



# Concept of self-spirit in reference to Hegelian poetry

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**Abstract:** George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831) was a most influential German philosopher. His idea concerned with the human self-spirit is relevant in relation to the realm of poetry. For Hegel poetry lives purely in the sphere of inner imagination. The central task of poetry is the expression of spirit. Hegel proposes that emotions and attitudes towards what appear in view and preview of mind can be articulated in the form of poetry. As a work of an art the poet is able to penetrate all the depths of the contents of the spirit and can bring out into the daylight of consciousness whatever lies concealed there.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Hegel argues that art results neither from the application of rules nor from the genius and inspiration alone, but it a high revelation of God than nature is. It results from man's need to exalt the inner and outer world into a spiritual consciousness for himself as an object. The poet must possess a contemplative view of the world, where he is immersed into the substance. Poetry begins when man undertakes to express himself in the form of poetry

### 1. POETRY AS THE SELF-MANIFESTATION

God is more honoured by what the human spirit makes. The divine discloses itself in the work of art. Poetry is regarded as the manifestation or recognition of oneself. In thinking purely men become identical with each other and with God (Honderich, 1983). In a work of art, which is born of the spirit, the spirit and its productions stand above nature and its phenomena. We overcome the dualism between subject and world between knowing man and known nature in seeing the world as the necessary expression of thought (Taylor, 1983).

### 2. WHETHER POETRY IS EITHER SUBJECTIVE OR SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY?

For Hegel, in the production of poetry sensuous side of an art is necessary and it is operative in the artist as his subjective productive activity. At the same, it must be a spiritual activity which contains the element of sensuousness and immediacy. In artistic production the spirit passes over from the senses to abstract ideas and thoughts.

### 3. POETRY PAVES THE WAY FOR THE WORLD BEYOND

The work of art presents itself to sensuous apprehension. It is therefore complimented to the feelings and emotions of human beings. Poetry describing various states of humans create various emotions and feelings in one who read it, it may take one to an imaginative realm.

The finite mind of human being progress to a point at which they can see that the world beyond them. Sensuous apprehension is the poorest mode of apprehension. It consists in the first place, of merely looking on, hearing, feeling etc. it may be an amusement to wander about without thinking; spirit does not stop at mere apprehension of the external world by sight and hearing, rather it leaps into an object for its inner being (Honderich, 1983).

### 4. POETIC CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Poetry is the product of human activity. Poetry is made for man and is more or less borrowed from the sensory feeling and emotion. Man creates art by altering external things, whereon he impresses the seal of his inner being and in which he finds again his own characteristics. (Susan Feagin & Patrick Maynard (1997). Poetry has an inner meaning expressed by its outer form as the soul or mind is expressed by the body.

## 5. SPIRITUAL ELEMENT IN THE POETRY

Language employs as a means of expressing poetic inner imagination. Likewise, the spirit within the poet acts as the inner force to the poet. For Hegel, the object of poetry is the creation of spirit and as such contains some aspect of the idea. In the realm of poetic imagination, the poet penetrates into the beauty of nature and views its inner self. Imagination brings all feelings and speech with disclosure of his thoughts (Hegel, 1975). Here the subject object distinction is absolutely removed and the poet gets in to the realm of the absolute. Human spirit and the spirit of natural things get unified through the realm of poetry.

## 6. SENSUOUS ELEMENT IN POETRY

Hegel states that sensuous form in the poetry is essential to communicate the idea arrived from inner imaginative activity. Without any reference to sensuous form, it is impossible to communicate any poetic ideas. Unless it is expressed the inner imaginative activity can be considered as an end itself. In such a case poetry becomes futile. Sensuous form is transferred and elevated through the activity of imagination.

It is necessary for the poets to have a sensuous form for moulding his poetic imagination, because the poetic imagination or inner activity originates from the objects which the poet observes. Without stirring into the objects, the poet cannot get into the poetic imagination. the poetic imagination in mainly concerned with the aspects of sensuous form. By means of this sensuous form, the imagination is brought forth and elevated to the upright position.

## 7. NATURE AS THE SOURCE OF POETRY

Nature is something posited by God in order to manifest as he is. Nature itself is the vehicle of god's words as poetry reveals the spirit. Therefore, nature must be read analogous to a text in which God says what he is. The absolute is manifested through nature. What the poets do is a kind of self-production in nature and its external things. Nature gets into our ideas and emotions and goes on by the form of poetry and other visual arts, which displays the beauty of nature.

The poet lifts the nature or outer world into his spiritual consciousness in which he recognizes his own self or the element of absolute. Poetry in general way as the very word indicates is something produced by man who has taken it into imagination, pondered it and issued it by his own activity out of imagination.

## 8. THE POETIC WAY OF IMAGINING THINGS

The poet must be concerned in his imagining to dwell with fondness on widening the real phenomenon which he wishes to describe. Visual arts are expressed in colour, tones, music...etc, but in poetry the imaginative idea gets into the expression. The human spirit rises above its finitude and identifies itself with pure thought. All what requires for poetry is a gift for richly imaginative formulation and it is limited only by the fact that poetry being expressed in words.

## 9. POETIC DICTION

In poetic diction the inner life manifests in the form of external linguistic expression. The poetic imagination has to wrap its ideas with linguistic expression. In general, poetic conception only becomes poetry when it is actually embodied and cast in words. In other visual arts, a sort of spatial limitation or restriction is imposed on the artist, but in poetry the poetry is at free from restrictions, for the poet lifts himself into a sphere of brighter charm, grace, fancies and inventions by which he unveils his poetic imagination through an attractive diction in a harmonious order or rhythm.

## 10. POETIC VERIFICATION

Poetic ideas are not confined to a set of words, but it can be actually uttered by means of the sound of words and syllables, this is the domain of versification. Metre or rhythm is absolutely necessary for the expression of poetry therefore versification is too music. Rhythm and the melodic sound of rhythm exercise on us an indisputable magic to find out poetic feelings and ideas. In fact, the rhythm of a poem outpours the spiritual inspiration. Versification consists of specific length and metre of the letters used by the poet. Rhythmic versification inspires us to get into the realm of ideas and imagination. Therefore, Hegel says versification is necessary to unfold the reality lying behind the poetry.

## CONCLUSION

Poetry is an art which can exhaust all the depths of the human self. The poet is required to give deepest and richest inner animation to the material that he brings into the work. The poet must know both the inner and the external side

of human existence and absorb the whole breadth of the world and its phenomena into his own mind. Poetry are mainly constituted of imagination and fancies. But the poetic imagination moves beyond and gets into the realm of absolute. It is apparently clear, what is expressed through the poetic imagination is emotion and vision of a poet. In fact, the poet imprints his own spirit in his imagination and affords the flavour of the absolute.

#### REFERENCES

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