

of Wordsworth's poetic and personal consciousness, and in this poem he is experiencing the bad side of his mentality and emotions. His greatest relief is symbolic because the old man does not eat them, of course, but sells them for medicinal use, making him, although a perfect example of a natural man, tied to the modern world and civilized society, and not the self sufficient hunter and gatherer that Wordsworth conceives him to be. On the other hand of the symbolism he can be seen as performing a great humanitarian service, but the small business aspect remains.

This is not a comforting nature poem as are some of Wordsworth's, but if run from the literal level to the allegorical its parts fall into place. This poem was written after the French Revolution, and the failure of the First Republic, and this is the cause of Wordsworth's despondency in the poem, and fearful thoughts. When he speaks of nature he means human nature, and its natural tendency for independence from established monarchs. The dark emotions he feels are a disappointment in the French people achieving their goals. The old man is an affirmation of revolutionary continuancy, however, a vague symbol due to the lack of leeches at the time. Taking the last stanza as the resolution of the poem we find him ending on a hopeful note. At the time the poem was written Wordsworth's hope in the revolution had recently been destroyed, and as strongly as he felt about it, we can hardly expect a cheerful nature poem from him. Although in a aged, tired and poor state the old man lives on, and so does Wordsworth's hope for a positively resolved revolution.

(The allegorical reading can be applied to the longer literal reading I have given, and a more satisfactory resolution and emotional ordering is apparent if the symbols are installed.)

"Ode: Intimations of Immortality From Recollection of Early Childhood" is a poem basically praising the playful consciousness that belongs to man in his earlier years, and again a description along the

what?

This allegorical reading is, I think, a bit much

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note.