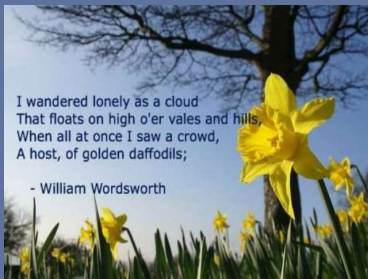


WILLIAM WORDSWORTH



I WANDERED LONELY AS A CLOUD



I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;

- William Wordsworth



CR: Ismail Abu-Khadra

Type of Work, Year of Composition, and Year of Publication.

William Wordsworth's "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" also known as "The daffodils" is a lyric poem focusing on the poet's response to the beauty of nature.


{ A lyric poem presents the deep feelings and emotions of the poet rather than telling a story or presenting a witty observation. }

The final version of the poem was first published in *Collected Poems* in 1815. An earlier version was published in *Poems in Two Volumes* in 1807 as a three-stanza poem. The final version has four stanzas. Wordsworth wrote the earlier version in 1804, two years after seeing the lakeside daffodils that inspired the poem.

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Setting and Background Information

The poem recaptures a moment on April 15, 1802, when Wordsworth and his sister, Dorothy, were walking near Lake Ullswater in Grasmere, Cumbria County, England, and came across a "long belt" of golden daffodils.



Wordsworth's sister Dorothy played an important part in his life and she also influenced him with her love of nature.

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**I wandered lonely as a Cloud (Daffodils):
Rhyme, Form & Meter**

- "I wandered lonely as a Cloud" has a fairly simple form that fits its simple and folksy theme and language. It consists of four stanzas with six lines each, for a total of 24 lines.
- The rhyme scheme is also simple: ABABCC. (Rhymed Stanzas in Iambic Tetrameter). The last two lines of each stanza rhyme like the end of a Shakespearean sonnet, so each stanza feels independent and self-sufficient. This is called a "rhyming couplet."

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I wandered lonely as a Cloud (Daffodils) Summary

- In this poem the poet describes his experience of the sight of "a host of daffodils" during a lonely walk, the daffodils delight him with her beauty and "their sprightly dance". He says "they seem as numerous as the stars that shine in the sky". He also remarks on the beauty of the lake nearby, but adds that even its sparkling waves are not so exuberant as the yellow daffodils "dancing in the breeze". Moreover, when he is sad, he thinks of daffodils "and then my heart with pleasure fills, and dances with the daffodils", that is to say, when his feelings are depressed, thinking of daffodils cheers him up.

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I wandered lonely as a Cloud (Daffodils) Analysis

- William Wordsworth's "I wandered lonely as a cloud" epitomizes the Romanticism that flourished in nineteenth century Europe. The lyric movingly exemplifies Wordsworth's abstract definition of poetry as "emotion recollected in tranquility." Imagination is the key that unlocks the innermost depths of the human spirit, and imagination is best awakened by contemplation and celebration of the wonders of nature.

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First stanza....

- The poem is rich with imagery. In the first stanza, The poet compares himself to a cloud. He is walking lonely as the cloud is moving lonely in the sky over vales and hills. So, the poet from the very beginning represents the idea of loneliness. Suddenly, in his solitude while the poet was walking lonely, he saw unlimited number of golden daffodils. They were beside the lake and under the trees. These daffodils were moving so rapidly as if they were dancing. The poet saw them fluttering and dancing together merrily. They were dancing only in his eyes and imagination. In fact, the poet colors what he sees by his imagination. The physical movement of dancing reflects the psychological state of the daffodils' happiness. The first stanza a contrast between the loneliness of the poet and the crowd of the daffodils.

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Second stanza....

- The poet compares these daffodils to the stars on the milky way in the sky. Both of them are numerous in number and are shining or twinkling. So, the daffodils are shining because they have yellow color at their top. So, when they are grouped together, the yellow color at their top shines like stars in the sky.
- Daffodils are continuing in their movement. The poet describes their movement (dancing) saying that they were stretching along the edge of the lake as if they were human being tossing their heads. So, the poet in this stanza, describes the happy movement of the daffodils.
- These daffodils were situated in a line that never ends to the degree that he imagines himself seeing ten thousand of them. In fact, this is an exaggeration because the poet cannot see ten thousand daffodils just in one glance. But, he makes this exaggeration because he is influenced by the shiny appearance of the daffodils.

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Third stanza....

- In the third stanza, the poet starts to talk about the waves which are in the lake. The waves, like the daffodils, are dancing. They are happy, therefore, they are moving as if they were dancing in the lake besides the daffodils. The joy of the waves exceeds the joy of the daffodils. The waves and the daffodils are humanized as they feel joy. But, the daffodils are happier than the waves. This scene affects the poet and makes him happy. So, in the company of happy daffodils and waves, the poet should be happy like them. In this contemplation, everything in nature affects him, and makes him happy.

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Last stanza....

- In the last stanza, the poet describes his state when he remembers the dancing of the daffodils and waves in his solitude. He says that from time to time when he has nothing to do, when his mind is vacant, or when he is in contemplation of something, he sees by his inward eye and imagination something which gives him pleasure. He remembers the happy dancing of the daffodils and waves while he is lying on his couch. As result, he becomes happy and his heart is filled with pleasure and happiness. This can be done only in his solitude which gives him chance to contemplate nature. Contemplation of nature is the main source of happiness to all the romantic poets. So, his contemplation of nature (the dancing of the daffodils and waves) is the source of his happiness even he starts to dance with the daffodils after his heart is filled with pleasure. This explains the effect of nature on the poet. So, this poem represents the beauty of nature and its effect on human beings.

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Figures of speech:

- Simile : as in " I wandered lonely as a cloud " and "Continuous as the stars that shine " .
- Metaphor: as in " What wealth the show to me had brought " .
- Personification : as in "Fluttering and dancing in the breeze " .

The word "dance" is repeated 3 times in this poem. In the 1st stanza, it denotes the happiness and liveliness of the flowers. In the 2nd stanza, it creates a sense of harmonious relationship between the daffodils and the waves. In the last stanza, it refers that this harmony is advanced to include the poet himself.

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Figures of speech:

- Apostrophe: "I saw a crowd, A host, of golden daffodils." The poet apostrophizes the daffodils and describes them in their large number as a crowd of people. Also , "In such a jocund company "The poets addresses the flowers as human beings and describes them as a happy company of good friends .

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Musical devices:

- Alliteration: Beside and beneath / high and hills
- Consonance: wandered and cloud / that and floats
- Assonance : fluttering, dancing / such and jocund
