

Iqbal and Wordsworth's Advice to Modern Youth

MOHAMAD ISMAIL MIR*¹ AND AJEET SINGH²

¹Research Scholar and ²Supervisor & Professor

Department of English, Mewar University, Chittorgarh (Rajasthan) India

ABSTRACT

The beauty of nature can remind the consuming generation a true peace which it had received from its forefathers, who lived in the world of nature with peace and harmony. Iqbal and Wordsworth's poetry can save these youths from disharmony which is so common among them. The psychological disorders have crop up among the people in modern times, the reasons could be many but it has been observed that people have detached themselves from the world of nature. The present generation may discuss academic questions in a better way which may increase their reasoning abilities but their scope of imagination would not be so productive in this age of science and technology. This paper will prove that even today Iqbal and Wordsworth's poetry can change thinking and outlook of the modern youth, who have lost their way in this 'quick changing world'.

Key Words : Nature, Peace, Youth, Psychological disorders, Imagination, Generation

INTRODUCTION

Main Argument:

Nature sharpens ones imagination. Imagination which is dying in this age of science and technology can be revitalized in the world of nature. The children who are away from nature are less imaginative than those children who live close to meadows, green fields, hills and river banks. The displeasing sounds all around cannot inspire younger generation to appreciate nature and its beauty, though they may desire to live far away from their respective busy cities. The way Iqbal and Wordsworth wanted their readers to enjoy nature, may not be possible for those who spend most their time with laptops, palmtops and android mobiles. Their eyes may enjoy the beautiful photos but according to Iqbal and Wordsworth their soul can't enjoy the real beauty of nature.

The birds around me hopp'd and play'd:

Their thoughts I cannot measure,

But the least motion which they made,

It seem'd a thrill of pleasure.

(Lines written in early spring, 13-16)

Similarly Iqbal like Wordsworth says in *Zarbi*

Kaleem (Stroke of Moses):

School has blind folded your inner eye,

*The secrets are open in deserts and mountains in
solitude*

(Stroke of Moses)

The present generation may discuss academic questions which may increase their reasoning abilities but their scope of imagination would not be productive. If by chance they happen to visit world of nature, their brain would not unlock much unless they shun their artificial intelligence and try to learn the secrets of nature. According to Iqbal and Wordsworth one moment which is spend in the world of nature may give them more than fifty year of reason.

Books! tis a dull and endless strife,

Come, hear the woodland linnet

(The Table Turned.9-10)

Iqbal writes in *Zarb-i-Kaleem* (Stroke of Moses):

Books have made you so passionless,

*Even in morning breeze, you do not find rose's
fragrance*

(Stroke of Moses,pg.547)

The busy world has imprisoned the 'thinking faculty' of young brains they talk about only material world and

its gains, and how to get a high pay job, how to eat pizza and Macdonald. If the purpose of knowledge gaining is only for bread then according to Iqbal it is a poison for the youth. If the youth surrenders to eating and sleeping and if their aim is only ,in the words of Wordsworth and Iqbal, 'getting and spending' then they are doomed. They are unaware about the spirituality and the sources which strength it. Both the poets advise them in their own way, Wordsworth says:

*The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:
Little we see in nature that is ours;
We have given hearts away, a sordid boon!*
(The world is too much with us 1-4)

Iqbal says in 'Stray Reflections'

*All the wonderful booklore in your library is not
worth one
glorious sunset on the banks of the Ravi.*
(Stray Reflections,pg.26)

Today it being observed that the elders of the families advise the consuming generations to spend more time with the books, no doubt a compromising thing, but nature can teach them more than books; particularly than those books which teach them only materialism. Nature opens our inner eye. It sharpens our intellectual capabilities and teach us how to live peacefully with other human beings; respect for humanity and how to become peace ambassadors on this earth. No scientific book can tell them the above lessons of life, it is only the book of nature which teaches the everlasting lessons for the welfare of human beings as a whole. Nature fills pleasure in our hearts, which has a direct, and unconscious effect on body and soul. The body and soul live happily and in complete integration in the company of nature. No such integration of body and soul is possible in this material world according to Iqbal and Wordsworth. The youth can't measure the amount of peace and pleasure which they can enjoy in solitude. Wordsworth shares his belief and experience with these people and he says:

*for oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.*

I wandered lovely as a cloud, 19-24)

