

L.N. Mithila University, Darbhanga  
B.A. (Part-I) Eng. (H) - Paper-II

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TOPIC: Thought in a Garden  
(Critical appreciation)

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The poem, 'Thought in a Garden' has been composed by Andrew Marvell, one of the great metaphysical poets. The poet takes us back to the golden age of innocence and happiness. He suggests that we have lost that age by our own doings. It is our own folly which is responsible for the loss.

The poet is pained to see that people have no time to enjoy the beauty of nature. They struggle hard to win glory in different spheres of life but that labour is of no real significance. They have no mental peace. The poet searched his quiet and innocence in man's company but in vain. At last, he got them in the solitude of a garden. Speaking of the beauty of the garden, he says that there was never a beloved who was more beautiful than a green tree.

Those lovers who cut the name of their beloved in the bark of trees are foolish, and he would never do so. He gives a beautiful description of a tropical garden where he finds ripe apples, clusters of vine and nectarean peach. Sometimes he finds himself encircled with variety of flowers and falls on grass. In fact, the poet enjoys the beauty of nature and ~~finds~~ feels

The presence of the Divine Spirit in nature.

The poet wants to become one with nature. He wants to forget all the worries of the world. He identifies himself with various objects of nature. He finds himself sitting like a bird and singing the joys of nature. Adam enjoyed the bliss of solitude in the garden of Eden but his happiness was destroyed by Eve's arrival.

The central idea of the poem is the bliss of solitude in the garden. The poet displays his love for trees, fruits and flowers, and sense for scenery and colour. The poem has been described as a symbol of the golden age of man when he lived a happy and innocent life. This poem foreshadows Keats by its sensuousness and Wordsworth by its optimistic and meditative mood. It has a historical significance. It embodies the love of nature and the quiet life which were developed by Wordsworth. Marvell has used simple expressions like John Keats which makes the poem easily comprehensible. In other words, it can be said that Marvell seems to be standing by Keats and Wordsworth in the depiction of the garden.