

## The interpretation of William Wordsworth's "She Dwelt among the Untrodden Ways "

In William Wordsworth's "She dwelt among the untrodden ways" ,the first two stanzas focus on Lucy while she is still alive, and the last stanza tells the reader of Lucy's death and the poet's response to it. In these short stanzas, the poet tells of his admiration and singular devotion to Lucy and his utter despair over her death. In the first stanza, Lucy lived in seclusion near the springs of the river Dove. She remained unmarried, unpraised, and unloved except by a few. One wonders who those few were. Lines like, "none to praise," "very few to love," and the word "untrodden" tell the reader that Lucy was a nobody to everyone except the poet. The 'untrodden ways' not only refer to her life, but also to the people among whom she mixed with because when we refer to a group of people, we commonly make use of the word 'among'. This tells us that the people with whom Lucy lived or mixed with, possibly did not have a very good image and maybe that was the reason why she wasn't loved by anyone.

In the second stanza, Wordsworth's aim is to show her innocence and beauty again. He uses two simple metaphors to emphasize these qualities. "A violet by a mossy stone" and "Fair as a star, when only one is shining in the sky." Lucy is a "violet growing " by a mossy stone." She is all by herself and "half hidden" from view. A simile now intrudes. She is - Fair as a star, when only one Is shining in the sky. Again her loneliness is emphasized. Not only is she a single flower, but also she is not like the sun - the most dominant inhabitant of the daytime sky - but a lone star passively reflecting sunlight. Some thinks that Wordsworth is referring to the star Venus who comes out all alone after sunset and is hence, the first star. Venus is also the Goddess of love, and in contrast to the violet, very public for all the world to see. In the third stanza, Wordsworth tells the reader of Lucy's death. He doesn't just say she died. He says, "She ceased to be," which creates greater impact with the typical expectancy of an infinitive. Again, the diction of anonymity is shown in that she lived "unknown" and "few could know." However, in the last two lines, her significance to Wordsworth is made very clear with "and oh, the difference to me!" Wordsworth clearly experiences a great sense of loss at her death. This last line also emphasizes her "only one" status as the only star in the sky. The theme of this poem is that the noble and virtuous sometimes receive little or no attention during their journey through life. They are blazing stars who soar through the heavens unnoticed or seldom seen, then burn out and die. The poem can stand as a lament on behalf of all people who go through life unnoticed and unappreciated.