

# Poetry By Walt Whitman

May 31, 1819 – March 26, 1892

BY: Prof. M. SAHID English  
Department, Govt. P/G College  
Pattoki. +923087414124

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

By: Prof. M. Sahid GGCP



## **Poetry By Walt Whitman May 31, 1819 – March 26, 1892**

- American Poet, Essayist, and Journalist.
- A **Humanist**, he was a **part of the transition** between **Transcendentalism** and **Realism**, incorporating both views in his works.
  - **Transcendentalism** is a philosophical movement that developed in the late 1820s and 1830s in the eastern United States.
  - Transcendentalism emphasizes **subjective intuition over objective Empiricism**.
  - Adherents (supporters) of this philosophy believe **that individuals are capable of generating completely original insights with little attention and deference to past masters**.
  - It arose as a reaction, to protest against the general state of intellectualism and spirituality at the time.
- At age 11, he left formal schooling to go to work. Later, **Whitman worked as a journalist, a teacher, and a government clerk**.
- He is usually described as either **homosexual or bisexual in his feelings and attractions**.



# Poetry By Walt Whitman

- Largely self-taught, he read voraciously, becoming acquainted with the works of Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, and the Bible.
- Modernist poet Ezra Pound called Whitman "**America's poet ... He is America.**"
- Whitman was deeply influenced by Deism.
  - Belief in God based on reason rather than revelation or the teaching of any specific religion is known as deism.
- **Pride of America**
- **Bard of Democracy**
- Nick name 'WALT'
- Father Walter Whitman
- Representative Poet of America
- Began job **initially as an office boy**
- His brother George was murdered in **civil war 1862**
- It influenced his imagination
- 1865 Abraham Linken's death also influenced his mind



# Poetry By Walt Whitman

- 'Song of Myself'. ...
- 'I Sing the Body Electric'. ...
- 'I Hear America Singing'. ...
- 'When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd'. ...
- 'O Captain! ...
- 'A Noiseless Patient Spider'. ...
- 'Whoever You Are Holding Me Now in Hand'. ...
- 'O Me!
- 'Pioneers! O Pioneers!'
- 9. 'Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking'.

## – Major themes of Walt Whitman's poetry

- Transcendentalism
- Democracy As a Way of Life
- The Cycle of Growth and Death
- The Beauty of the Individual

His poetry is characterized by its expansive and open-ended lines, lack of regular rhyme and meter, and its focus on the individual and the collective experience. Whitman's style is often considered revolutionary and influential in the development of modern poetry.