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Department of English

Takes you to -

Composed Upon Westminster Bridge

By William Wordsworth

About The Poet

- Born - 7 April 1770
Cockermouth, Cumberland, England
- Died - 23 April 1850 (aged 80)
Rydal, Westmorland, England
 - Occupation – Poet
 - Language – English
 - Nationality – English
- Alma Mater – St. John's College, Cambridge
- Literary Movement - Romanticism



- William Wordsworth was one among the romantic poets which gave the new romantic movement a definite form.
- Wordsworth's poetical words is one of the noblest and most significant poems.
- Wordsworth said that men would hurry to see skyrockets but they never notice Orion and the Pleiades from their own doorstep.
- Regards Wordsworth, Tennyson has said that he "uttered nothing base".
- Wordsworth took to mission to set free poetry from all "conceits".
- His attempt was to speak in the simple language and portray men as they are.
- This is why we need to understand Wordsworth's poem – the hidden beauty, passion and indensity in the simple lines.

- According to Wordsworth in childhood man is sensitive as a wind harp to all natural influences.
- The poet feels that society and the crowded unnatural life of cities tend to weaken humanity.
- Return to natural and simple living is the only remedy for human wretchedness.(Girls co-relate with corona)
- The natural instincts and pleasures are the true standard of a man's happiness in this life.
- All artificial pleasures soon grow tiresome.
- The present poem "Composed Upon Westminster Bridge" carries these mystic values.

Publication

"Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802" is a Petrarchan sonnet by William Wordsworth describing London and the River Thames, viewed from Westminster Bridge in the early morning. It was first published in the collection *Poems, in Two Volumes* in 1807.



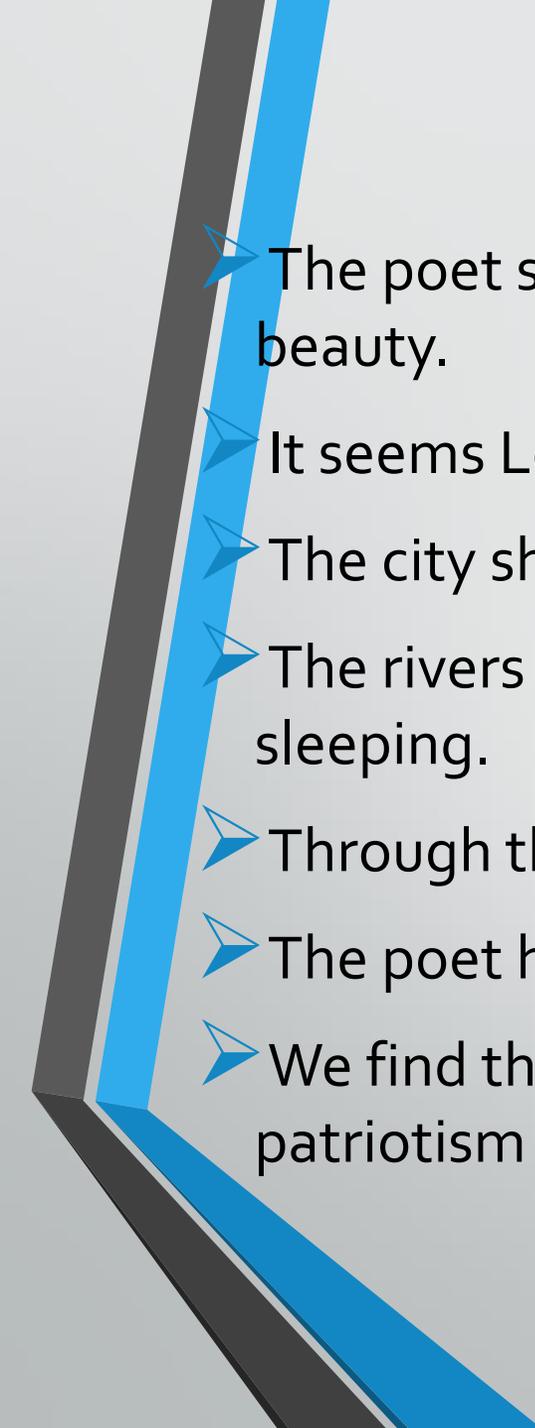


Composed Upon Westminster Bridge

Earth has not any thing to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty:
This City now doth, like a garment, wear
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

Explanation

- In this poem, the poet is crossing Westminster Bridge in London early in the morning.
- Wordsworth loves nature. He finds the beautiful clear scene of the London Skyline.
- Nothing could be more quite and lovely as this to be found in nature, 'Earth has nothing to show more beautiful'.
- The city looks serene.
- The River Thames seems to be still.
- The speaker seeing breathtaking beauty acknowledges the industrial forces.
- At this time all the things are calm and still.

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- The poet says that only a dull heart would pass by without being affected by the beauty.
 - It seems London is wearing the gown of the morning.
 - The city shines like gem. Never ever beauty was seen in such sight.
 - The rivers glide on their own sweet will and the very houses seem to be sleeping.
 - Through this poem, the poet seems to give a vision of an ideal city.
 - The poet has personified the city as wearing a gown of the morning.
 - We find the metaphor in 'very houses' and 'mighty heart' which also reveals the patriotism of the poet.



Westminster
Bridge,
London



Thank You