

POETRY *From* NAGALAND



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Department of English
Nagaland University

POETRYFrom **NAGALAND**

**Department of English
Nagaland University**

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INTRODUCTION

The essence of poetry is invention. Carlyle called it “Musical thought”. For Wordsworth poetry is the “breath and finer spirit of all knowledge” and he defined it as “the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotions recollected in tranquillity.” For Edgar Allen Poe poetry is “the rhythmic creation of beauty.”

It is puzzling at times to distinguish prose from poetry. S.T. Coleridge is said to have made his homely definitions of prose and poetry; prose = words in their best order; poetry=the best words in the best order.

Look at the following sentence: “So much depends upon a red wheelbarrow, glazed with rain water, beside the white chickens.” This sentence is actually a poem by William Carlos Williams, “The Red Wheelbarrow.” The prose type of a sentence looks poetic when arranged differently.

So much depends
upon
a red wheel
barrow
glazed with rain
water
beside the white
chickens

What makes a poem depends on its form and content. The form of this poem creates a visual pun. There is a pattern of repetition in the lines. In each stanza the first line has three words and the second only one. It's content

depends upon the first stanza both visually, grammatically and logically.

In brief, a poem is a composition that makes one think of words and their arrangement. The following points should be kept in mind when we consider what poetry is not. 1) Poetry is not always rhymed. Some profound poetry of Shakespeare and Milton are in unrhymed verse. The modern trend is to write in unrhymed verse. 2) Poetry is not always metrical. Though often it is metrical in form, it is not necessary to have rhythmic patterns or metres in poetry. 3) Poetry is not always concerned with beauty. It can be also on any topic devoid of beauty and in a language that sounds harsh. 4) Poetry is not always high-toned and moral. 5) Poetry is not always profound.

Poetry can be both objective and subjective. In objective poetry, the poet gives an impersonal account of what he perceives. In subjective or personal poetry the poet presents what he/she observes and experiences.

Poetry has a unique place in creative writing as its innate beauty, musical cadence and rhythm is superior to prose composition in expressing sentiments and feelings.

The cyber-revolution has changed the shape of poetry today, but not its importance. The new forms of hyper-lit and hyper-poetry are written on the interactive screen. The very significant features of these new forms are that first the distinction between the author and the reader is blurred. The reader passes through a dream like situation while reading the hypertext on the screen. Secondly the very

definition of literature as propounded by Aristotle in *The Poetics*, that there should be a beginning, middle and end is no more in vogue, in the electronic form of hyper-text. However poetry has proved to be adaptable as any other art and continues to flourish. Hence poetry is there to stay as a powerful tool giving expression to human imagination and by which people can share their thoughts and emotions.

In this collection the poets have come forward with their diverse thoughts and feelings, expressing them in manifold ways. These poems will appeal differently to readers according to their sensibilities as each poem is the voice of a poet and presents his/her mind and art. Some are well known, others less known; yet they all have come out beautifully with their unique expressions.

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