

## “W.B. Yeats: As A Love Port”

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**Abstract** - Yeats created a world of his own while other contemporary English poets remained caught in the mire of what we may call the disease of modern civilization and culture generated by devastating world war. He has a peculiar yeatsian world where he has dealt with various themes. Yeats wrote a large number of love poems. The romantic poet exalts and glorifies love. For him love is a grand and sublime passion. The early works of Yeats contains a number of romantic love poems. “The Lover Tells the Rose in his Heart” is a beautiful, intensely emotional and romantic poem. Yeats love poetry is substantial and therefore deserves a separate consideration. Yeats was in love with Maud Gonne but did not receive her love in return. A kind of frustration, disillusionment is always there in all his poetry. Sometimes he wants to escape from the real world to some other world. “The wonderings of Oisin” is a poem full of romanticism Yeats poem “When you are old” is concerned with time and beauty Yeats feels a sort of pride because when time will snatch away beauty from Maud Gonne, beauty for which she is boasting and rejecting him, she will find that only the poet loved her with a religious zeal: “But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you.” Yeats feels some satisfaction that even if belatedly, she will realize his loves for her, and perhaps will repent so.

Yeats's love poems were nostalgic and autumnal, with a heavy Victorian odour. The recognition of brute physical energy was alien to the early yeats. During the nineties Maud Gonne was the dominating figure in his life. Fascinated by her beauty and her passion, he also founds in her a rather rude mystical belief akin to his own.

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### INTRODUCTION

Yeats love poetry needs little introduction to any lover of poetry. W.B. Yeats is widely recognized as greatest poet of the twentieth century and as a love poet, his output is equally unmatched for lyrical beauty and elegant language. An influence which undeniably stimulated both his poetic and Irish Obsession, was his fame doomed love for the fiery revolutionary Maud Gonne. He describes many famous beauties in his poem, but mostly all his poetry revolves around Maud Gonne. The poets of the romantic revival had paved the road for ‘Escapism’ for the doctrine of art for the sake of art. His frustration in love and his bitter experience in politics can be seen in his poetry. He wants to escape from this blooded and mire and also the inevitable degradation of the body and seeks a safe anchorage in the Tower, in Byzantium. But his lust for life is also no less intense than his longing to escape and he becomes content to live over again even.

### REVIEW OF YEATS LOVE POETRY

W.B. Yeats lays stress that true love does not see

physical beauty. A person who loves some one truly also love his or her beloved in the old age also. He loves everything that his beloved keeps in her life. Yeats, Shakespeare also gives stress that true love does not alters when it alteration find. His poem “When you are old” Yeats is concerned with time and beauty he says: “But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you.”<sup>1</sup>. This little poem is full of intense feeling of love of the poet for his beloved. The poet has been rejected by her at least twice by now, but he warns her that one day when she will become old and shed all her physical beauty, she will have to repent for his love for her, which is not physical like that of many others, but spiritual. The poem “The Lake Isle of Innisfree” is complex and unsettled relationship between the natural world and the supernatural world. This is a sweet poem, and is almost autobiographical. The romantic strain of the poet is obvious there: his world weariness and longing for an escape. He says in this poem that “I will arise and go now, and go to inns free”<sup>2</sup>.

Yeats had developed a nation of perfect love telling about his idea of love, Yeats says, “I had gathered from Shelly and the romantic poets an idea of perfect love. Perhaps I should never marry in Church

but I would love one woman all life.”<sup>3</sup> But he cannot realize that our world considers this idea of perfect love as outmoded and out dated loyalty and constancy are outworn concepts in our set-up. When he sees his idea of perfect love failing and fading, he comes to quarrel with the world. He creates a world out of space and time for his perfect love. For this reason he wants to escape in some other world from this world. He wants to forget all the tensions and worries of real life.

Actually Yeats poetry is personal to some extent and in this regard, he is quite different from both Pound and Eliot who believed in objectivity of poetry. W.W. Robson writes: “Yeats’ poetry is the record of a personal drama which must be understood as a whole.”<sup>4</sup> “Sailing to Byzantium” in its final is a rejection of this world where the sensual youth holds the sway. Bodily love has been rejected for the soul’s love. The first line, “That is no country for old men”, out rightly rejects the sensual world. That indicates that the process of separation between the old speaker and the physical world is already complete.

Through the physical love, the lovers come to attain spiritual love. Love either of body or of soul is insufficient in itself. It must embody both soul and body, to attain the state of wholeness. But throughout its wholeness, he recognized that “Love has pitched his mansion in / The place of excrement, that ‘Death and life were not/till man made up the whole; that out of all the anger and squabbling of Irish politics ‘A terrible beauty is born.’”<sup>5</sup>

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

There are many literary books that tell about romanticism in Yeats poetry. I have taken Norman A. Jeffares’s “W.B. Yeats: Man and Poet” for more detail analysis of Yeats love poetry. This book tells us about Yeats love for Maud Gonne. I have gone through two or more poets to know about Yeats romanticism like Sunil Kumar Sarkar’s “W.B. Yeats: Poetry and Plays”, John Unterecker’s “A reader guide to William Butler Yeats.” Some material has been drawn from net.

If we compare Yeats with T.S., Eliot, D.H. Lawrence, Wilfred Owen all of these poets, as having escaped the nineties, inevitably approached their world from a different angle from Yeats. But it was still in many respects the same world. There is enough in Yeats early and his later poetry which is unmistakably romantic.

## CONCLUSION

W.B. Yeats no doubt a romantic poet. Early his poems were dreamy, mysterious, fairy and legendary. His

style was Spenserian, Shellyan, Keatsian. In his poem there is profusion of romantic imagery worked out under the inspiration of the Pre-Raphaelites. In the first phase, the lover is full of gloom, despair and dejection. He is at war with physical world because it is world where times reign supreme. Marching time leaves its imprints on his love. His intense passions subside with the passage of time. All the things of the Physical world are “Uncomely and broken.”<sup>6</sup> Because the flow in the flux of time. He wants to transcend this world of time and attain a state of timelessness in some fairy land or Island.

## REFERENCES

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- 3 Norman A. Jeffares, “W.B. Yeats: Man and Poet” (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd., 1949) 2nd ed. P. 58
- 4 Sarkar, P.140
- 5 John Unterecker, “A Readers Guide to William Butler Yeats” (America: Thames and Hudson Ltd., 1964), P.132.
- 6 K. Alpar, “The Variorum Edition of the poems of W.B. Yeats” (New York: Macmillan, 1977) 7th ed. P. 113