

# Wordsworth's View of Nature Reflected in / *Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*

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**Abstract.** William Wordsworth, a great poet from the English Romantic era, is celebrated for his deep portrayals and evocative emotions of the natural world. The majority of his poems center around elements in nature, serving as the primary vehicle to convey his contemplation on the world. Thus, the crux of this research is examining Wordsworth's viewpoint on nature, namely via a meticulous analysis of the poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*. The research demonstrates that Wordsworth depicts nature as a conscious and emotive being via the use of anthropomorphic methods, as shown in his portrayal of daffodils 'dancing' and 'flashing' in his poem. Anthropomorphic daffodils not only provide visual pleasure but are also a source of emotional and spiritual renewal. This understanding of nature not only helps readers understand the core idea underlying love poetry, but also has important consequences for considering the connection between humans and nature in modern civilisation. Wordsworth's poetry exemplify the enormous influence that nature has on human emotions, while underscoring its function as a comforting and inspiring source for the spirit.

## 1 Introduction

William Wordsworth is one of the important poets of the British Romantic period, renowned for his profound depiction and emotional expression of nature. His poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* showcases the influence and healing power of nature on human emotions through its meticulous description of natural scenes. In this poem, Wordsworth expresses the process of finding solace in nature through the portrayal of daffodils. The study of this poem, therefore, not only facilitates comprehension of the artistic characteristics inherent in Wordsworth's poetry but also enables a profound exploration of the intricate relationship between nature and human emotions within romantic literature.

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Existing research on the view of nature indicates that Wordsworth's conception emphasises the close connection between nature and the human mind, considering it crucial for obtaining happiness, virtue, and wisdom. Nature is a universal teacher with consolatory and healing powers [1-3]. Wordsworth not only praises the beauty of nature but also explores its role as a source of inspiration and force for change [4]. Through eco-centrism, symbiotic relationships, and ecological awareness, his poetry demonstrates the multiple roles of nature as a source of beauty, spiritual comfort, and a medium for mystical experiences[5]. An analysis of *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* reveals that Wordsworth considers nature an indispensable teacher in human life, through which individuals can achieve inner peace and happiness by engaging with nature [1, 6, 7]. Wordsworth's conception of nature stresses the acquisition of intellectual support, spiritual consolation, and moral strength through intimate contact with nature [8]. From an ecocritical perspective, his works are not just descriptions of natural landscapes but deep reflections on the relationship between humans and nature [9].

Currently, there is limited research on the specific interpretation of Wordsworth's nature views embodied in *I wandered lonely as a cloud*. Thus, this study aims to explore Wordsworth's nature views in this poem and analyze the impact of natural elements on human emotions by imagery within the poem.

## **2 Daffodils: solace to soul and source of joy**

In *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, Wordsworth uses vivid depictions of daffodils dancing to express his deeply held belief that nature has the power to lift and inspire the human spirit.

Daffodils is a central element of the poem, illustrating how nature, in its simplest form, evokes a profound emotional response and fosters a sense of joy and serenity. In Wordsworth's poem, daffodils are not merely just flowers. They, actually, are personalised creatures and have been described as dancing and fluttering in the breeze. This anthropomorphism of daffodils transforms them from static landscape elements into dynamic participants in the poet's emotional journey. 'Tossing their heads in sprightly dance,' Wordsworth wrote. The depiction of daffodils dancing together suggests a joyous celebration of life, which in turn has a contagious effect on the observer. The poet felt lonely and alienated at the beginning of the poem, but his mood was greatly lifted by the sight of these vibrant flowers. Wordsworth's choice of the word 'dance' is significant. Dancing is an activity associated with happiness [6], freedom and exuberance. Wordsworth endowed the daffodil with this behavior, which conveys the inherent vitality of nature and its ability to convey these positive emotions to human observers. The dance of the daffodils is a silent yet powerful expression of the beauty of nature and its potential to stir the soul.

Therefore, daffodils are not merely passive elements in the landscape; they possess the vitality to exert influence upon the poet. Their graceful movement and vibrant energy create a profound visual impact on the poet's senses, facilitating the speaker's transition from initial solitude to an appreciation of beauty and joy. This signifies nature's active involvement and its transformative interaction with the poet's emotional state.

Wordsworth's utilisation of vivid description further enhances the portrayal of nature as a sentient entity. Daffodils are depicted as 'Continuous as the stars that shine/ And twinkle on the milky way,' evoking a sense of boundlessness and immortality. This imagery implies that nature, in its vastness and eternity, serves as an unceasing wellspring of inspiration and solace. The comparison to celestial bodies elevates the daffodils to divine heights, illustrating that their beauty transcends earthly realms. His verses bear witness to the enduring connection between the human spirit and the natural world, encapsulating the belief that nature is not merely a passive backdrop but an active, inspiring force that beckons forth one's soul. [4].

