

LINES WRITTEN IN THE EARLY SPRING

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About the poet

William Wordsworth (1770 – 1850) was a major English poet who, with Samuel Taylor Coleridge helped to launch the Romantic Age in English Literature with their joint publication *Lyrical Ballads*. Wordsworth was Britain's poet Laureate from 1843 until his death. He was popularly known as a Nature Poet. Some of his famous poems are *Daffodils*, *The Solitary Reaper*, *To the Cuckoo*, *The Tables Turned*, *Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey*.



I heard a thousand blended notes
While in a **grove** I **sate reclined**,
In that sweet mood when pleasant
thoughts
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

Grove – a small area of
land with a group of
trees

Sate – old-fashioned
spelling of sat

recline – lean back in a
position of rest



The poet hears musical sounds of Nature when he is leaning
back in a position of rest in a grove. In that joyful mood, when
delightful thoughts fill his mind, sorrowful thoughts too fill his
mind.

To her fair works did Nature link
The human soul that through me ran;
And much it **grieved** my heart to think
What Man has made of Man.

Grieved - **mourn / to
feel intense
sorrow**



The poet appreciates Nature for her ability to connect herself to the human soul. Nature is in harmony with the human soul that ran through the poet. This affects the poet and makes him feel intense sorrow over the destructive attitude of Man towards Man

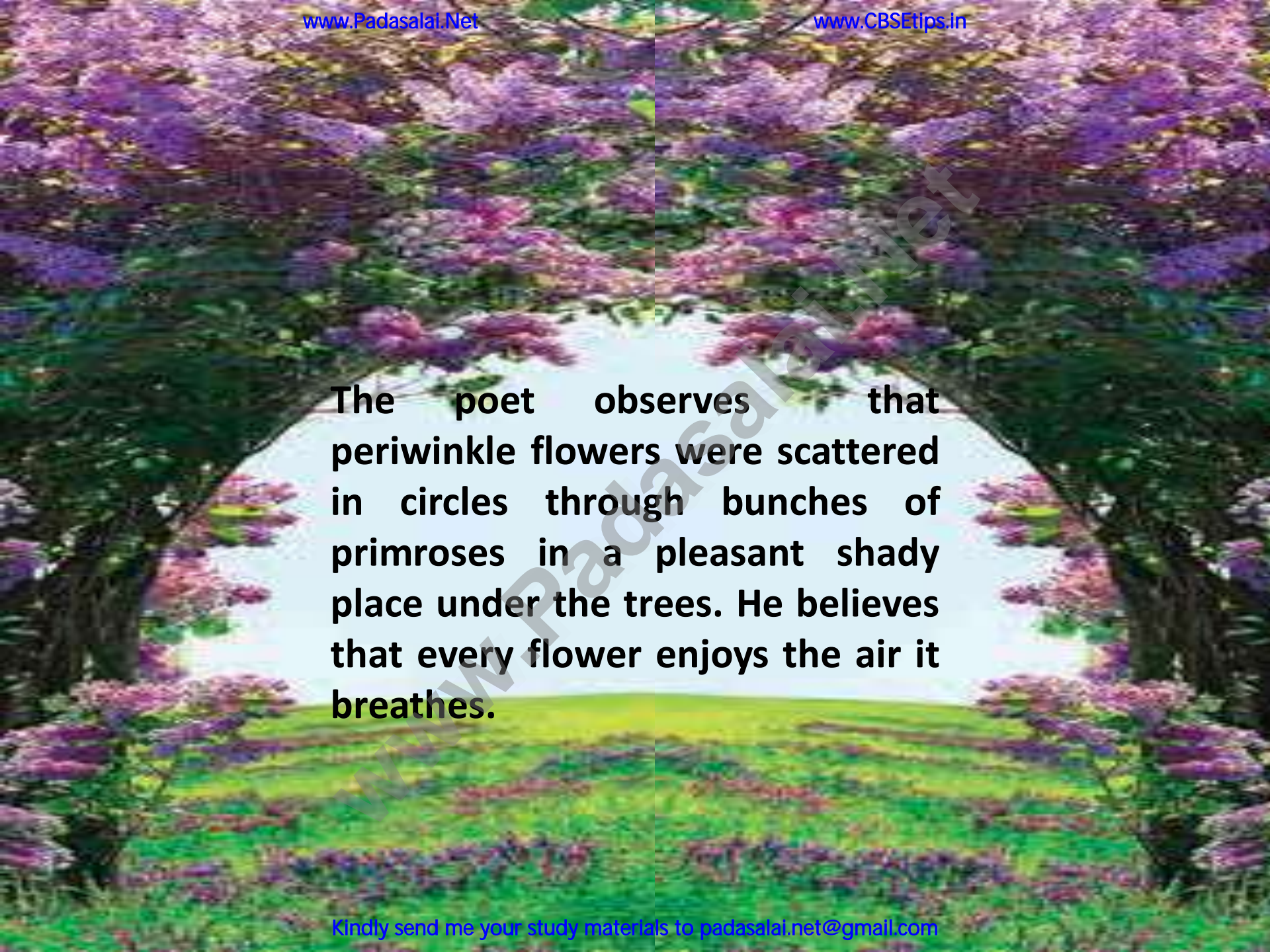
Through primrose tufts, in that sweet bower,
The periwinkle trail'd its wreaths;
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

