Pantheism and William Wordsworth

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Abstract: A religious theory that may be utilized to construct an Islamic criticism of English literature according to Islamic principles is Wordsworth’s pantheism. Pantheism may encourage academics whose ultimate objective is to understand God via the study of natural objects of the universe found in English literature, despite the fact that it is fundamentally antithetical to God’s oneness. We were therefore enthralled by Wordsworth’s interpretation and comprehension of nature. However, we tried to reconstruct the idea from an Islamic perspective utilizing Quranic text after learning that his idea of God’s partial presence as a being within each natural element violates Islamic monotheism. The romantic poets like such as Wordsworth, Keats, and Shelley in Britain; transcendentalists Emerson and Thoreau in the United States; and Goethe and Hegel in Germany all contributed to the idea’s rise in popularity in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It emerged as the preeminent literary form dedicated to praising nature in the nineteenth century. Philosophers and poets from all eras and stages manifest pantheism in a variety of languages.

Keywords: Pantheism, William Wordsworth, Keats, transcendentalists, Philosophers.

Wordsworth has a deep and passionate love for humanity. He was a daring transformer. Like other important Romantic poets, Wordsworth felt that the creative imaginings are inextricably linked with a strange vision into an invisible sequence behind apparent things. He yearned for something more comprehensive and rewarding than the known world. He attempts to communicate more than the words generally allow. The external universe has a soul that is separate from man’s soul. Man cannot resist coming into contact with this soul. Nature shapes us and impacts our existence and thinking from the moment we are born. Nature was his source of inspiration. Nature lifted him out of his daily routine and introduced him to the astonishments of widespread spirit found in every item of Nature. As a result, Wordsworth himself notes that poetry awakens the mind from its slumber and leads it to the beauty and grandeur of the world before us. ‘Prospectus’ (39) was written in 1798 and first appeared in The Excursion (1814). Prospectus is a form of prospectus for The Excursion’s overall model and
possibility. Its term implies a connection between Nature and human existence. The poet is the lone spectator, and he claims that his head is filled with clean, beautiful ideas devoid of melancholy.

Before delving into Wordsworth’s pantheism, we need first review the definition and historical context of pantheism. As we all know, pantheism is a theological philosophy theory frequently adopted by a group of poets and literary artists who believe that God exists everywhere in nature. Pantheism is the belief that the Universe (Nature) and God are the same thing. Pantheists reject the concept of a personal, anthropomorphic, or creative deity. The term comes from the Greek words pan, which means “all,” and theos, which means “God.” As such, pantheism refers to the belief that ‘God’ is best understood as a process of responding to the Universe. Despite differences, the core principles present in virtually all variants of pantheism are the Cosmos as an all-encompassing oneness.

The Prelude’, Wordsworth’s renowned poem, was published in 1850, albeit the distinct portions were composed at separate dates. His wife Mary Wordsworth added the subtitle “The Growth of a Poet’s Mind” to the poem. The poem was written as an introduction to a longer philosophical poem titled The Recluse.’ The poem is a blank verse literary epic with a conversational and natural tone. It is a chronicle of his poetic personality as well as his existence. Its remarkable value is its creative portrayal of nature. According to Wordsworth, nature creates a cosmic order in which the material and moral worlds coexist.

‘The Prelude’ accurately portrays this pantheistic belief. The poem describes in great detail the major events in his life, including his upbringing, boyhood, university days, and trips to the Alps, London, and France.

It’s like a individual history. It is the representation of the past in the present-day. The impact of ‘Nature’ on the poet’s developing psyche is vividly shown. It is nothing more than a philosophical investigation into the truths of each day life and the innate alcoves of the heart. The poem’s focus is not his life, but the “making of a poet.” Wordsworth describes the tale of his inner existence from boyhood until 1798, the year of the Lyrical Ballads, in it. The first and second books of The Prelude deal with the poet’s early love of Nature and the development of his awareness. Books III, IV, and VI are about his time as a student at Cambridge and his trips to France and the Alps. The fifth book is about literature and education. He mentions London in Book VII. Book VIII discusses the relationship between man and nature, while Books IX, X, and XI discuss the influence of the French Revolution on him. Book XII, XIII, and XIV deal with imagination, which connects humans with the Divine.

The poem “The Tables Turned” (98), composed in 1798, is a continuation of “Expostulation and Reply,” which was released in Lyrical Ballads the same year. These poems developed from a talk with a buddy who was overly devoted to current ‘Moral Philosophy’ literature. Though the tone and atmosphere of Wordsworth’s poem are
anti-intellectual, the poem portrays ‘Nature’ as a Preacher and Teacher. According to Wordsworth, nature freely grants and drops on us wisdom, serenity, blessings, and so on! Nature’s wisdom is more genuine and permanent than anything else, even information gained from books. Nature, according to Wordsworth, is a moral philosopher. The poet thought that close interaction with Nature may provide insight. He opposes dogmatic and mechanical intellectualism. Wordsworth appears as the “Worshipper of Nature” for the first time at Tintern Abbey. There are other poems that reflect his firsthand experience of country life with its charms and tribulations, but this is a particularly amazing work in every respect.

