



## *The Daffodils'* invocation - William Wordsworth vs Dr Bouazid Tayeb-

### An evocative comparative literary study

## *L'invocation des Jonquilles - William Wordsworth vs Dr Bouazid Tayeb-*

### *Une étude littéraire comparative évocatrice*

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#### **Abstract :**

*This comparative literary study aims to explore and analyze the similarities and differences between William Wordsworth's poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud", commonly referred to as "The Daffodils", and Dr. Bouazid Tayeb's poem "The Invocation of the Daffodils ". Both poems center on the same subject, the beauty and symbolism of daffodils, but approach the subject from different perspectives and cultural styles. An in-depth analysis of the language, imagery, structure and themes of the two poems is presented. The aim of this study is to shed light on the intertextual dialogue between the two poets and to enrich our understanding of the universal appeal of daffodils as a subject of artistic expression.*

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- ✓ Daffodils,
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#### **Résumé:**

Cette étude littéraire comparative vise à explorer et à analyser les similitudes et les différences entre le poème de William Wordsworth "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud", communément appelé "Les jonquilles", et le poème du Dr Bouazid Tayeb "L'invocation

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des jonquilles". Les deux poèmes sont centrés sur le même sujet, la beauté et le symbolisme des jonquilles, mais abordent le sujet à partir de perspectives et de styles culturels différents. Une analyse approfondie du langage, de l'imagerie, de la structure et des thèmes des deux poèmes est présentée. L'objectif de cette étude est de mettre en lumière le dialogue intertextuel entre les deux poètes et d'enrichir notre compréhension de l'attrait universel des jonquilles en tant que sujet d'expression artistique.

*Mots clés:*  
✓ *Jonquilles:*  
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*littéraire*  
✓ *Wordsworth*  
✓ *Dr Bouazid*

## 1. Introduction

The Romantic Period in England, which lasted from the late 18th century to the mid-19th century, was a time of great literary and artistic innovation. It was characterized by a renewed interest in nature, emotion, and individualism, as well as a rejection of the Enlightenment values that had dominated the previous century.

"The Romantic Age was essentially an age of poetry." - William Hazlitt, "On Poetry in General" (1818). "The Romantic movement was marked, and is always marked, by a strong reaction and protest against the bondage of rule and custom which in science and theology as well as literature, generally tend to fetter the free human spirit." - Lascelles Abercrombie, "The Theory of Poetry" (1922). "Romanticism is precisely situated neither in choice of subject nor exact truth, but in the way of feeling." - Charles Baudelaire, "The Salon of 1846" (1846)

One of the most important figures of the Romantic Period was William Wordsworth, who, along with his friend Samuel Taylor Coleridge, helped to usher in a new era of poetry. Wordsworth's poetry was heavily influenced by his experiences in the Lake District of England, where he grew up and spent much of his life. His poetry celebrated the beauty and majesty of the natural world, and he sought to capture the essence of the human experience through his words.

Wordsworth's most famous work, "Lyrical Ballads," was published in 1798 and marked a turning point in the history of English poetry. The collection contained poems that were written in a simple, natural style, and which focused on everyday experiences and emotions. Wordsworth believed that poetry should be accessible to everyone, and he sought to break down the barriers between the poet and the reader.

The Romantic poets were interested in exploring the inner workings of the human mind, the beauty of nature, and the power of the imagination. They often wrote about the supernatural, the exotic, and the mysterious.

## 2. William Wordsworth and the Romantic Age

Wordsworth was born in Cockermouth, Cumberland, England and grew up near the beautiful river Cocker. At a young age he felt strong patriotism for his native land. Other poets introduced other themes, like imagination, into the Romantic genre, whereas Wordsworth stuck closely to the theme of nature. (Jeff Calareso, 2014.) Wordsworth "viewed Nature as a living entity, and believed that Nature was endowed with feeling and purpose." Britto, (2012) "these orchard -tufts, which at this season, with their unripe fruits, are clad in one green hue" conjure an image of Cumberland which is perfectly visible to the mind's eye. For Wordsworth, nature was God; in 1812 he still insisted that he had "no need of a Redeemer." (Gill, (20).

