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Nature in Wordsworth's Poetic Philosophy

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To summarize Wordsworth's view:

Nature is:

- A teacher
- A healer
- A moral guide
- A spiritual presence

Childhood represents the purest relationship with Nature.

Adulthood brings corruption, but memory and imagination can restore lost harmony.

For Wordsworth, Nature is not just scenery—it is a **living force that shapes the human soul**.

Memory and Imagination

Memory → Imagination → Inward Eye

Wordsworth's poetic process can be summarized as:

Memory → Imagination → Inward Eye

Explanation:

1. **Memory**
The poet remembers a past emotional experience.

Wordsworth as a “Worshipper of Nature”

Wordsworth can rightly be defined as a “**worshipper of Nature.**” In *Lyrical Ballads*, he presents the natural world not simply as a background for human action, but as a **living presence** that influences the human soul.

For Wordsworth, Nature is:

- A source of **inspiration**
- A source of **beauty and delight**
- A moral and spiritual guide
- A healing power

Nature is not passive; it actively shapes human character and emotions.

The Beneficial Effects of Nature

According to Wordsworth, Nature has several positive effects on human beings:

1. Nature Comforts a Troubled Mind

Nature has the power to calm anxiety, sorrow, and confusion. In moments of emotional disturbance, contact with the natural world restores balance and inner peace.

For example, in “Tintern Abbey,” Wordsworth explains how memories of nature have comforted him in “hours of weariness.”

Nature acts as:

- A healer
 - A source of mental stability
 - A refuge from social stress
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2. Nature Inspires Elevated Thoughts and Passionate Emotions

Nature awakens:

- Awe
- Joy
- Wonder
- Deep reflection

Through mountains, rivers, forests, and skies, the poet experiences **sublime emotions**—feelings that are intense and overwhelming.

These emotions:

- Refine human sensibility
- Encourage moral growth
- Strengthen imagination

Nature thus elevates the human spirit beyond ordinary life.

3. Nature Connects Man with the Divine

For Wordsworth, Nature reveals a **divine principle** present in all creation.

He believed that:

- God or a spiritual force is immanent (present) in Nature.
- Human beings can feel this divine presence through deep contemplation.

This idea reflects a kind of **pantheism**—the belief that God exists in everything.

Thus, Nature becomes:

- A bridge between man and the divine
 - A source of spiritual enlightenment
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Childhood and the Natural World

One of Wordsworth's most important ideas concerns **childhood**.

He considered childhood to be:

- A state of innocence
- A time of purity
- A period of intense connection with Nature

Children naturally experience and feel unity with the natural world because they are still free from social corruption. In poems such as “Ode: Intimations of Immortality,” Wordsworth suggests that children possess a special spiritual vision that adults gradually lose.

Adulthood and Loss of Innocence

As human beings grow older:

- They become influenced by society.
- They adopt artificial values.
- They lose their spontaneous connection with Nature.

Social conventions, materialism, and ambition weaken the bond between man and the natural world.

However, Wordsworth believes that **memory** can partially restore this lost connection. Through recollection, adults can revive childhood emotions.

The Special Role of Poets and Humble People

Not everyone loses this connection completely.

According to Wordsworth, some people preserve their purity and sensibility:

1. The Poet

The poet:

- Maintains strong emotional sensitivity
- Preserves the childlike sense of wonder
- Understands Nature deeply

The poet becomes a mediator between Nature and humanity.

2. Humble Rural People

Wordsworth admired:

- Peasants
- Farmers
- Shepherds

Because they live close to Nature, they:

- Remain emotionally sincere
- Avoid social corruption
- Experience “elementary feelings” in their pure form