

D. B. College Jaynagar Madhubani

L. N. Mithila University Darbhanga

Dept. of English

Dr. Anand Kumar

Mobile No. - 9199995259

Lecturer No-22

Class - B.A. I

Paper - II

Topic - The leading

thoughts of the poem - The Retreat

The poem is rooted in the belief that man's life on earth is not the first of his existence. He lived before he was born here and he comes to the earth with the memories of the life that is behind him. It also suggests that childhood is the most glorious and spiritual state of existence when thoughts are innocent and pure, attraction for God and things heavenly are natural. The poem opens with a regret for the by-gone days of Angel-infancy when man is nearest to God and sees in beautiful sights of Nature like a golden-coloured cloud or a flower "some shadows of eternity". It is in the vivid feeling of childhood that the sense of immortality is beautifully present. The feeling of immortality permits then even the bodily covering of the soul.

The poet fondly yearns to go over again the path of life which he has covered since childhood and reach that state of life when he first parted from the glorious company of attendant angels, and wherefrom he could catch a vision of the city of Heaven with its shady palm trees. But this is a vain thought because after the gross experiences of life it is not possible to regain the pure innocence and the spiritual insight of childhood. Some people want to advance in years and to gain experiences of the world but it is the poet's desire to go back to his glorious childhood by nullifying the experiences of the intervening period of life. It is his faith that when he would die, the innocence of childhood would ~~see~~ ~~reappear~~ reappear to him in his life ~~at~~ after death.

Dr. Anand Kumar

26.08.2020