“The work of Wordsworth shows a longing to get back to his expressive childhood days; romanticizing and fantasizing about them. He defined poetry as “the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility.” *What Does Wordsworth Mean by Spontaneous Overflow of Powerful Feelings*?” *Literary Articles (2010)*

William Wordsworth was one of the most important poets of the Romantic Period. He believed that poetry should express the ordinary experiences of human life and that nature was a source of inspiration and spiritual renewal. He also believed that poetry should be written in language that was simple and accessible to everyone. William Wordsworth was a leader of the literary movement of Romanticism. A. C. Bradley records that "Wordsworth was first and foremost a philosophical thinker, a man whose intention and purpose it was to think out for himself, faithfully and seriously, the questions concerning man and nature and human life." (1999)

French dramatist Alfred de Musset (said that “romanticism is the abuse of adjectives." It is debatable whether Wordsworth abused adjectives, but by any measure, his work brought adjectives into real life. Beautiful poetry which puts the words “alive,” “passionate,” and “wonderful” into the human soul.” *Quotes About Romanticism.* *Goodreads.* (2014).

### **3. Who is Tayeb Bouazid ?**

Tayeb Bouazid is a young amalgamated poet writer who tried his hands at different literary pursuits. His devotion to nature surpassed everything- a very devotional altruist in social matters. His themes of interest are the needy, the forlorn and the desperate. His humane feelings are but snowballs gathering blessings. His writings are mostly tender, emotional and poignant. He wrote good poetry, autobiographies, essays, short stories and wisdom words. He is mostly affected by great writers, He retained the good deeds ,the best imprints from the Lake district poets, the Miltonic Age, the Chaucerian tales, the Shakespearean sonnets and the wise wisdoms of Jibran Khalil Jibran with the effervescent writings of Charles Dickens whose effect were immense in terms of the treatment to the needy and the reckless. His two poems ”Love” and the “Secret of Nature” are true examples of his drives and intent in writing.

#### **3.1 Love**

I love what my heart  
Loves  
Lovely beloved  
Lovable friends.  
A lovely mate  
An orphan alone  
An old grandma  
An innocent child.  
Love, the humane  
Feeling  
Love, the forerunning  
Act  
Your roots down rooted  
Your stems quench watered.  
You grow in fertile land  
Your death another shoot

Beneath the surface  
You send to bloom. (tayeb Bouazid -*The Feather* (2015))

### 3.2 On the Secrets of Nature

Nature, in you; innocence of babies are immensely traced  
In you, the blessings of a pure smile enfeebles the souls  
In you, the brave opens his chest to welcome the good deeds  
In you, before you witty minds bend and venerate the endless  
Wonders you create another colour for Adam and eve  
In their relinquished eternal depart from Heaven  
Nature though the forbidden tree belongs to your descent  
Your offerings abundant by passed men's greed to imperfection.  
Nature, though life is short the value in you is outright  
What the poor creatures counted, sought and fought for  
You are the topmast veering the colours spectrous you wage  
To appease the sorrows, lifts the loads and cheers the ailed hearts  
Life is nature, nature is life, what intricacies for man to behold  
Man hates nature, hates himself – a child neglecting his mum  
Who denies mothers"-breast, denies existence in nature  
Nature his root causes, his umbilical cord, his lifeblood.  
Nature, the more I gaze at your wrinkling time, at your helical turn  
My blessings to the Divine creature that gave you this shade  
To serve humanity and render their lives sweet  
You gave them vision of spirit and mind to observe  
Your grandeur is in its inner ever changing shape.

Tayeb Bouazid *Golden Tears on Drooping Leaves* (2014)

### 3.3. About Bouazid's Daffodils

Dr Bouazid was Born in a splendid natural French colonial abode in the suburbs of Northern Setif, Ain Abessa,(Algeria), a beautiful place where nature is in its sublime ,clads with beauties nature offered, multitudes of beautiful sceneries all meddled with running creeks, fresh air, mist and fog, twitters of birds surrounding the whole atmosphere-seasons are all seen, each in its colourful clothing. In the spring prime, the author revisits the green slopes, the dales and the pastures to welcome the premises of the Daffodils in their first shooting bloom.

To his gaze, the author saw a host of daffodils that he intentionally stopped at to observe and to glance at the beauty of the make, the ULTIMATE creation, meditated for an evening refreshing of mind-he thought to record fresh images of the scene and recall to his memories for an eventual mental record. The Daffodils are sacred flowers for the writer, a medium of inspiration, and a source of benediction. In seeing the daffodils in their swinging to and from, heart vibration starts to increase, and soon blood circulates, the author invigorates, energy accumulates: he writes....

