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## A Comparative Study of Wordsworth's "The World is Too Much With Us" & Ezekiel's "A Poem Of Dedication".

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Before making an assessment of "The World is Too Much With Us" & "A Poem of Dedication", first I should dwell at the purpose of this research paper that aims at a comparative study of man's life & behaviour in Wordsworthian World with that of Ezekielian. The things which man acquires through normal and genuine earnings no longer satisfy him. Gone are the days when he preferred to lead a simple and contented life, and his ambition was to earn enough money to provide food, clothing and shelter to his dependents. Besides it, he derived great pleasure in donating some part of his income in charity & took interest in visiting the religious places as per his faith. Then, he did not approve of the sordid pursuits of life.

"The World is Too Much With Us" by William Wordsworth saw the light of the day in 1807-- About 200 years ago when materialism had reached on its acme and had brought sea-changes in the life & behaviour of man. In comparison to it, Ezekiel's "A Poem of Dedication" was published in 1952-- About 70 years ago when he was in London to study philosophy & psychology under the able guidance of Prof. CEM Joad. When Ezekiel composed this Poem, he was well aware of the harsh realities of English society where gross materialism was isolating man from nature.

When one steps in Wordsworthian world, one finds that in this world man is very much busy to fulfill his materialistic pursuits. "The world is too much with us, late & soon /Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers," (1-2) says Wordsworth. In the stream of his consciousness only one idea keeps on flowing that is how to get more and more money and where to spend it on. In order to get all the things which man longs for, he has to resort to corruption, bribery, pilferage and a web of deceit. In fact, the increased level of competition and show off in society has brought in his mind to do something extraordinary for his family members. As a result, man has become more & more distanced from the world of nature & its life-giving benefits. Man's separation from the world of Nature is neither good to human beings nor serviceable for the society. In fact, this sort of life is a curse for all the living creatures on this planet. The poet is very much worried about man and wants to keep him away from the life of veraciousness. He raises the banners of revolt against this life. He says, "Little we see in Nature that is ours/ we have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!"(3-4)

It is hard to overstate how much good nature does for man's well being. It can be found out that the people who are more connected with nature are happier, feel more vital, and have more meanings in their lives. It is widely accepted that man is more disconnected from Nature today than he was a century ago. This break up of man from nature is pooh- poohed by the poet. He says, "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.”(5-8) In fact, a close contact with nature brings consolation and peace to his soul. If one is too much engrossed in amazing the world by things, one just lays waste his powers. “Getting and speeding, we lay waste our powers,”(2) says Wordsworth.

When one enters the Ezekielean world, one comes to know that the condition of society has become worse than that of Wordsworthian, though about 150 years have passed away when Wordsworth shed his true & sincere tears at the miserable state of it. In the world of Ezekiel, people don't get mixed up with one another. Moreover, they are confined to a very limited range “The view from basement room is rather small/ A patch or two of green, a bit of sky”.(1-2) Even the children don't like to play in the open areas in the lap of Nature. “Children heard but never seen.”(3) Here we are reminded the very famous short story “The Kite Maker” by Ruskin Bond. Mark: “There was Time, then, to spend an idle hour with a gay, dancing strip of paper. Now everyone hurried in a heat of hope, and delicate things like kites and daydreams were trampled underfoot.”(Web). In Ezekielean world people don't let anyone peep in their houses as they have “high curtains to block the outward eye”.(5) This suffocative atmosphere does not attract the attention of the poet who feels that “nothing changes, nothing grows.”(6)

Like Wordsworth, Nissim Ezekiel too favours the idea that man can learn a lot from Mother-Nature and her objects. As a true successor of Wordsworth, he claims in the same tone that nature is the best teacher. Mark the following lines :

There is a landscape certainly, the sea

Among its broad realities attract

Because it is symbol of the free

Demonic life within

Hardly suggested by the surface facts.

And rivers what a man can hope to win

By simple flowing, learning how to flow,

And trees imply an obvious need of roots

Each season brings its own peculiar fruits.(13-23)

It is very much interesting to note that both Wordsworth & Ezekiel want to escape from contaminated & abominable atmosphere of society. Wordsworth is so much affected by the apathetic feeling of man towards nature that he is ready to abandon Christianity. He shows his deep faith in paganism- the ancient Greek religion where people used to seek consolation & calm of mind in various gods of nature. Mark the following lines to see the escapism of Wordsworth :

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 wreathed horn.(9-14)

Ezekiel seems to be a distant cousin of Wordsworth when he writes :

But suddenly the mind is loosened of chains  
And purifies itself before the warm  
Mediterranean, which fills the veins,  
To make the body beautiful and light  
Heaviness of limbs or soul can mimic calm –  
I close the eyes to see with better sight.(7-12)

Thus, the comparative study of both the poets shows that they opposed to gross materialism in their poems and warned human beings of the evils of worldliness. According to them, materialism isolates humans from nature and its beauty, and this separation is a curse not only for human civilization but also for animal world.

### Works Cited

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