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## THE THEME OF ADORATION AND LOSS IN WORDSWORTH'S "LUCY POEMS"

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In "Lucy Poems" of William Wordsworth, various reviewers have diverse outlook about the recognition of 'Lucy'. A few of them recognize 'Lucy' as sister of Wordsworth, Dorothy William whereas a few with the poet's future wife, Mary Hutchinson, while some discourse that 'Lucy' was the product of Wordsworth's imagination and there is no actual being of 'Lucy' on the earth. However all of them collectively have the same opinion that the "Lucy Poems" are about love and death of someone whom Wordsworth used to be very close to him and loved very much—either in reality or in his imagination. All through the "Lucy Poems" we discover the attendance of love which makes the poet keen to meet his beloved and makes him sad when he thinks about the death of Lucy. This proves that love and death, in their various forms, are the major subjects of the "Lucy Poems". In the present paper, it is an aim to examine the "Lucy Poems" in view of the presence of love and death in their various forms. Analysis of the poems will be based on the textual analysis of the poems and not about the poems.

Diverse critics as Kenneth Johnston etc. have diverse opinions concerning the Lucy poems but all of them generally are in agreement that "Lucy Poems" are on the subject of love and death. "The 'Lucy poems' express the unanswered love of the speaker for a woman, named Lucy. If Wordsworth comes to existence once more, he will be astonished to recognize that he had composed a collection of poems which are being recognized as "Lucy Poems". In other words even Wordsworth does not know about any group of his poems because he had never planned to put those poems in a group or series or give any name which he wrote when he was living in Germany for a short period of time during 1798 to 1800. It was only after his death in 1850 that a number of critics put those poems into a group due to the similarity of their themes and named them "Lucy Poems" because it was written about an unknown girl whom the poet called Lucy. Nobody knows anything about the identification of Lucy because Wordsworth never disclosed the identification of Lucy or gave any hint about her. He kept Lucy a secret. Critics have conjectured—from Wordsworth's sister—Dorothy, his would be wife Mary Hutchinson to an imaginary girl in the imagination of the poet. So, I think, to ask the question "who is Lucy?" is absurd and useless as Geoffrey Durrant in his book, William Wordsworth, Cambridge University Press, 1969, p.60 has rightly said, "there is no answer to this question except to say that it is irrelevant". But now the five poems penned by Wordsworth, "Strange fits of Passion have I Known", "She dwelt among the untrodden ways", "I travelled among unknown Men", "Three years she grew in sun and shower", and "A Slumber did my Spirit Seal", are internationally known as "Lucy Poems".

As the poems progress, we come to discern that Lucy slept in the lap of eternity young and gives inspiration to the poet to put pen to paper his elegiac verses about her. Deep reading of the poem tells that the speaker of the poems, who is, of course, the poet himself, falls in love with a girl named Lucy. In these poems the poet conveys his keen love for her. It seems that both of them are in deep love and the poet always goes to be in contact of his beloved. His horse knows the path of the beloved's cottage so well that he does not require any leadership. Because Lucy lives in a desperate and secluded place, she is unclear to the rest of the world. Lucy kept herself active in home works. Their love affair was very satisfied. They had confidence in each other. Lucy also behaved like a conservative adored, always ready to tease the poet for his mood. But the sudden apprehension of her death makes the poet impatient and he is shocked when she actually dies. Lucy's death intensely influences the poet's mental picture of his inhabitant, and the world in common. Therefore it is noticed that in these poems love and death go concurrently side by side. The thought of his beloved, who also loves him passionately, makes the poet happy and eager to meet her as soon as possible.. the love of the poet for his beloved is a traditional that created a feeling of care for his beloved. As he is an ardent lover he intensely want the company of her, he appreciates the beauty of his beloved and makes a comparison between her and flowers in June. He promises that he will not go exterior of England not only because he loves his country very much but also because of his beloved. When he goes away from England, he feels as if he is away from the memory of Lucy whom he misses a lot and . It is accurate that the Lucy Poems deal with the dead and dying but they do not trace the difference between life and death. In fact our understanding of Lucy is based on the poet's explanation. Lucy's death advises that nature does not spare anyone. It makes no difference between the poor and rich, beautiful and ugly everyone has to face the death .it comes to all sooner or later. It creates suffering to all. A famous critic, Hartman has linked the view of death and nature to art in general as he states, "Lucy, living, is clearly a guardian spirit, not of place but of all English places...while Lucy, dead, has all nature for her monument. The series is deeply humanized version of the death of Pan, a lament on the decay of English natural feeling. Wordsworth fears that the very spirit presiding over his poetry is ephemeral, and I think he refuses to distinguish between its death in him and its historical decline." (Hartman, Geoffrey The Unremarkable