Primrose – a wild plant with yellow
flowers

Tufts – bunches

Bower – a pleasant shady place under
trees

Periwinkle – a trailing plant with large
blue flowers



The poet observes that periwinkle flowers were scattered in circles through bunches of primroses in a pleasant shady place under the trees. He believes that every flower enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopp'd and play'd
Their thoughts I cannot measure,
But the least motion which they made
It seem'd a thrill of pleasure



The birds around the poet hopped and played. He could not fully understand their thoughts, but even their smallest movements seemed to contain a thrill of pleasure. The birds were enjoying, playing about in their natural habitat. The poet provides us with beautiful images of nature



The budding twigs spread out their fan
To catch the breezy air;
And I must think, do all I can,
That there was pleasure there.



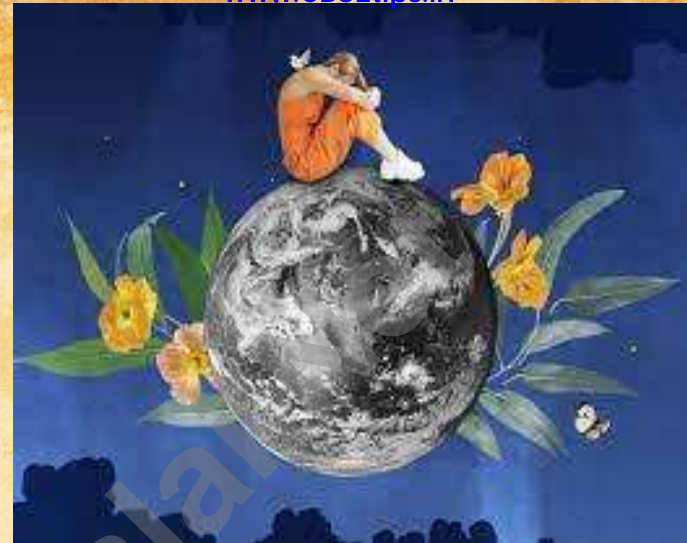
The budding twigs spread
themselves out like fans to
catch the breezy air. The
poet thinks that there was
pleasure there too.

If this belief from heaven be sent,
If such be Nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What Man has made of Man?



