

## THE INTENSITY OF FEELINGS WITH NATURE IN WILLIAM COWPER'S *GOD MADE THE COUNTRY*

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### Abstract

William Cowper was one of those poets who struggled between Romantic and Classical ideals .He was a blend of the old and the New, with much of the form of the old and something of the spirit of the new. His description of nature is vivid and accurate and written from direct observations. He anticipates Wordsworth in his love of nature. His poem shows how deeply and sincerely Cowper loved nature. His observation of nature was very minute and he gives us exquisite picture of nature in his poetry. We can see the true picture of nature in Cowper's poetry because he always feels nature with true emotions. *God Made The Country* is the concluding passage of Book I of long poem entitle The Task and consisting of six books. The principle object of Cowper's in writing this poem, however fight against a growing tendency of the country folk to migrate to towns. Cowper tried to make country life look attractive and alluring by depicting character scenery and imaginary. It was his professed aim to discourage or dump the popular enthusiasm for London life and to recommend rural ease and leisure. In his own words, His Purpose was "to discountenance the modern enthusiasm after a London life, and to recommend rural ease and leisure as friendly to the cause of piety and virtue"

**Key words:** The country-the countryside; village, etc, Town-city,

William Cowper was one of the most famous poets of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. His poetry contained the seeds of Romanticism. He is in fact a blend of the old spirit (classicism) and the new spirit (Romanticism).In the poem *God Made The Country* he says rural scenes and rural joys were created by God, but towns with their pleasures are the work of man. Health and virtue can flourish only in the country (village).The moonlight, the woods, the music of birds are the special charm of country side. The pleasures of Town life have a demoralizing effect of a nation.

In the poem we can see the Cowper's deep love and respect for the life of the villagers and the lovely and quite landscape of the village. In the poem "God made the country" the poet feels that the villages are God made while the Town is man made. Growing in a natural way the villages have prosperity and perfection which town can never have. Thronging light on the virtue of the village life the poet asks the town dwellers to get rid of the town and adopt the simple and everlasting pleasure of the village's life. Cowper believe that nature has soothing effect on the human mind also links him with Wordsworth:

Our groves were planted to console at noon  
The pensive wand'rer in their shades...

Again he shows in this passage a wordsworthian distrust of town life with its mischievous pleasures. The pleasures to which town people give themselves up, says, Cowper, will lead to the ruin of the British empire by demoralizing the British Nation.

There is a public mischief in your mirth..

Like Wordsworth, Cowper believes that virtue and sincerity are possibly only in connected with Nature.

In the poem the poet feels that the villages are God Made and the town and cities are man made. So there should not be any wonder if the health and virtue, which are the gifts of village life, make the bitter drought of life sweet.

The village's posses them in abundance and they can never lose them as they work and remain in the fields and groves. The town –dwellers who move in chariots and sedan do not get tired but they feel idleness and they also fail to enjoy the beauty of the nature.

By such art of invention, they may still have energy in them and so they look smiling, but villagers have no mind to harm anyone. The groves were planted to give the laborious villagers peace at noon under their shades .in the evening the moon beams, which slide softly between the sleeping leaves ,give them the light as much they need.

The birds in trees present sweet present sweet music through their warbling the villagers can spare, the splendor of the town can spare the splendor of the town dwellers, but the town dwellers eclipse the softer light of the villagers the gramophones songs confounds the more harmonious notes of the birds in the villagers .As such getting seared the thrush departs and being offended the nightingale keeps dump. God's relation to nature in Cowper's philosophy is quite interesting and paradoxical.

