

## Mythical Technique in W. B. Yeats's Selected Poetry

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### **Abstract:**

W. B. Yeats, the Irish national poet has been recognized as a modern poet, acquired enough space in literary world to recognize him as an English canon. His poetry brings out testimony of difficult complex poetry owing to his influences he had undergone. He had experienced and talked with spirits. Yeats was frequent visitors of séance and trances. Mystic and magic played a root role with theosophy, Rosicrucian, spiritualism and Neo-Platonism. He had interwoven myths to build his poetic paradigm on the mythic skeleton. His first hand knowledge of Irish myths peasants and fairy stories Irish superstitious beliefs on spirits ghosts and fairies are fertile to plant his seeds. Mythical poetry was his endeavor throughout his life source for inspiration for subjects, content, personal use, to serve him as a vehicle for love towards Maud Gonne. His poetry range all his phases of his life with few of them are mastery for its use. Sailing to Byzantium, Adam's Curse, The Second Coming, Leda and Swan and Wanderings of Aengus are superbly blended in that myths.

### **Introduction:**

W. B. Yeats, the great Irish poet imbibed in poetry throughout his life, being as a modern poet, with every elements of modernism: imagism, symbolism, nature poetry, poetry of disillusionment and disappointment. His poetry brings out testimony of difficult complex poetry owing to his influences he had undergone. His philosophic book 'A Vision' he explains the cones and gyres of poetry composition, Mythologies from Greek and Celtic and Gaelic. He began in Shelleyian and Spenserian cult but ended with imminent questions by his own motherland that is the need for nationalism, rich heritage of ancient Ireland. Until, he firmly, embedded that there is no great literature without nationality, no nationality without literature or unless it expresses the soil of the said country. He owed all his metamorphosis in every decade of his life in 80's and 90's, to persons, need of leadership, to unearth unexposed Irish, Celtic, Welsh Gaelic Scott Literature, to John O'Leary on Irish patriot whom he met in 1885. A vision he compiled of human spaces as per astrological phases of sun and moon are inapprehensible to some readers. In 80's and 90's he came in contact with Theosophical Society, which had been established by Madame Blavatsky and experiences of trances in her company the séances he had even in his night sleep and even day dreams. He had experienced and talked with spirits. Yeats was frequent visitors of séance and trances. Mystic and magic played a root role with theosophy,

Rosicrucian, spiritualism and Neo-Platonism. The systems he established and elaborated in vision have aroused various reactions to the philosophical book.

### **Significance of Study:**

The poet W. B. Yeats, the Irish national poet has been recognized as a modern poet acquired enough space in literary world to recognize him as a English canon he has adopted as a subject for research paper owing to his importance. The 20th century modern age had many developments to precede English Literature, especially psychological research done by Freud, and Carl Jung and Alder. The interest in myths revived by W. B. Yeats, T. S. Eliot is abundantly used in modern poetry. This study adopted with myths as a central subject for discussion. This paper will throw light on Personal aspect in mythical use in poetry, national use in his poetry and Irish Renaissance. Myths is a technique in guise for these writers that are interestingly sought after.

### **Objectives:**

1. To find out Yeats's Source of Mythical technique in poetry composition.
2. To study Yeats's poetic technique and identify myths.
3. To study Mythical allusions imagery and symbolism.

### **Hypothesis:**

1. The work of Yeats reveals a deeply philosophic and mythic vision; and share a similar historical background.
2. He has used mythology creatively and innovatively to strive for a new dawn of culture and consciousness, a revival, in which the glory of the past would be redeemed.
3. He aimed to regain his original, elevated stature through his poetry and national poet.

### **Research Methodology:**

Research is more advantageous to various agencies, government, academicians, universities to proud of, enrollment of research scholars, for interactional activities, for clinically drawing analysis, for individual researchers research stands for extending knowledge boundaries. For the research paper the researcher has gone through primary resources: the poetry from his published books. His Autobiographies and Celtic documents stories he composed in his writings, secondary resources, used reference books critical references, web data and critical analysis to study this subject.

### **Interpretation:**

Myths are underlying inspiring technique right from the classical ages Yeats modeled his myths sometimes created his own who was very much inspired under William Blake. He had interwoven myths to build his poetic paradigm on the mythic skeleton. His first hand knowledge of Irish myths peasants and fairy stories Irish superstitious beliefs on spirits ghosts and fairies are fertile to plant his seeds. The classical myths the Greek mythology and his vision he developed are crucial to his research for poetic theory.

His timely advice crave for excellence in poetry writing the poetic society he ran edition of his magazines and revision of fellow Irish writers brings out his urgent need of Ireland to produce its own literature thereby to encourage educate Irish people towards the common cause of their motherland Yeats believed that mere arms and ammunition organized fighting aren't enough to move towards selfhood to Irish Isles but to instill to the great heroic, cultural past rich tradition in Irish soil, should be made readable to the public. Yeats who was encouraged by Lady Gregory, and her translation in English from Gaelic and Celtic fairies stories, and legends that could revive their heroism to counter British dominance. Yeats was compelled to arrest this urgent need to counter British Dominance on Ireland by composing poetry:

1. To revive patriotism through literature of Irish past heritage.
2. To encourage the peasants of rural folk, to read more from readily available literature.
3. To edit and insist on fellow writers to write on Ireland towards common nationalistic cause.