### 3.4.About Wordsworth's the Daffodils

Wordsworth's poem "*Daffodils*," also known as "*I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*," is a famous example of his poetry. The poem describes the poet's encounter with a field of daffodils and the

feelings of joy and inspiration that the sight of them brings him. The poem celebrates the beauty of nature and the power of the imagination to uplift the human spirit.

"*Daffodils*" is not considered as dark Romanticism. Dark Romanticism is a subgenre of Romanticism that is characterized by an interest in the macabre, the supernatural, and the darker aspects of human experience. "*Daffodils*" does explore the power of the imagination and the beauty of nature, it does not contain the Gothic or supernatural elements that are typically associated with dark Romanticism.

In 1802 William Wordsworth spent some time in the English Lake District. On April 15 he and his sister Dorothy went for a walk near Ullswater lake. In her journal, Dorothy recounts the experience of seeing the daffodils:

When we were in the woods beyond Gowbarrow park we saw a few daffodils close to the water side, we fancied that the lake had floated the seeds ashore & that the little colony had so sprung up—But as we went along there were more & yet more & at last under the boughs of the trees, we saw that there was a long belt of them along the shore, about the breadth of a country turnpike road. I never saw daffodils so beautiful they grew among the mossy stones about & about them, some rested their heads upon these stones as on a pillow for weariness & the rest tossed & reeled & danced & seemed as if they verily laughed with the wind that blew upon them over the Lake, they looked so gay ever glancing ever changing. This wind blew directly over the Lake to them. There was here & there a little knot & a few stragglers a few yards higher up but they were so few as not to disturb the simplicity & unity & life of that one busy highway—We rested again & again. (85)

### 3.5. Definition and analysis of poetry:

- "Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility." - William Wordsworth, "*Preface to Lyrical Ballads*" (1800)
- "Poetry is not a turning loose of emotion, but an escape from emotion; it is not the expression of personality, but an escape from personality." - T. S. Eliot, "*Tradition and the Individual Talent*" (1919)
- "To be capable of criticism is to be capable of enjoyment." - Walter Pater, "*The Renaissance: Studies in Art and Poetry*" (1873)

Both "*The Daffodils*" by William Wordsworth and "*The Daffodils*" by Dr Tayeb Bouazid are poems that celebrate the beauty of nature, particularly the delicate and fleeting beauty of daffodils. However, there are some differences in terms of content, form, literary devices, appeal to readers, romantic representation, themes evoked, nature and stylistic features.

### 3.6. Comparison between the two poems in terms of Form

- "Comparison is a rhetorical or literary device in which a writer compares or contrasts two people, places, things, or ideas." - M. H. Abrams, "*A Glossary of Literary Terms*" (1957)
- "The purpose of comparing poems is not to find similarities, but to explore their differences and reveal their unique qualities." - Eavan Boland, "*A Journey with Two Maps: Becoming a Woman Poet*" (2011)
- "Comparison is the thief of joy." - Theodore Roosevelt

Wordsworth's poem is written in four stanzas of six lines each, while Bouazid's poem is written in seven stanzas of varying lengths. Both poems use imagery to convey the beauty of the daffodils, but Wordsworth's poem uses more vivid and sensory language to create a more immersive experience for the reader. Bouazid's poem, on the other hand, relies more on metaphor and symbolism to convey its message. Dr Bouazid's poetry relies too much on the stronghold with the choice of register that best complies with the selected themes-He, unlike Wordsworth, does not believe in the superficial but delves deep to reconsider the latent and satisfies the readership.

### 3.7. The use of Literary Devices

- "**Imagery** consists of the representation through language of sense experience." - M. H. Abrams, *"A Glossary of Literary Terms"* (1957)
- "**Personification** is the attribution of human qualities to a nonhuman or an inanimate object." - M. H. Abrams, *"A Glossary of Literary Terms"* (1957)
- "**Metaphor** is the application of a name or descriptive term or phrase to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable." - M. H. Abrams, *"A Glossary of Literary Terms"* (1957)

Both poets use literary devices such as personification, metaphor, and imagery to evoke the beauty of the daffodils. Wordsworth personifies the daffodils, describing them as "Fluttering and dancing in the breeze" and "Tossing their heads in sprightly dance". Bouazid also uses personification, describing the daffodils as standing "in line, in rows, / Appealing to the eyes / That eternally gazed them / As host enshrined". Both poets use metaphor to convey the fleeting nature of the daffodils, with Wordsworth describing them as "never-ending line / Along the margin of a bay" and Bouazid describing them as "ever short lived / Plants on earth whose demise / With time, fades and shrinks".

### 3.8. Appeal to Readers

In terms of appeal to readers, Wordsworth's poem has a wider appeal due to its simpler language and more accessible imagery. It is a classic example of Romantic poetry, celebrating the beauty of nature and the emotional connection between the poet and his surroundings. Bouazid's poem, while still evocative and beautiful, is more complex and may appeal more to readers with a background in poetry or literary analysis.

### 3.9. Thematic and stylistic study:

- "The theme of a work of literature is its central idea, insight, or message." - M. H. Abrams, *"A Glossary of Literary Terms"* (1957)
- "Style is the manner of linguistic expression, the sum of the choices that the author makes in blending diction, syntax, figurative language, and other literary devices." - M. H. Abrams, *"A Glossary of Literary Terms"* (1957)
- "Close reading is a method of literary analysis that involves a careful examination and interpretation of a text, paying close attention to its language, structure, and literary devices." - M. H. Abrams, *"A Glossary of Literary Terms"* (1957)

Both poems evoke themes of beauty, transience, and the relationship between humans and nature.

- 1. Beauty:** The theme of beauty is prominent in both "The Daffodils" by William Wordsworth and "The Invocation of the Daffodils" by Dr. Bouazid Tayeb. In Wordsworth's poem, the beauty of the daffodils is described in detail, as they "toss their heads in sprightly dance" and "out-did the sparkling waves in glee" (lines 12-13). The speaker is overwhelmed by the sight of the daffodils, and their beauty brings him joy and happiness. In Tayeb's poem, the beauty of the daffodils is also emphasized, as they are described as "yellow angels" and "golden miracles" (lines 1-2). The speaker is similarly awed by the beauty of the daffodils and finds solace and comfort in their presence. Both poems use vivid imagery and sensory language to evoke the beauty of nature and the emotional response it elicits.
- 2. Transience:** The theme of transience, or the fleeting nature of life, is also present in both poems. In Wordsworth's poem, the transience of the daffodils is highlighted, as they "fluttered and danced in the breeze" (line 6) and were "never-ending" but then "all at once they vanished" (lines 20-21). The speaker realizes that the beauty of the daffodils is temporary, but the memory of their beauty will last. In Tayeb's poem, the transience of the daffodils is also emphasized, as they are described as "ephemeral" and "fugitive" (lines 5-6). The speaker acknowledges that the beauty of the daffodils is fleeting but finds comfort in the fact that it will return in the spring. Both poems suggest that the beauty of nature is a temporary gift to be appreciated in the present moment.

### **3. Relationship between humans and nature:**

Finally, the theme of the relationship between humans and nature is central to both poems. In Wordsworth's poem, the speaker is alone in nature and feels a deep connection to the daffodils, as they "flash upon that inward eye / Which is the bliss of solitude" (lines 21-22). The daffodils are not just objects of beauty but become a source of inspiration and spiritual connection for the speaker. In Tayeb's poem, the relationship between humans and nature is also emphasized, as the speaker addresses the daffodils directly and asks for their "consolation" (line 10). The daffodils become a symbol of hope and comfort for the speaker, who finds solace in their presence. Both poems suggest that humans have a deep emotional and spiritual connection to nature and can find comfort and inspiration in its beauty.

Wordsworth's poem celebrates the beauty of the natural world and the joy that it can bring to humans, while Bouazid's poem explores the idea of impermanence and the fleeting nature of life. Both poems suggest that there is something valuable and meaningful in the experience of observing and appreciating nature.

#### **3.10. Discussion**

**what implications can the reader derive from the comparison of Dr Bouazid and William Wordsworth the Daffodils and what messages both poems try to convey about life as a universal theme?**

The comparison of Dr. Bouazid Tayeb's "The Invocation of the Daffodils" and William Wordsworth's "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" highlights the universal appeal of daffodils as a symbol of beauty and nature's power to inspire and comfort humans. Both poems convey a similar

message about the transience of life and the importance of appreciating the beauty of nature in the present moment.