In the first part of the poem God made the country Cowper says:

God made the country ,and man made the town  
What wonder then that health and virtue, gifts  
That can alone make sweet the bitter draught  
That life holds out to all , should most abound  
And least be threaten'd in the fields and groves  
(Lines 1-5)

In this first part of the poem we can see the true feelings of poet's heart. He presents the importance of country-side people because they have the blessings of God, and that blessing can be feel through the innocence of the villagers people. Town made by the people for the materialistic pleasure of the world

Rural scenes and rural joys were created by God but town with their pleasure are the work of man. It is no wonder, therefore, that virtue and good health. Blessings which alone can console us amidst the misfortunes of the life, should be more durable among natural surroundings in the countryside,

Posses ye, therefore, ye who, borne about  
In chariots and sedans, know no fatigue  
But that of idealness, and taste no séances  
But such as art contrives, posses ye still  
Your element; there only can ye shine;

There only minds likes yours can do no harm.

(lines 6-11)

In the next part of the poem again poet gives severe criticism of town people. He said the town's people ride in chariot and sedans. They do not work hard and so they do not know what fatigues. The only fatigue they know is that of idleness because idleness itself becomes tiresome after a time. Again these townspeople do not get the chance to enjoy and sights except those which are produced artificially.

You who are carried about in carriages of sedan –chairs, who feels tried only of your own idealness, and who gaze only at artificial beauty, you are welcome to enjoy your pleasures still, and remain in towns which suit your habits. It is only in town that you can appear to advantage; it is only among people as yourselves that you are harmless.

Our groves were planted to console at noon

The pensive wanderer in their shades. At eve

The beauty and the rhythmic melody of the following lines are noteworthy:

“The moonbeams, sliding softly in between

The sleeping leaves, is all the light they wish ( lines 12-16)

Birds warbling the music.” In short, beautiful sentiments find expression in happily chosen word with poet's blank verse of writing.

We can spare

The splendour of your lamps; they but eclipse

Our softer satellite. Your songs confound

Our more harmonious notes: the thrush departs

Scar'd and th'offended nightingale is mute

(Lines 17-20)

Here we can see the beautiful picture of the country side. In the beginning he says the groves in the country-side serve a very useful purpose .At noon –time when the sun is hot, a thoughtful wanders can sit down in the shades of these groves and feel refreshed. Poet also depicts the beautiful picture of moonlight.

Out woods were intended to give comfort with their shades to the thoughtful rambler at noon. At evening the moonlight gilding between the motionless leaves supplies him with all the light that he desires, and he wants no other music than that of the singing birds. We dwellers in the country, do not need your bright lamps because they only hide the milder light of the moon. We do not want your songs because they only confuse the songs of our more melodies birds. The thrush, frightened by your music takes to its wings, and the angry nightingale becomes silent.

There is a public mischief in your mirth;

It plagues your country. Folly such as yours,

Grac'd with a sword, and worthier of a fan,

Has made, which enemies could ne'er have done,

Our arch of empire, steadfast but for you,

A mutilated structure, soon fall

Lines 21-26

In this last part of the poem poet says that the pleasure of town life are very harmful to the people in general .in other words, the pleasure of town produce a bad effect on the nation as a whole are very harmful.

Your gaiety or merry –makings mischievous to the public and troubles your country. Foolish people like you, who carry the sword when they are fit only to handle a ladies fan have done what our enemies could never done; they have weakened our empire and brought it to the point of destruction. Our empire would have been fairly established but for them.

### **Conclusion**

We can see the beauty of villages and the innocence of the countryside people. People in the city only know of the hustle and bustle of modern mechanical urban life. on the other hand country – side live in the soothing silence of countryside, breathe fresh air, eat plain but wholesome and nourishing food, work hard in healthy conditions, and are happy and content. in fact ,it is only these simple rural folk who know what true exertion is, what true appetite is, what true interfere with their environment. They live in harmony with nature. In this beautiful poem Cowper’s says it was god who made the countries as he glorified the beauty of the rustic villages. There was a sweet charm in countryside with lush greenness found everywhere and the sweet song of thrush fills the air with different bliss. However man has destroyed this beauty as the town he has erected is nothing but a concrete jungle with no beauty at all. Thus the country built by God is far more superior to man who made the town.

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