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### Wordsworth's and Poe's Unique Love

Words are tools that a poet could use to designate all kinds of feelings. After the death of a loved one, many writers find comfort in writing because only their imaginations could bear their suffering. William Wordsworth and Edgar Allan Poe both lived that kind of suffering physically and psychologically and found poetry their only escape to rejoin with their one true love. The world of love, struggle, isolation, purity and death is reflected in their poems that in return reflect their real life experiences. The uniqueness of their unfulfilled love joins them together and the way they chose to display that love differentiates them. In the following pages I will explain how both William Wordsworth in "She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways" and Edgar Allan Poe in "Annabel Lee" chose to display the uniqueness of their beloveds by examining the points that join the uniqueness of their love and the different effects it had upon them.

"Wordsworth's unique contribution was that he maintained an intimacy of address- a risk, to be sure, at the more public level- inscribed in the poetry for the reader to respond to" (Lane). It is acute that the girl Lucy, who was repeatedly mentioned in his poems, is not a mere coincidence, but rather a girl who influenced him and his life to the point that she became part of his identity. The specific reference of Lucy is not clear, for Wordsworth did not clarify who Lucy represents, a beloved, a sister or a product of his imagination. However, his literary obsession in writing about that love made the love more important than the specific character.

Edgar Allan Poe's "Annabel Lee" has a more definite reference to his late wife Virginia Clemm, who died young at the age of twenty six. In addition, "The fact that he says in his poem "Annabel Lee", "I was a child and she was a child" makes us believe that he is speaking of his wife, who was only thirteen when they married" (Welch). Poe found in his late wife the love that he lacked when his mother died when he was young. To him she was the source of passion that invested his feelings and thoughts. "The loss of his wife was a sad blow. He did not seem to care, after she was gone, whether he lived an hour, a day, a week or a year" (Unger).

The poem "She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways" sufficiently shows that the beloved girl is not just a normal girl, but rather a unique "Maid". Both Wordsworth and Poe chose to name their beloveds "Maid" and "Maiden" to represent two unmarried, pure virgins. Wordsworth started his poem explaining the uniqueness of the place where his beloved lived. "Among the untrodden ways" and "beside the springs of dove". One could notice that his beloved did not live any kind of interactions with people, she is pure and innocent. And even though "There were none to praise and very few to love" her, she fulfilled his own concept of love and beauty. However, in Poe's "Annabel Lee" the maiden he loved is known and not isolated; she lived in a kingdom by the sea.

The overwhelming description of both Wordsworth's and Poe's beloveds highlighted their uniqueness. Wordsworth described his Lucy as "a violet by a mossy stone half hidden from the eye". She is isolated and unnoticed from the eyes of people.

A violet can be a symbol of innocence, modesty or mourning. It has stood for modesty and humility in that it grows so close to the ground and its blooms can be found under the leaves. Like those "blooms" of

Lucy, the blooms of the violet cannot be seen easily. One must look closely to discover the true beauty. (Moore)

Wordsworth also added, "Fair as a star when only one is shining in the sky." This metaphor adds extreme evidence to the uniqueness of Lucy. "She is the single star that dominated his world, not arrogantly, like the sun but sweetly and modestly" (Brooks). Moreover, Poe simply described his Annabel Lee as "beautiful" and constantly repeated that description. Poe rather focused on describing the love he shared with Annabel Lee rather than her appearance.

Both writers' love towards their beloveds expands in the part where they describe the uniqueness of their loved ones when they died. Wordsworth in the third stanza showed how Lucy died by saying "She lived unknown, and few could know, when Lucy ceased to be." Wordsworth emphasized that her uniqueness also laid in the fact that she was alone during her death. One may notice that "He does not just say she died. He says, 'She ceased to be', which creates greater impact with the typical expectancy of an infinitive" (Moore). Furthermore, Edgar Allan Poe creatively describes the death of Annabel Lee, using specific details to show her uniqueness and the uniqueness of her circumstances. He says "That the wind came out of the cloud by night, chilling and killing my Annabel Lee". Poe shows that the death of his beloved was accompanied with physical and psychological suffering, for she was shut up in a "sepulchre". The depiction of a mournful tone shows Poe's resentment of what his love faced and the struggle that ended with no earthly victory.

However, although the two struggles both writers faced in fulfilling their unreached love ended up with the death of both their lovers, their unique love remained alive in their hearts and souls. Wordsworth adds "But she is in her grave and oh, the difference to me." He shows that her death did not snatch her love from

his heart, because it created her unique and precious memory that lives with him every day. "The reader feels as though the ending has caught the poet unaware, and he can scarcely put his sentiments into words. Not describing the "difference" but leaving it to the imagination of the reader is much more powerful than trying to explain what her passing meant" (Moore). The same is noticed with Poe, he insists that his love towards Annabel Lee is stronger than death. He wrote "And neither the angels in heaven above, nor the demons down under the sea, can ever dissever my soul from the soul of the beautiful Annabel Lee." Annabel Lee exists in his surroundings and rejoins him in his dreams. This is clearly shown in his line "For the moon never beams without giving me dreams of the beautiful Annabel Lee; and the stars never rise but I feel the bright eyes of the beautiful Annabel Lee."

Furthermore, the most intense verse of longing to Annabel Lee is the following, "And so all the night-tide, I lie down by the side of my darling- my darling my life and my bride, in the sepulchre there by the sea, in her tomb by the sounding sea." This line shows the immortal and unique love that joins both lovers and which will remain intense and pure forever. "In traditional vein of gothic/ romantic poetry such behavior in going to the grave is considered a sign of ardor" (Willhite).

In conclusion, both William Wordsworth and Edgar Allan Poe reflected their unique love experiences in their poems. The uniqueness of their passion is seen in the descriptions of their beloveds and their inner and outer beauties. The previous illustration shows the effect of intimate life experiences on human beings. It also shows the hidden passion that joins lovers who were forced into separation. Both poems reflect the internal battle people endure after the loss of a loved one.

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