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English 1101
First Draft

“This Lime Tree Bower My Prison” By Samuel Taylor

By referring to the lime-tree bower as a “prison,” the author Samuel Taylor is showing himself at emotionally battling with nature. Ironically, the nature that prisons him is not allowing him to experience the right connection with nature. But soon his imagination takes hold, and he begins to mentally follow his friends on their journey, taking careful note of everything that they may or may not be experiencing with the flow of nature. This poem is the depiction of how we admire and see the beautiful things in our life but experience losing them. Samuel Taylor Coleridge shows how his experience with this resentful jealousy matured into a selfless brotherly love and the acceptance of the beneficial effects some amount of denial can have.

In the concept of this poem, Coleridge shows how his previous experience of the jealousy matured into selfless love. Though Coleridge may have been to these places before, he cannot know for sure it looks exactly as he says it does. Instead he relies on his imagination to see the “branchless ash, whose few poor yellow leaves.” Part of the description might be coming from his memory, but did he really pay that close attention to how the leaves trembled from the force of the waterfall, or is he just making that part up because it sounds partly logical and partly grandiose? In his mind his friends finally emerge out into the other side and his floating eyes take in all that he thinks they are seeing.

The acceptance of the beneficial effects of the denial was also evident from the poem. In this poem he shows the denied chance he could of had appreciating the nature and beauty and to expand its love for it. He gets himself so excited with the quality of his imagination that he

shouts “Yes!”. Then, because he firmly believes that city life knows only “evil and pain,” he allows his imagination to go even larger for Charles. He asks the sun to “slowly sink,” the flowers to “shine in the slant beams of the sinking orb,” and the clouds to “richlier burn.” This are all things that nature is performing on its own, but the speaker demands that they do it even better. Even after this, when he is obviously referring to a spiritual moment he once had with nature, it sounds like his epiphany is not brought on just by the pure force of the nature around him, but by gazing “Less gross than bodily.” In other words, looking at nature until his imagination kicks in and blankets all that he is seeing with a spiritual gauze.

The whole theme of the poem showed that how with the passage of time he learned that rather than regretting on the something of which poet was deprived, it is better to welcome the blessings and the opportunities we have. As the poet in the poem said “smell the roses” which represent his acceptance and content with his present life. After this, there is also a transformation in the speaker. Suddenly, he no longer sees the lime-tree bower as a prison or himself as a prisoner. His surroundings have not changed, and his situation has not changed. Instead, it is a change in perspective that brings about this shift. Like Rachel Crawford says, it is when he returns from his imaginary adventure to this domestic scene that he notices things like the ivy, elms, beans, and insects that make up the English cottage garden he is in. The speaker is now able to see and appreciate the actual nature of his surroundings, and not just the imagined and ideal nature far away. He reveals in the transparent foliage,” the “walnut-tree,” the wheeling “bat,” and “the solitary humble-bee.”

Of course, imagination cannot be given all the credit for everything the narrator experiences. Through his loving and descriptive imagery, it is clear nature makes quite the effect

on him. Lines like “keep the heart / Awake to Love and Beauty!” and “No sound is dissonant which tells of Life” show the great value that the speaker places on nature and its qualities. It is this nature that prompts him on his imaginary journey. When we look for the theme of Coleridge's poem, we find that it's like nature excites the imagination, and in turn the imagination excites nature, bringing the speaker to a closer bond with the two.

Society today is made up of different perspectives and opinions to the way life should be lived, which is what makes us all different in our own state of mind. For some loneliness brings memories, for some it brings melancholic mood, for some it brings depression and worthlessness while some spend their time praising the creations of God. At times it is good to be without pleasure and all life as loneliness can bring the imaginations that can bring the lost happiness. It is a universal fact that with the passage of time people learn to move on with the previous conflicts and jealousy and learn how to accept and appreciate the blessings they have.

