

Third Stanza

Dear Babe, that sleepest cradled by my side,
Whose gentle breathings, heard in this deep calm,
Fill up the intersperséd vacancies
And momentary pauses of the thought!
My babe so beautiful! it thrills my heart
With tender gladness, thus to look at thee,
And think that thou shalt learn far other lore,
And in far other scenes! For I was reared
In the great city, pent 'mid cloisters dim,
And saw nought lovely but the sky and stars.
But *thou*, my babe! shalt wander like a breeze
By lakes and sandy shores, beneath the crags
Of ancient mountain, and beneath the clouds,
Which image in their bulk both lakes and shores
And mountain crags: so shalt thou see and hear
The lovely shapes and sounds intelligible
Of that eternal language, which thy God
Utters, who from eternity doth teach
Himself in all, and all things in himself.
Great universal Teacher! he shall mould
Thy spirit, and by giving make it ask.
Therefore all seasons shall be sweet to thee,
Whether the summer clothe the general earth
With greenness, or the redbreast sit and sing
Betwixt the tufts of snow on the bare branch
Of mossy apple-tree, while the night-thatch
Smokes in the sun-thaw; whether the eave-drops fall
Heard only in the trances of the blast,
Or if the secret ministry of frost
Shall hang them up in silent icicles,
Quietly shining to the quiet Moon.

In the last stanza, the poet addresses his son, Hartley, who is the second source of inspiration. Contrary to the film, the child, who is a symbol of life, childhood, and purity, will inspire him to think of the future. The poet is lost in his idle thinking and no sound could be heard except the sound of his son breathing. The child's breath inspires him to reconnect his chain of thoughts. The sight of the child sleeping in the cradle fills him with joy. Coleridge decides that his son will be brought up in entirely different surroundings and will be given an entirely different knowledge of his own. The poet regrets the fact that he received his education in

the suffocating atmosphere of London, which is ironically described as the great city, where he could not get the freedom of enjoying the beautiful scenes of nature. He could only look at the sky and the stars. According to Coleridge, this was a great disadvantage. The poet says that if his son is raised in the lap of nature, he will wander like a breeze by the lake and sandy shores. He will have a healthy life away from the city and its social diseases. He will find a meaning in every natural sound. He will be able to hear the eternal language of nature, nature here is personified. In romantic poetry, nature is treated as a teacher or preacher. Nature has a religious significance in this poem; it reflects the greatness of its creator, God. Nature as a teacher has a great educative influence. The poet says that his son will be subjected to this influence. Nature will mold his personality in such a way that he will develop a keen desire to submit himself to its moral effect. These lines were written under the influence of Wordsworth. They contain pantheistic belief that a divine spirit pervades all the objects of nature and God prevails himself through nature. This leads us to the fact that nature has a moral influence on mankind. In the last part, the poet talks about the consequences of the child's attachment to nature. He believes that under the influence of nature, the child will come to love all the seasons equally. Whether the earth is covered with green grass in summer or the redbreast sits on a leafless apple-tree in winter and sings while the rain drops fall and freeze into icicles that shine quietly in the quiet moon, his son will appreciate the beauty of nature.