The influence of the daffodils on Wordsworth was not short-lived, but lasting. In the final verse, Wordsworth reflects on how daffodils continue to bring him joy and comfort and are now a cherished memory. ‘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,’ he wrote. This passage reveals that the poet’s interaction with nature is not limited to moments of direct experience, but extends to the poet’s inner life, providing lasting emotional and spiritual sustenance. Although far away from the poet’s reality or the moment, the daffodils are still vivid in the poet’s mind, constantly interacting with and enriching his emotional world. This lasting impact highlights the transformative power of nature. Yi Liu argues that it is evident that the poet’s spiritual portrayal undergoes a transformation from loneliness to solitude, both of which connote a sense of isolation but possess distinct connotations. Initially, the poet experiences a melancholic detachment; however, as he recollects the daffodils, the void within his spirit metamorphoses into an emotional plenitude [8]. During this period, despite being alone, he discovers profound pleasure, contentment, and spiritual purification in his state of solitude [8].

Even in moments of loneliness or melancholy, remembering the beauty of nature can lift the spirit and provide comfort. Wordsworth’s depiction of daffodils also reflected his broader philosophical view of nature. He believes that nature is a living, breathing entity that interacts deeply with humans. He saw nature as the source of love, eternal joy, soothing and healing power, knowledge and spirituality [2]. In *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, daffodils serve as a bridge between the natural world and the poet’s inner world, illustrating how the beauty of nature can inspire contemplation and heal emotions.

Furthermore, the selection of words to depict daffodils that Wordsworth makes throughout the poem serves to reaffirm the concept of nature as a living, dynamic force. Words such as ‘fluttering,’ ‘dancing,’ and ‘sparkling’ conjure up images of motion and energy, giving the impression that nature is in a state of constant activity and connection. This vitality is not only a physical trait; rather, it is a spiritual and emotional quality that has the potential to powerfully resonate with the human soul. The poet’s portrayal of the daffodils as a ‘host’ also gives them a feeling of community life, as if they had a collective awareness that interacts with the poet.

All in all, *I Wandered Alone as a Cloud* by Wordsworth is a striking statement of his conviction in the power of nature to elevate and inspire. The imagery of the dancing daffodils in the poem is a stunning example of this philosophy. Wordsworth is able to depict the happy and ever-changing aspect of the natural world via the use of vivid personification and rich descriptive language. The enormous influence that nature has on the human spirit is shown by the fact that daffodils are not only a visual joy but also a source of long-lasting emotional and spiritual regeneration at the same time.

### **3 Wordsworth’s view of nature**

#### **3.1 View of nature shown in the poem**

First and foremost, Wordsworth emphasizes the profound love for and reconnection with nature, which is vividly exemplified in his poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*. His demeanour reflects an inherent adoration for the natural world, and whenever confronted with life’s challenges, he yearns to reconnect with the serene magnificence of nature. This return holds a deep emotional and spiritual dimension. William Wordsworth became cognizant of his extraordinary relationship with nature [7], perceiving it as a sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of everyday existence. The opening line of the poem, ‘I wandered lonely as a cloud,’ establishes a psychological bond between the narrator and nature,

shifting from human reality to the realm of the natural world. Thus, he positions himself as an integral part of nature [5]. This reconnection signifies a return to a simpler yet more fulfilling state of being that provides solace and inspiration. Simultaneously, his love for nature is not passive; rather, it entails active engagement that nurtures his inner essence and enhances his imaginative spirit. This is evident through the poet's use of similes likening himself to clouds in the sky- illustrating assimilation or active integration into nature. Additionally, after appreciating the beauty of daffodils, the narrator consistently reminisces about them as a means to derive satisfaction and energy- a testament to their active immersion in nature. Wordsworth's affection for nature and plea for reconnection are underscored by its ability to uplift and support one's human spirit.

In vivid language, Wordsworth expressed the power of nature to bring people back to the ideal state of peace and contentment. This is shown by the celebration of the daffodils. As Amal M.A. Ibrahim says, the daffodil serves as a symbol that embodies happy memories, conveys gratitude, and emphasizes the importance of cherishing important personal and positive moments in life. Their connotations include forgiveness, hope and renewal. They are an affirmation for those seeking to begin a new relationship, while also providing comfort for those seeking divine forgiveness for their transgressions. In addition, when people find themselves in a state of melancholy or confusion, the yellow daffodils symbolize many virtues and happiness. In this case, they rejuvenate the mind and cultivate contentment [7]. All of these meanings epitomize the importance of daffodils and their profound effect on human emotions.

In addition, Wordsworth's poetic ideas revolve around the intrinsic correlation between nature and human emotion. He firmly believed that nature possesses the ability to mirror the sentiments of its beholder, offering solace during times of sorrow and delight during moments of joy. In his poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, the sight of a picturesque field adorned with daffodils elevates the speaker's spirit and engenders within him an overwhelming sense of bliss and contentment. Daffodils not only possess aesthetic allure but also possess transformative powers capable of altering the speaker's emotional state and providing nourishment for his inner being by reflecting his internal condition. This profound appreciation for daffodils transcends mere physical observation, embarking on a deeply introspective journey that reaffirms his profound connection to nature.