Iqbal and Wordsworth have true relevance even

today the way it was at their times. Both the poets wrote pulsating verses which can guide the youth who engage themselves in futile things. One must not think that science is 'first and last' thing in one's life. No doubt man has explored the space extensively but he has failed to recognize himself, he has failed recognize his inner world according to Iqbal and Wordsworth. The misuse of scientific knowledge by so called peace ambassadors of the world has jeopardized the human existence. Wordsworth writes in 'The Borders' that " *Conflict must cease, and in thy frozen heart/The extremes of suffering meet in absolute peace*". Human life is at stake because of these superpowers; they preach humanism but never respect its values. Millions of people are killed due to armed race. The use of deadly weapons around the world has made life a hell to live on this globe. Wordsworth's pulsating verses in 'The Tables Turned' has a lot to say about our times, he says:

*Sweet is the lore which nature brings;
Our meddling intellect
Misshapes the beauteous forms of things;
We murder to dissect.
Enough of science and of art;
Close up these barren leaves;
come forth, and bring with you a heart
that watches and receives.*

(The Tables Turned 25-32)

The beautiful gardens, big mountains, and flowing streams impart lasting nobleness to the people while as transitory things of city life dehumanizes its inhabitants. Iqbal firmly believes in action, he hates sluggishness from the youth. Nature can open new horizons for youth if they learn how to live in its meadows, gushing streams and rivers, and Iqbal says:

*Read the lesson of truthfulness, justice, bravery
again,
You will be given the tusk to lead the world.
This is the aim of nature, secret of submission,
Universal brotherhood and world full of love.*
(Kuliyati Iqbal,pg.267)

*In another place he says:
I fear that the age you are born to
Is steeped in the body and cares little for
the soul.*

(Javid Nama,pg.207)

F.S. Khan in "Wordsworth as a Restorer of Human Dignity" endorse the philosophy of Wordsworth in her

own words:

For Wordsworth, moral values are essential in creating peace and harmony in any society. They (nature) promote positive and constructive conduct and discourage destructive behaviour. Life in an immoral society is extremely difficult because human values are ridiculed - - - In the materialistic world, everything is bought and sold for money, even the spiritual values are converted into cash. Pursuit of wealth prevails everywhere and man is completely ignorant of his spiritual side of existence

(Khan, 2012, P.100)

If modern youth learns how to spend their time in nature, they will realize that nature can teach them the important lessons of life like steadfastness, action, patience, harmony, respect, and devotion towards humanity. Wordsworth says in *The Tables Turned*:

*One impulse from a vernal wood
May teach you more of a man,
Of moral evil and of good
Than all the sages can.*

(*The Tables Turned*, 21-24)

Iqbal in 'A Wish', wishes to have a small place at the foot of a mountain. The humdrum of cities made Iqbal sick at heart. He wants to go to a place where:

*Where the chirping of birds gives the pleasure of
music,
And the spring's murmurings are like an soothing
piano.*

*Where my arm is my pillow, and the grass my bed,
And where solitude puts company to shame
Where the view of the mountain is so charming
That the water itself jumps up in waves to take a
look;*

*Where the green grass lies asleep in the earth's lap,
Nightingale of evening and the flower of the dawn,
I am his companion, may she be companion.*
(A Wish, 5-16)

Wordsworth further says in the same poem that one should make nature his/her teacher because nature has a lot of 'world of ready wealth' and nature can bless our minds and hearts. He says:

*And hark! How blithe the throstle sings!
And he is no mean preacher;
Come forth into the light of things,
Let nature be your teacher.*

(*The Tables Turned*, 13-16)

Conclusion:

Iqbal and Wordsworth, no doubt, have different cultural background but their poetry is full of guidance and advice for younger generations. They taught their readers a new way of looking at life and nature; they divorced the 'bookish way of living'. They believe that real human beings are developed in the company of world of nature who are combination of thought and action. When a person spends sometime in the company of nature, he develops a sort of communion with it. His inner eye opens up and he sees what his inner wants to see and relish. His spiritual intensity enhances in nature, which gets mortified every passing moment. Both the poets remind mankind that materialistic pursuits are not the most important thing in life. They believe that youth can create a paradise on this earth with their efforts provided they know how to live in nature and strengthen their own personalities. Both the poets were inspired by a burning zeal to rescue youth from materialism and all that is evil in man. They believe that youth will build this world a living paradise in future. Their poetry is full of these messages which they want to infuse among the youth, so that they could lead peaceful and happy life.

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