

The Sketch of Mother Characters in Alfred Lord Tennyson's Poems

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Abstract: *A close study of Tennyson's poems reveals the fact that the lonely deserted young girls figure in his poetry written before 1850 when he himself had undergone all the sufferings of a lonely man for the love of Rosa Baring and Emily. After 1850, he became the spokesman of the Victorian moral values as the poet-Laureate and turned to present the portraits of a few old lonely mothers languishing for their lost children. Thus, a large body of Tennyson's poetry is replete with solitary female figures which may well be taken as the symbols of the poet's aesthetic self and the unconscious mind. They are all images produced by his creative genius rather than simple descriptions of female types. In his poems, we find that the portraits of good mothers, though they are only a few, are characterized by the 'passive virtues'- chastity, humility, and obedience-and their strengths are those of sympathy, gentleness and endurance. The mother figures appear like the summer calm of golden charity and having courage to endure and obey. Such are the noble mothers who stay at home and build up their children into noble life.*

Keywords: Desire, love, sex, motherhood, virtues, courage, endurance, obedience, death, remorse

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