A close study of the Lucy poems clears that in every poem the aspects of love and death are there in one or other form. In the extremely first poem of the series, '**Strange fits of Passion have I known**' the poet is making a discussion on the theme of love and death. He expresses the depth of his love for his beloved and describes the fatal effect of his beloved's death on him. He loves his beloved so much that even the thought of her death makes him cry and his heart passes through a kind of agony which he names 'strange fits of passion' which he does not want to share with anyone but only with lovers because only a lover can understand the real feeling of the other lover:

Strange fits of passion have I known  
And I will dare to tell,  
But in the lover's ear alone,  
What once to me befell.

Here we see that the word, "passion" has been used to define a disturbing apprehension of Lucy's death. Here it is death, not Lucy, which fills the poet with "passion". So we cannot interpret the word "passion" with the poet's sexual desire for his beloved as some critics believe due to the close proximity of "passion" and "lover" in this stanza. In fact, in the light of Christian mythology, the word has its origin in "suffering", especially the suffering of Christ on the cross and so it is closely related with life and death. He compares his beloved with the fresh flower of rose especially of June. He wanted to meet her so he

started on his horse that was running on fast pace. The moon was shining bright and the poet was continuously looking at it. Suddenly the light of moon disappears behind Lucy's cottage. With the disappearance of the moon the poet started feeling fear of Lucy 'death that made the poet restless.. The dramatic tone of the first stanza is contrasted with the subdued tone of the rest of the poem.

In this way fear is a consistently playing a significant role throughout the poem while the death is clear only in the last line of the poem.

'O mercy! 'to myself I cried  
If Lucy should be dead !'

In the second poem of Lucy Gray's series, '**She dwelt Among Untrodden Ways**' the poet explains Lucy's "growth, perfection and death" (Geoffrey Durrant, William Wordsworth, Cambridge University, 1969). The poet in the second poem tells us about the abode of Lucy. She dwelt in the close propinquity with nature unfamiliar to the people of the world "Beside the spring of Dove". She was an unaffected beauty whom the poet cherished very much. "...there were none to praise" her beauty and her youth. Thus we see that in this poem Lucy has been presented as a attractive blameless girl who was unaffected by the mature desire.

In the second stanza of the poem the poet is praising the beauty of Lucy and compares the grace of Lucy with nature. The poet compares her with a beautiful flower and a shining star as he says: The simple description of Lucy's beauty and the comparison with a single star alone in the sky symbolizes the poet's deep love for Lucy. Only a passionate lover can describe his beloved in such exaggerated way.

In the end of the poem, the poet has expressed Lucy's death with great sadness when he says, "But she is in her grave, and, oh," The typical exclamation, "The difference to me!"

Two noteworthy things which we recognize at the end of the poem are that this poem is about Lucy who has already died. Throughout the poem, directly or indirectly, we experience the attendance of love and death.

Love and death both are the central theme of the poem, "**I travelled among Unknown men**" but with a melancholy note and at a personal level. The poem exhibits the poet's love for his country and takes a strong vow not to leave his country, England again in future. For this he has also some reasons. He feels alienated and strange in a foreign land and so he is home sick. Due to the extreme home sickness he takes a vow never to go out of his country.