Wordsworth's perspective on nature is characterized by his conviction that the splendour of the natural world possesses the ability to assuage emotional distress and emancipate the human spirit from the tribulations of existence. His poems frequently portray the potential for healing through transformative encounters experienced by the narrator, who discovers solace and rejuvenation in communion with nature. Wordsworth sought solace in awe-inspiring landscapes, which exerted a tranquilizing influence on his psyche and restored his emotional equilibrium. The calming impact of nature endures beyond mere transience, as it offers a sanctuary for introspection and emotional recuperation. Wordsworth believed that immersing oneself in the allure of nature, beholding a meadow brimming with daffodils, would induce relaxation and liberation of one's soul. The poet is captivated by the boundless, flickering energy exhibited by these daffodils and draws inspiration from them, weaving their rhythm into his own life while radiating an exuberant vitality gracefully. Analogous to Wordsworth's source of spiritual nourishment, nature alleviated his mental anguish and resolved the spiritual quandary he confronted. Wordsworth espoused faith in nature's remedial and uplifting power for all individuals irrespective of their circumstances—an emphasis underscored through his focus on both mundane and exquisite facets within the natural realm.

What's more, Wordsworth espoused a profound and almost mystical connection between the natural world and the human spirit [10], positing that nature has the capacity to mirror human emotions. Milan Jana characterizes Wordsworth's poetry as portraying the

natural environment as a sentient entity rather than a mere backdrop. The natural realm possesses senses, intentions, and the ability to impart knowledge to individuals. The artist's oeuvre exemplifies the inseparable bond between humans and nature, illustrating their reciprocal influence [3]. For Wordsworth, nature represented an immense spiritual force intrinsically intertwined with mankind's unfathomable sentiments and experiences. Nature serves as an embodiment of higher truth and divinity. The poet was deeply imbued with spirituality and held firm in his belief that God was present alongside him [7]. His reverence for the natural world underscores his conviction in its sacredness and its role in connecting humanity with God. The reflections within this poem highlight the dynamic relationship between the poet and nature. His frequent return to natural landscapes reveals an ongoing dialogue between himself and his surroundings. This continuous interaction emphasizes his profound affection for nature while underscoring its pivotal role in nurturing his emotional well-being. Wordsworth's poems affirm the interplay between spiritual perspectives on existence and our coexistence with others and nature, aiming to evoke harmony among humanity [5].

In the end, Wordsworth's attitude towards nature in this poem displays his profound and unending love for the natural world. Representing a treasured retreat that underlines his belief in the transformational power of nature, nature serves as both a shelter and a source of inspiration for him. The profound reverence and appreciation that Wordsworth had for the natural world is reflected in this ongoing link as well.

### **3.2 Reasons for the formation of view of nature**

Wordsworth, a lakeside poet and a prominent figure in the Romantic movement, consistently displayed a deep love of the natural world, which was linked to his early encounters.

First of all, Wordsworth lived in the Lake District of England when he was growing up and had a deep connection with nature and an early understanding of nature, which had a great influence on his naturalistic poetry [11]. Thus, in contrast to the utilitarian interpersonal relationships and the rigid relationship between man and nature that emerged during the Industrial Revolution, romantic poets such as the nature-loving William Wordsworth saw the French Revolution as the catalyst for a new era of individualism and social liberation. They advocated human freedom and emphasized the importance of knowledge [9].

However, as life in France exposed him to the extreme and violent nature of the French Revolution, and his family's suppression of political passions [11], Wordsworth's views shifted, and he turned his attention back to nature. At the same time, while living in France, he was exposed to the ideas of Rousseau. Rousseau's ideas of natural rights and return to nature had a great influence on Wordsworth, so he sought a mysterious power to save the human soul [8]. It is a protest against science and technology and a yearning for the beauty of nature unpolluted by civilization [8].

Hence, under the influence of these factors, Wordsworth chose to return to the countryside and nature after experiencing the city life, and deeply explored the meaning of life in nature.

## **4 Conclusion**

This research examines William Wordsworth's poem *I Wander Lonely as a Cloud* to analyse the poet's distinctive perspective on nature. The investigation revealed that Wordsworth saw nature as a sentient entity with the ability to profoundly connect with the human psyche. The daffodil depicted in the poem serves as both a picturesque element and

a source of emotional and spiritual nourishment for the author. Wordsworth's profound comprehension of nature was rooted in his formative life experiences and the impact of Romanticism. This comprehension is evident in his critique of industrialised civilisation and his longing for unadulterated nature.

This research aims to enhance individuals' comprehension of Wordsworth's perspective on nature and uncover the significant role that nature plays in the poet's artistic and spiritual realm. This facilitates readers' comprehension of love poetry and prompts contemplation on the connection between mankind and the natural world in contemporary civilisation.

Nevertheless, this research has some constraints. Primarily, the research concentrates on a solitary poem and neglects to thoroughly analyse the portrayal of nature in other literary works by Wordsworth. Furthermore, the research lacks an in-depth analysis of the impact of Wordsworth's perspective on nature on subsequent poets and literary movements.

Given these constraints, additional investigations may be conducted focusing on the following areas: Firstly, a thorough examination of other works by Wordsworth is necessary to construct a full understanding of his whole philosophy of nature. These investigations will enhance our knowledge of the romantic literary heritage and provide a fresh approach to analysing modern ecological writing.

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