

lyric poem and the contrast and dichotomy in the feelings and attitudes he presents is the most dramatic and insightful that he has written. The negative aspects of being a man allowed to interact with the aspects of nature that are positive, and the way Wordsworth depicts both in a close contrast circumscribed by the confines of the poem makes nature the more attractive. Reaching maturity is not the wondrous series of discoveries and enlightenments we usually think of in our culture with its religious confirmations and coming-of-ages, but a deadening of the capacity to be in tune with nature and one's own spirituality and immortality. This idea is consistent with the majority of Wordsworth's poetry and we find these ideas in the Prelude (his depiction of his college days, and St. Bartholemew's fair which are so distasteful to him) as well. The city and modern life are evil and stifling to the human spirit for him ~~due~~ ^{because of} to his own contentment and enlightenment in nature. Wordsworth provides contradictions, reversals, and vague and shifting emotions and states of being in this poem to show that he has done some serious thinking about man and understands his subject, and to show how he has personally lessened the despair and discontentment with modern life and his own immortality. Both "Tintern Abbey" and "Resolution and Independence" seem clear cut compared to the "Ode," although they present reversals and contradictions of their own, but it is in the "Ode" that nature as a curative or continuancy process seems most weak contrasted to the modern world and its spiritually deadening effects. In none of these poems do we have to be concerned with Wordsworth losing grips with spiritual enlightenment in nature, even though he has his emotional peaks and dips. The "Ode" presents a statement that is highly developed about the negative aspects of living that is not found in the others except as a passing comparison; we get to see exactly