

Reflections on Beauty

“A nobler want of a man is served by nature, namely, the love of beauty.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Beauty is a combination of qualities, such as shape, color, or form, that pleases the aesthetic senses, especially sight. Emerson describes beauty in a threefold manner. In this essay, I will discuss and analyze the three ideas that Emerson explores in his essay.

The first idea is the presence of a spiritual element in beauty. For Emerson, beauty is a mark that God sets upon virtue. Emerson believes that beauty is created by God and has a special connection with Him. I agree with Emerson, because when God created the world, He didn't make it colorless or the trees leafless. Instead, He made the world full of colors and created nature, which is the most beautiful thing in the world. Some non-believers might disagree with this statement, but I believe it is true.

The second idea is when beauty becomes an object of intellect. Besides its connection to virtue, beauty is also related to thought. To see beauty in everything, a person needs a little intellect to think more deeply about the beauty of the object. There is a good Italian quote that says: “Il più nell'uno.” This means that nothing is beautiful alone; it is beautiful as a whole. Beautiful things seek each other to form that “whole.” None of them dies; all beauty is eternal. They develop together, making a “whole,” and add more beauty to the world.

The last idea is perceiving simple and natural beauty. It is understanding that beauty exists in every corner of the world, and we don't need to make additions to it. The leafless tree is beautiful during sunset, and it still doesn't need leaves to possess beauty. In January, the air might have more life and sweetness than anyone would have expected. Beauty doesn't need any “help” from people to express itself; it is more than enough as it is.

In conclusion, we explored the three ideas of beauty and how it is expressed. Beauty exists on its own, and it doesn't need additions from people. It has a connection with God and is a mark He sets upon virtue. Beauty becomes an object of intellect, and the creation of beauty is art.