The poem’s major topic is the poet’s relationship with Nature and his debt to her. Tintern Abbey’ displays the poet’s comprehensive attitude to Nature. Nature, he claims, endowed him with tranquillity, calm of concentration, and the most essential supernatural understanding. It takes a philosophical approach. Wordsworth expresses his feelings after revisiting the river Wye.

He returned after a five-year absence to record the changes and impressions. He recalls his earlier visit in 1793 and paints the beauty along the Wye River’s banks. It’s a sight of profound calm and simplicity. Despite the absence of human sounds, the smoke wreaths imply the presence of gipsies or hermits. The brook is whispering as it rushes. Nature’s beauty and shapes have alleviated him of his concerns. This is a crucial lyrical phrase in the poem because it indicates that he has felt a ‘presence’ of vibrant spirit in Nature, which has filled him with the thrill of exalted thinking. The magnificent sensation is inextricably linked to the sinking sun, the round ocean, and the living air. Wordsworth boldly declares that he is adept at recognising Nature as his shepherd, the protector of his heart and soul, and his entire moral being.

For him, the deeper significance of nature represented a soul that all people shared. Since it is a single spirit that includes everything and manifests both inside and outside of man, it is incorrect to distinguish it from the words of the senses. Just as one may learn the exterior qualities of nature through senses, one can also uncover its interior features through pleasure. The phrase “soul of all my moral being” should be interpreted as the way that nature’s moral life is expressed in man; it is sensually conveyed when we pay attention to the language of the senses and very delicately whenever our flesh goes into repose and we get a glimpse of nature’s inner self.

The topic of lyrical pantheism is explored in this poem, and the allusions to his sister Dorothy in the subsequent section have drawn criticism and study. Other scholars have interpreted Wordsworth’s poem differently since it is considered significant to his poetry and ideas. The poem has several important passages, including “Connect the landscape with the silence of the sky,” “sensations gorgeous thought in the blood and in the heart and passing into my purer thought,” “tranquil restoration,” “the blessed mood,” “the power of harmony,” “the profound power of joy,” “the haunting, sounding cascade,” “Humanity’s song,” “aching delights,” “dizzy raptures,” action, and a spirit that disturbs me with the thrill of exalted thinking.” The notion of ‘Samadhi’ in the Eastern
philosophical tradition is plainly apparent in these sentences. The idea of ‘Samadhi’ refers to a state in which everything is tranquil and silent, even the sound and motion of one’s breath. Wordsworth describes this as “the breath of this corporeal frame.” This is nothing more than the poet’s totally pantheistic experience. This principle underpins all of his poems. He is certain that there is a life, a spirit in nature that enters flowers, trees, rivers, and the moon, giving everything a life of its own. The spiritual understanding of the cosmos is what distinguishes Wordsworth’s poetry. One recalls the lyrics from ‘Tintern Abbey’ here:

“A motion and a spirit, that impels
All thinking things, all objects of all thought
And rolls through, all things.” (Bill Scott)

One of the final poems to be released in Lyrical Ballads Vol. 1 I (1800) was "Michael" (119), written in 1800. It is a pastoral poem that describes a shepherd's story. Wordsworth made it his mission to compose poems about the common people, including Matthews, Ruth, Margaret, the shepherd, the beggar, the leech, and the gatherer. He found that they were inherently simple. One of the characters who held special meaning for Wordsworth was Michael. Readers are affected by the poem's melancholy. Arnold claimed that nature seems to have taken Wordsworth's pen and written for him using only her own naked, unadorned, piercing force. "Nature" is now an essential aspect of who He is. Nature was a favourite of William Wordsworth. He saw it as a healing energy. This poem is a good picture of its historical period since it shows how many people ignored nature and the difficulties and lives of people throughout the Romantic period. William Wordsworth was a nature lover who enjoyed the solitude and tranquilly of nature. Nature served as a healer, nurse, teacher, and guardian to him. Since he had always appreciated nature's striking hues and surprises, he was deeply moved by the natural world and her miracles. Pantheism is the ideology that believes in nature as a divine mirror, and that every item in nature reflects God. Wordsworth was a mystic poet who wrote in a variety of styles. He felt that Nature was a manifestation of God. We may see significant ties between man and nature in Wordsworth’s poetry. Nature is his major source of inspiration. His philosophy of conveying a profound appreciation for nature sets his paintings apart. His love for it has no bounds. Wordsworth reportedly walked up and down a long path while writing his poetry, immersing himself in the beautiful tranquility surrounding him.
References:
