

“Beauty” by Emerson: My Reflections

In his essay, Emerson imagines and describes beauty in three main ideas — the divinity of natural beauty, the role of the observer, the Nature’s, and self’s unity with beauty. For Emerson, beauty is a very complex thing that not everyone can see or understand. In his essay he discusses many deep and interesting ideas. My favorites are: “Nothing divine dies.”, “No reason can be asked or given, why the soul seeks beauty.”, “Nothing is quite beautiful alone.”

The first idea is “Nothing divine dies”. It represents Emerson’s belief in immortality of divinity and the Holy Spirit. Emerson’s opinion is that divinity is timeless and exists beyond the rules of physics. The divine has always existed, exists, and will be existing, as it can’t be destroyed. While material things can decay, get lost or destroyed, divinity is unable to do so. Death is not an ending for something as unearthly as the Holy Spirit. It is just a transformation and the start to a new stage for it. The spirit isn’t subject to something as human as death and birth.

The second idea I chose is “No reason can be asked or given, why the soul seeks beauty”. It suggests that the desire for beauty is an instinct that can’t be exactly explained scientifically. People and all creatures generally are attracted to beautiful things, although everyone perceives beauty in their own way. Beauty captivates us, arousing deeply personal emotions, memories, and feelings. Even when we cannot explain why something is beautiful, we feel its impact. It captivates us, helping us connect with our inner world and true selves.

Last, but not least, the idea “Nothing is quite beautiful alone”. It reflects how humans tend to find beauty in relationships, contrasts, and combinations. It also implies that the appreciation of beauty is often influenced by context, emotions, and connections to the world around us. Whether it’s nature, art or personal experiences, beauty seems to flourish when it is a part of something bigger. For example, a single flower is pretty, but a whole field of flowers leaves a much bigger impression. Or a sunrise is beautiful when you watch it alone, but the same scene will be engraved in your memory if you watch it with someone precious to you.

In conclusion, in his essay “Beauty” Emerson reflects on beauty in various contexts. He suggests that beauty cannot be fully understood through a reason or explanation, as it deeply resonates with one’s own perception of beauty, psychology, and mindset. Furthermore, beauty is enhanced when shared or connected, showing its impact, and enriching human experience.