

A critical Appreciation of Among School Children : —

Among school children is one of the best poems ever composed by W. B. Yeats which was motivated by the poet's visit to a convent school, narrates the philosophical problem of his passing age. When the poet as a senator visits the school, he looks at its children, the poet's meditation about his decrepit age discusses the unity between past and the present, between passion and divinity, and between body and soul.

The first stanza of this poem narrates the convent school. It starts with the innocence and simplicity of school minor children. The poet visits school and asks the nun about the children, the face and appearance of a little girl reminds him of Maud Gonne, a revolutionary woman whom he loved above his life.

In the second stanza, the poet looks at a child and starts meditating on his past. She arouses in him the image of Maud Gonne. He remembers that day when she complained him about certain things that created some bitter feelings within her. This very stanza establishes a relationship between man and his memory which demonstrated Yeats' philosophy of unity of existence.

In the third stanza, the poet converts himself into a passionate person. Seeing the little girl child, the poet recalls and therefore my heart is driven wild.

she stands before <sup>2</sup> us as a living child. Herein the erudite poet, as a Senator, a public man, who can't dominate his instinct and appears to be dominated by ~~his~~ bodily desire.

In the fourth stanza, the poet mentions the problems of the old age when the poet meditates on the present image of Maude Gonne as an old woman. The poet observes about the loss of physical beauty. In the fifth stanza, Yeats asks a natural question if the mother thinks that one day the child which she renders much of her motherly love and care will turn into an old man, like the poet himself, it is the poet's opinion that passion, piety and affection can never prevent the growing age.

In the other stanzas, the personal note of the poet has been dropped. One can not ~~isolate~~ separate or quarantine the individual from the passing moment by attempting to imagine that at any one moment there is some greater or lesser creature there, like the chestnut tree, a human life is all one piece, so we must be aware of attempting to know the dancer from the dance. The chief idea of this very complex poem is the final unity of body and soul. In the western philosophy, it has been quite common to separate the two



Yeats brings the reference of  
 transcendental philosophy of Plato, realistic  
 manners of Aristotle, and the mythical  
 existence of Pythagoras' mother's solution  
 centred on her expression of affection  
 whereas man's includes worshipping the  
 idols, but both of them are not  
 solutions. The poet suggests one solution  
 at the last of this poem that we must  
 accept reality for what it is.

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