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Characteristics of Wordsworth's Poetry

As Pope is our greatest poet of the town and of artificial life, so Wordsworth is our greatest poet of the country and of natural life. As an interpreter of nature he still holds the first place unchallenged. His love of nature was boundless and his knowledge of nature was equal to his love. He wrote always with his eye 'steadily fixed upon his object' nothing was too small to escape his attention and his controlling purpose was to render with absolute fidelity what he had seen. He has been called and rightly 'the Keenest eyed of all ~~modern~~ modern poets for what is deep and essential in nature' and it has justly been said that in all his descriptions 'every touch is true, not the copying of a literary phrase but the result of direct observation'. yet love

Knowledge and fidelity are not after all the most specific and personal qualities in Wordsworth's nature poetry but rather the profound religious feeling which pervades it. As he shows us again and again in many of his poems in the lines written above Tintern Abbey, for example and the ode on the intimations of immortality nature was for him the embodiment of the Divine Spirit and when he insists that nature is the greatest of all teachers, he means that between the indwelling soul of the universe and the soul of man which is akin to it, spiritual communion is possible through which we may gain constantly in power, peace and happiness.

While however Wordsworth is essentially the poet of nature, he is not the less the poet of man and in what he writes about human life his great

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an artificial comedy of manners.

The end.

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