Yeats as a critic ( his revision and bold criticism of fellow Irish writers in his Autobiographies) through his Irish Literary Society would met to discuss on common forums. He as a well erudite critic of Irish literature who strived to bring Irish literary movements to serve his motherland by insisting on Irish Issues, peasants stories, myths fairy stories to stimulate patriotic feeling.

Yeats's 'The stolen child" is based on an Irish Celtic myth of fairy luring a child away casting her spell on to another world that is more exciting, for the world they are living are full of troubles and grief.

Yeats as a world's recognized poet as an escapist although its change against the poet, Yeats succeeded to place his name to be studied in literature and canon. 'The songs of wandering Aengus' is based on a mythical fairy. Yeats was in love with Maud Gonne tried to convince his love. As a fairy he expressed his troubled psychology to hold her that is something noble beautiful. Like symbolic fish Maud Gonne remains out of his reach.

In Adam's Curse Yeats was more colloquial in approach and use of poetic language. It brings out parallels of each type of hard work. After Adam's course the heavenly status of the earth has gone. Man must work hard Yeats used this Biblical reference to evoke his frustration of love

towards Maud Gonne who had married with John MacBride. Three parallels are contrasted to put the argument to look beautiful and to compose poem.

The Greek Mythology was always the source of inspiration for Yeats No Second Troy. Yeats was Frustrated at Maud Gonne's Marriage, she had ravaged him by rejecting him and causing havoc just Helen's beauty. Yeats curiously asked her If she had any other Troy for her to burn. Beauty had been destructive to both Trojans and to Yeats.

Byzantium poems are epitome of Yeats's craftsmanship, the best poem in later phase of his life. The city was once a city of art, culture and craftsmanship the ideal city for Yeats to escape in reminiscent mood of his earlier poems. The city is symbol of art and ideal city of golden bird and artifice. The contemporary degenerating world has been contrasted with Byzantium. The sexual world, disillusionment are contrasted with liberation of soul and golden bird on golden bough. Yeats modeled this poem on past readings of Blake and John Keats to serve as a vehicle in this poem. Yeats was often criticized for compartmentalization of his poetry by restricting to certain purposes throughout his poetry. The world really missed a great poet in him, which said to be occurred in later part of his poetic career. Whether his art of writing, use of images and evocative symbols. His symbols were traditional, mythic and sometimes shifting in different contexts in the poem. The four sources have been mythology Greek Mythology, Literature and art, and his own explicit philosophy.

Yeats was born and brought up in Victorian Era, he inherited Victorian features of romantic poetry later he disown. Yeats started following William Blake and his mystical poetry.

Secondly, Yeats had Victorian Pre-Raphaelitism with his father as a mediator to bring him into contact of Rossetti and other painters and thinkers, whom he could interact.

Thirdly, Yeats had immense influence of his father right from his childhood till the maturity. Yeats had seen his father discussed the tendency of the age in art and art forms.

Fourthly, Yeats had changing environment, schooling, over unstable, unsuccessful career of his father, the economic conditions of his father and change in their livings from Dublin to London and London to Dublin frequently and sometimes into Sligo played a role in his poetic technique.

Subsequently, The selection of Celtic and Gaelic myths for Yeats and urgency under the influence of John O'Leary, of a national literature. Yeats under the nationalistic mind, tried to revive rich cultural heritage unexposed to the rural Ireland till his career except Hugh, Dougham. Yeats endeavour on this to bring out the peasant stories.

In tune with his pursuit as a poet and dramatist, he got an aristocratic patron, supporter, financier in the form of Lady Gregory and her aristocratic background.

Yeats felt the vacancy of a great poet in Ireland, and only he could achieve a place in literature. To dominate the Irish national literature, he didn't want to miss this opportunity. More he tried, the more success he achieved.

On the other hand, Yeats who had lots of influence, interest in Theosophy, mask, system myths, Hindu philosophy to arouse an interest and provide him material to mould his technique. That not only provided him vehicle, and myths, systems to bring his imaginative qualities to compose his poetry.

The mythical source and implicit Irish subject matter, aroused his interest in peasant stories, believes on ghosts stories. Sligo, the maternal land, the stories that run in rural parts of Ireland. The Celtic Twilight he wrote brings out the stories famous among the Irish folk.

Yeats was passionately in love with Maud Gonne, repeatedly rejected spirit and frustration in love caused in him, the feelings of lost love and lament on his love his personal calamity.

Yeats had occult experience, inspiration mystical experiences in the form of trances and séances by theosophical society by Madame Blavatsky. He was a member and constant visitor to the trances it gave him the symbols and mystic themes.

Furthermore, his wife's automatic writing right after their marriage translated in the form of 'A Vision'. He developed these in phases of sun and moon and categorized the eminent personalities in his expiation. The circle the wheel and the circular movements of the stars gave him mystical meaning by its astrological influence on human beings. The poetry which he wrote afterwards free from Irish national agenda come out as a perfect form of poetry.

The search for more themes and systems to bring real and mythical together, modification of myths for his personal use for, he strived distinctly refined technique in poetry.

Yeats was a great poet, the philosophical doctrine in his composition, to be great poet of the world he resorts some time and hard work to it in isolation. The poet is a subject of modern literary studies and at the same time challenging in his technique allusive poetry.

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