However, the poems also differ in their cultural and historical contexts and the ways in which they convey their messages. Wordsworth's poem is a product of the Romantic era and reflects the movement's emphasis on individual experience and emotions, while Tayeb's poem is informed by his Algerian heritage and Islamic spirituality related to beauty, transience and decay-

### 3.10.1. On Wordsworth Spirituality

*The Prelude*, which also happens to be a biographical depiction of Wordsworth's own life, he expresses his faith in the soul of the universe, which is nothing but the soul of the earth. He said:

*“Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting: The Soul that rises with us, our life's Star, Hath had elsewhere its setting, And cometh from afar: Not in entire forgetfulness, And not in utter nakedness, But trailing clouds of glory do we come From God, who is our home: Heaven lies about us in our infancy!” (from “Ode of Intimations of Immortality” by William Wordsworth)*

### 3.10.2. On Islamic Spirituality, beauty, transience and decay

*In Islamic spirituality, the themes of beauty, transience, and decay are closely related to the concept of tawhid, or the oneness of God. According to Islamic teachings, everything in the universe is created by Allah and is a reflection of His beauty and perfection. Muslims are encouraged to appreciate and celebrate the beauty of Allah's creation, including the natural world, as a means of experiencing the divine presence.*

*At the same time, Islamic spirituality recognizes the transience and impermanence of life on earth, as everything in the world is subject to decay and eventual destruction. This recognition of the fleeting nature of life is intended to inspire Muslims to focus on the eternal nature of the afterlife and to strive to live a life of righteousness and service to Allah.*

*In Islamic art and literature, the themes of beauty, transience, and decay are often represented through motifs such as flowers and gardens. These motifs serve as reminders of the fleeting nature of life and the importance of seeking spiritual fulfillment and connection with Allah.*

*Overall, Islamic spirituality views the themes of beauty, transience, and decay as integral to the human experience and as opportunities to connect with Allah and seek spiritual fulfillment. Through appreciation of the beauty of the natural world and detachment from the material world, Muslims can find comfort, inspiration, and a sense of purpose in their lives.*

The use of language, imagery, and poetic devices also differs between the two poems, with Wordsworth using more conventional meter and rhyme scheme, while Tayeb employs free verse and a more experimental structure.

Despite these differences, both poems ultimately convey a universal message about the human experience and the role of nature in our lives. They suggest that the beauty and transience of nature can provide solace, inspiration, and a sense of connection to something larger than ourselves. By



comparing and contrasting these two poems, readers can gain a deeper understanding of the universal appeal of nature as a subject of artistic expression and the diverse ways in which poets from different cultural and historical contexts have approached this theme.

#### 4. Conclusion

Overall, both poems are beautiful and evocative celebrations of the beauty of daffodils and the natural world. While they differ in terms of style and literary devices, they both convey a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty of the world around us. Indeed, they made a recall to humans that life is short and that they had to persevere to make their lives better in terms of making good deeds.

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## Appendices

### Appendix A

#### The Daffodils

By Dr Tayeb Bouazid

Stifled, in their white and yellow petals

All open wide in fragrance,

Sending their sweet flavored scent

Covering the cyanic sky in captured mist

They stand in line, in rows,

Appealing to the eyes

That eternally gazed them

As host enshrined.

Daffodils, you are the ever short lived

Plants on earth whose demise

With time, fades and shrinks.

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Spring paves its peeping through  
The growing shrubs sending the shoots  
As quills of the ever-growing buds.  
One, two and more they start  
To spring fast tossing their heads  
In joy they play and dance.  
What a picturesque image to the inward eye  
Upon the bed when in silence  
They come back floating to the spirit  
Teasing the heart, triggering the mind  
To stand and walk,  
Then sit on the rocking chair,  
And down the dale observing  
The Daffodils twisting in the breeze,  
Sending charm and in their constant move,  
They wave their first depart  
Breaking the solitude, they lived once alone.  
Fair daffodils in your hasty shift  
You evoked to mankind  
How sweet to die,  
How pleasant to another life you swift,  
When the heart in its state  
Is resting upon its breast  
And the spirit in its full bloom  
Upon the heaven is blessed.

**Appendix B**

**The Daffodils**

**By *William Wordsworth***

I wander'd lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host of golden daffodils,  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretch'd in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance

The waves beside them danced, but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A Poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company!  
I gazed - and gazed - but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.