

an fancies thick upon me (nim) came." Stanza V condenses the first four stanzas into one;

I heard the sky-lark warbling in the sky;
And I beinought me of the playful hare:
Even such a happy child of earth am I;
Even as these blissful creatures do I fare;
Far from the world I walk, and from all care;
But there may come another day to me-
Solitude, pain of heart, distress and poverty.

The next two stanzas expand the idea of the last two lines in the stanza above. He is worried that in his devotion to nature and lack of care about himself he will be left on the wayside, or that he may find himself coming into adulthood in the state of insanity or despondency. The poem to this point recognizes the beauty and possibility of heightened experience in nature, but along with this there is a serious doubt in Wordsworth's mind that his current and previous relations with nature are only temporary, and the solid comfort he recognizes in nature in "Tintern Abbey" really does not exist.

Through the rest of the poem Wordsworth is jerked from his dark ponderings of nature as he comes across another man on the early morning moors he is wandering. He looks to Wordsworth to be "The oldest man... that ever wore gray hairs (line 56)!" The old man, who we learn is a leech gatherer, is a completely organic and naturally unified sight that Wordsworth compares to a crawling "sea-beast" and his age becomes hyperbolic through the position Wordsworth finds him reposing in: "bent double, feet and head/ Coming together in life's pilgrimage." (It is not mentioned in the poem, but the old man Wordsworth has here stumbled upon ^{is} in a cart accident, D. Wordsworth's, Journals, I, 63.) Stanzas XI through XVI are a retelling of Wordsworth's meeting with the man. He is an epitome of serenity and a symbol of human continuity sustained by nature, and described in terms of nature, i.e., "motionless as a cloud," line 75; a simple simile, but a fitting and graphic one. He is occupied with the pond he is sitting by, stirring it with his staff, "as if he had been