The second reason is that he thinks that if he would be away from England means he would be away from his beloved which is intolerable for the bard. Thus we see that for the poet England and Lucy are one and the same:

Among the mountains did I feel  
The joy of my desire;  
And she I cherished turned her wheel  
Beside an English fire.

Thus this poem is a realization of how much one loves his home country when he is away from it. Here Wordsworth tells us that he will not leave England again, "Nor will I quit thy shore/ A second time". This declaration shows the poet's realization that how dear his native land is to him.

In the second half of the poem the poet's love for Lucy and England is combined together and become one as he says, "...she I cherished turned wheel/ Beside an English fire

In short we can say that his love for England is inspired by his love for Lucy. Thus we see that throughout the poem the theme of love and death is present like in other Lucy Poems. This poem basically focuses on death of Lucy but it also describes the poet's love for nature as well as England.

**"Three Years she grew in Sun and Shower"** is other 'Lucy Poem' which deals with the theme of love and death. The poem describes a competition between Nature and humanity. Lucy is so guiltless, affectionate and gorgeous that both Nature and human desire to have her. In this clash of ownership Nature comes out as a winner. Nature weds Lucy while human is left alone. It means Nature has adopted Lucy and she has mingled with Nature which means she has died leaving her lover alone. This proves the brutality and control of Nature as Thomas Hardy has described Nature as a hostile force to human in his novels. All the five 'Lucy Poems' are the source of sufferings but those sufferings are suppressed under Wordsworth's love for Nature. He takes torment as the rule of Nature. So, instead of inconsolable at the suffering Wordsworth bears it wordlessly.

Nature thinks that Lucy is too good for the earth. So, she must not be in human contact. After her death she will become the part of Nature where:

The human lover only mourns because he knows that death does not spare anyone as William Shakespeare, in his sonnets has said. In this way death separates Lucy from her human lover.

In this poem the relationship between Lucy and Nature has been depicted in a intricate antagonism images. The contradictory images like "sun and shower", "law and impulse", "earth and heaven", "kindle and restrain", have been used to stir up the opposing forces inbuilt in nature. Although the poem begins with the narration of the poet yet the main speaker of this poem is Nature. Here Nature has been personified and speaks throughout much of verses. In this poem Lucy has been depicted as a three years child who becomes a matured woman within the period of three years under the guidance of Nature. After possessing Lucy, Nature transforms her into an ideal woman who will always be in a close proximity of Nature far from the lustful love of human beings and who will carry a grace even in the stormiest of emotional circumstances. Once the Nature makes her a perfect and ideal woman, she steals her away from others through death.

The poem ends in grief but comforting words are also there. Although Lucy is dead, she is in close proximity of Nature living in "happy dell" where she is enjoying the life of "stately height". But the poet's love for Lucy is so deep that he cannot resist from mourning her death.

The last poem of The Lucy Poems is **"A Slumber did My Spirit Seal"**. Here in this poem, the poet too focuses on the idealized love for a girl named Lucy and the effect of her death. This is only poem in the group of The Lucy Poems in which Lucy's name is not mentioned. But through the pattern of theme and the narrative style we come to know that the poet is talking about Lucy who is no more in this world. In this poem, too, the poet as a lover laments on the pre-matured death of Lucy. The poet was not ready for Lucy's death so, he is shocked at her death and loses his consciousness. When he faces the reality he is shocked to know about the death of Lucy. Now his illusion that Lucy will not be affected by the death is completely shattered when Lucy dies in reality.

In the second stanza of the poem the poet speaks of the realization of this reality and admits that:

No motion has she now, no force;  
She neither hears nor sees;  
Rolled round in earth's diurnal course,  
With rocks, and stones, and trees.

Here the poet accepts the reality of Lucy's death and in this way the reality of life in this world and comes into senses. Lucy Gray now dead for ever. No magic can bring her into existence. Lucy has no movement. She has become silent. She can now neither hear nor see. After her death she has mingled with Nature as the Hindu mythology believes.

In this way it will be right to say that all the poems of Lucy is based on the theme of love and death.

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