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لم ترد بالاصل

Symbolism of Nature Imagery in the Poetry of William Wordsworth and Khalil Mutran

A Comparative Study

A Thesis
Submitted to the Department of English Language and Literature
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By

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Introduction

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The relationship between romantic poets and external nature has been the focus of many studies. This thesis also concentrates on the relationship of two poets with nature. However, this time the study deals with their outlook to nature within a comparative context. These two poets are William Wordsworth and Khalil Mutran. Although dealing with each poet separately is nothing new, this thesis is the first academic study to discuss both poets from a comparative perspective. It focuses on their symbolic use of two elements of nature: birds and flowers.

Both Wordsworth and Mutran enjoyed a beautiful birthplace on which their imagination nourished. Wordsworth's birthplace, the northern fringe of the Lake District was, no doubt, a great stimulus to his unique response to the beauty of nature. He loved nature as a boy and considered it a source of "animal pleasures". As he grew up, Nature for him became both mother and healer and the external elements of Nature became part of his own self. A similar fusion is to be found in Mutran. He read the poetry of the French and English poets and avowedly loved their work. His attitude was enhanced by a beautiful Lebanese background - Baalbek, where he was born - which lingered in his memory, as indeed it tends to do in the poetry of numerous Syrian - Lebanese immigrants.

For both poets, Nature ceases to be a mere beautiful appearance. It becomes a symbol of their own ideas and feelings and a means of communication. Theirs is a philosophical rather than a purely aesthetic attitude to Nature - a landmark of the Romantic Movement. Wordsworth and Mutran use two elements of nature more than once; namely, birds and flowers. Although their use of these elements could appear simple or literal, a deeper look will reveal a highly symbolic meaning. Birds become a symbol of freedom, primitivism and nostalgia. Flowers also communicate such ideas as the unity of being, the transience of man's life and oneness with nature a romantic poet feels. Many kinds of birds are recurrently used by Wordsworth, for example, the nightingale, the cuckoo and the stock dove. Mutran uses the sparrow, and the dove. As for flowers, Wordsworth uses the celandine, the daisy and the daffodil, while Mutran uses the rose - more than once, the lily and the violet. Each of these tiny elements of nature ceases to be mere beautiful creature of the natural world. They unveil the poets' ideas and disclose their feelings to the