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CRITICAL APPRECIATION OF "WHAT-THEN?" BY W. B. YEATS

William Butler Yeats (W.B. Yeats) is the greatest poetical figure of the age. He did not repeat traditional matters in the traditional manner. He had his own vision of man & the world and spoke with original authority. He owed much to Ireland, but it is sometimes worth while to forget that Yeats is an Irish poet and to remember that he is a poet.

"What Then?" is a very charming poem composed by W.B. Yeats. His early poems stand written in the romantic vein, and are dominated by Celtic myth & imagery. Here in this poem the poet has pointed out the career of a 'successful man' presumably & authentically. In his early life he was a successful man & he did not enjoy his life but worked hard. In due course he was known as a popular writer & earned a lot of money with small family as well as house & acquired some land. He was given importance by the society & poets & writers flocked around him. He got his ambition by his humble way that is a far cry from ideal perfection.

We find the poem is without poetical device. The language of the poem is unadorned & most of the words are monosyllabic. The order of the words is like prose. Even undoubtedly this is claimed as a poetry.

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