and social changes of the time, that being post revolution society and industrialization. Many people were moving away from rural areas into larger cities, hence leaving behind the magic that the great

outdoors provided. Once again, Wordsworth supplies his audience with a peek into the past and the effects of being one with the only thing that will not remain constant: the beauty of the world we live in. It's also ironic how Wordsworth wrote heavily about the themes of nature and Transcendentalism. This is because it's widely considered in every religion that God was the creator of Earth and spent several days making the vastness that is our universe. It correlates with the other theme spoken about, and that perhaps this is how Wordsworth attempted to connect himself with God; to appreciate the things that he created and in turn the innate desires and experiences of man (Beyad, Vafa).

In conclusion, Wordsworth inspired a legion of authors from the Romantic era. His work truly encapsulated a time of uncertainty and used its many issues as subject pieces in his literature. Some of the other poets of his time were fantastic as well, but the main reason why people turn to Wordsworth as a representation of this time period is the true passion for his work. It's apparent through his words that he was simply trying to ascertain the same answers that everyone else was searching for, such as what someone's relationship with God means and how can I fully enjoy the world before me. It's impossible to comprehend what a poet means through their work because it's oftentimes meant to be up for interpretation, but Wordsworth wrote in a way that was meant to be definite and questionable simultaneously. It's also timeless in the sense that nothing in this world is for us to understand and that we are all beings of a greater power that has yet to be explained and still that is the absolute magnificence of being alive.

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