Lament - to express sorrow or unhappiness about something

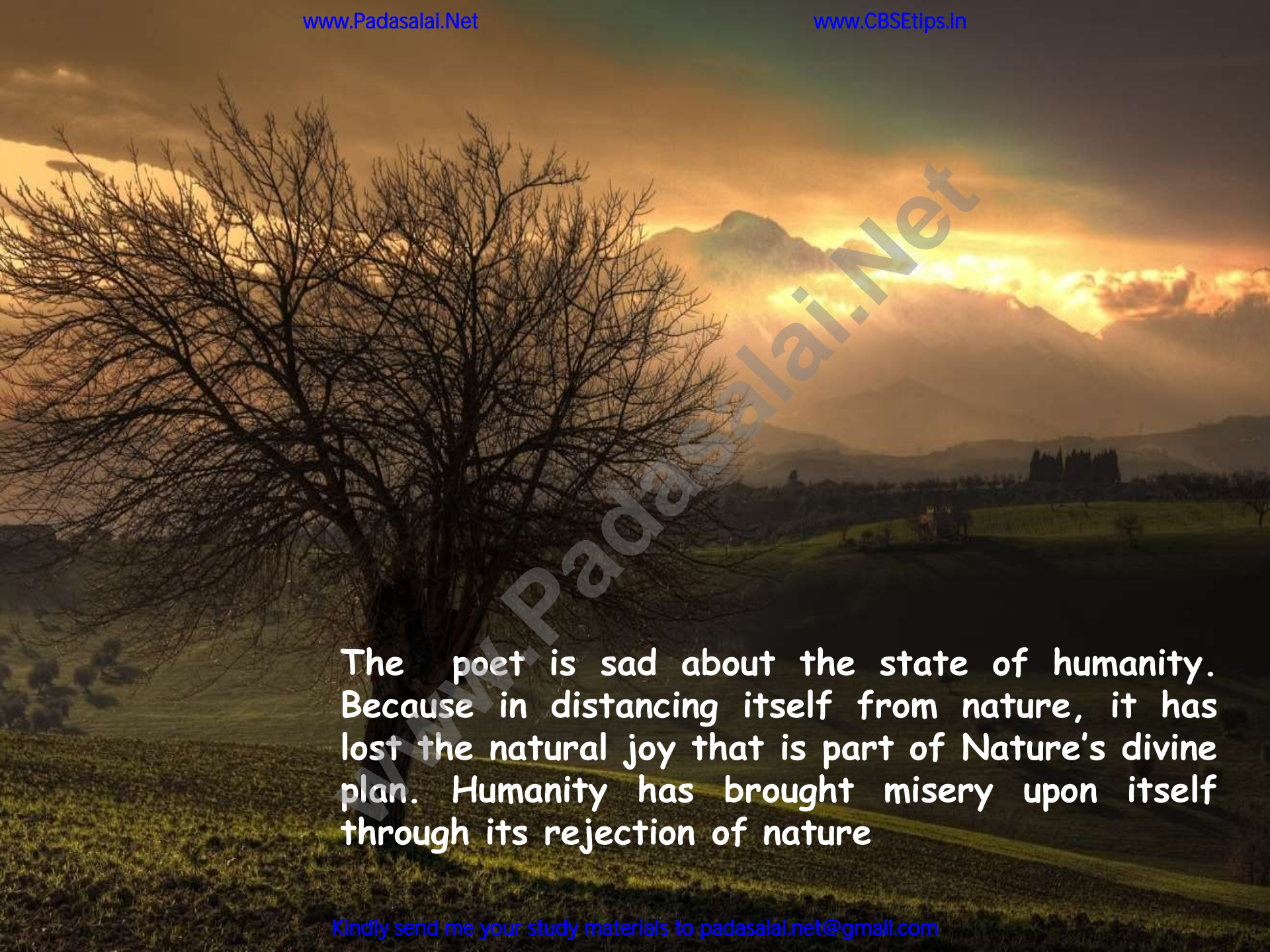
The poet laments....



Seeing such natural joy in everything around him, the poet believes that it might be heaven sent. Therefore, if this natural joy is nature's holy plan, the poet has reason to lament what man has made of man

What Man has made of Man ?





The poet is sad about the state of humanity. Because in distancing itself from nature, it has lost the natural joy that is part of Nature's divine plan. Humanity has brought misery upon itself through its rejection of nature

Poetic devices used in the poem

To her works did Nature link

--- **Personification**

The human soul that through me ran

--- **Metaphor /
Personification**

And 'tis my faith that every flower breathes

--- **Personification /
imagery**

What Man has made of Man ?

---- **Rhetorical
question**

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