

The World Is Too Much With Us

by : William Wordsworth

William Wordsworth is an (English poet)

"The world is too much with us" is a (sonnet by William Wordsworth)

18th Century marked the beginning of the first (Industrial Revolution) .

published in (1807) .

is one of the central figures of the English (Romantic movement) .

He wrote this poem during the (Industrial Revolution) .

Q / When “ The Word is too much with us ” published ?

- published in 1807 .

Q / Why The poet wrote this poem ?

He wrote this poem during the industrial revolution . the British men were running behind material goals. Industries developed and man too became material minded and joined the race towards the material prosperity and financial gains. man lost his connection with nature. So, the poem laments the withering connection between humankind and nature, blaming industrial society for replacing that connection with material pursuits .

Q / Explain the first stanza .

**The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!**

Wordsworth repeats the title in the first line of the poem to emphasize the idea that every day routine has numbed us to the emotions evoked by nature. He shows that people are concerned with the world of material things. Their lives have become industrialized and their motive is to earn money. Life according to those people is a matter of “getting and spending,” material prosperity. In this way, man is wasting his physical power in the pursuit of financial gains. During the industrial revolution, man has left the rural life and rushed towards the city to build his future. **The modern man is physically active but spiritually dead.** In the fourth line, “we have given our hearts away, a sordid boon,” there is **juxtaposition**. The word “sordid” shows the worst aspects of human beings . selfishness and greed while the word “boon” means blessing and prosperity. industrial revolution has brought prosperity but it costs them their humanity and spirituality .

Q / What does the poet show in the stanza two ?

**This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;**

the poet shows the beauty of nature at its peak. He begins with the sea “this sea that bares her bosom to the man.” In this line, Wordsworth uses **personification** and gives the sea a feminine quality as **if the sea is a female that embraces the moon**. people have become numb and senseless. They are too busy to appreciate the beauty of nature. They have completely lost their aesthetic sense and nothing in nature appeals their senses. In the simile of “sleeping flowers,” the poet compares the beautiful scenes of nature to dead flowers being pushed away and ignored to prove the fact that man is quite indifferent and unable to see the beauty of nature. Wordsworth shows that man is originally the child of nature who has left his place to seek material things. Consequently, he has lost harmony with the natural world around him .

Q / What did the poet wish for in third stanza ? (discuss)

**It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.**

the poet is overwhelmed with the feeling of loss that he immediately turns to God and wishes to a pagan. He prefers to be a pagan with primitive belief because primitive people were part of the natural world. The poet desires to return to the old times when people were not aware of this scientific revolution. They used to live in the lap of nature and enjoy its beauty. He wishes to see Proteus; a sea God in Greek mythology, rising from the sea to save men by stopping the tide of materialism , or hear old Triton; a mythological figure, blowing his curved horn to calm the sea .

The “ world is too much with us ” takes the form of a **Petrarchan sonnet** . It consists of **fourteen lines** divided into the **octave** and **sestet** .

Prepare by Ali Aqeel