

THE THEME OF MOTHERLAND IN ROBERT BURN'S POETRY

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ABSTRACT

Robert Burns, Scotland's celebrated poet, frequently explored the theme of the motherland in his works, reflecting his deep connection to Scotland. This article delves into Burns's portrayal of Scotland as the motherland, examining the historical context, Burns's personal relationship with Scotland, and the representation of the motherland in his poetry. Through analysis of selected poems and exploration of recurring themes and motifs, this study highlights Burns's nuanced depiction of Scotland, its landscapes, people, and culture. Ultimately, it reflects on the enduring impact of Burns's poetry on Scottish identity and literature.

KEYWORDS: Robert Burns, poetry, motherland, Scotland, patriotism, cultural identity.

INTRODUCTION

Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet, infused his verses with a profound love for his homeland, portraying Scotland as the motherland. In this article, we delve into Burns's depiction of Scotland, exploring his personal connection, thematic nuances, and enduring impact on Scottish identity and literature.

FINDINGS

William and Agnes Brown Burnes welcomed their son Robert Burns into the world in Alloway, Scotland, in 1759. Burns, like his father, was a tenant farmer. However, near the end of his life, he became an excise collector in Dumfries, where he died in 1796; throughout his life, he also practiced poetry. His poems captured and celebrated features of farm life, regional experience, traditional culture, class culture and divisions, and religious practices. He is regarded as the national poet of Scotland. Although he did not set out to acquire that title, he clearly and repeatedly stated his desire to be known as a Scots bard, to laud his native land in poetry and song, as he does in "The Answer":

Ev'n thena wish (I mind its power)

A wish, that to my latest hour

Shall strongly heave my breast;

That I for poor auld Scotland's sake
Some useful plan, or book could make,
Or sing a sang at least.

In a letter to his friend Gavin Hamilton on December 7, 1786, he described his Edinburgh reception: "I am in a fair way of becoming as eminent as Thomas a Kempis or John Bunyan; and you may expect to see my birthday inserted among the wonderful events, in the Poor Robin's and Aberdeen Almanacks." And, most likely, I will soon be the world's tenth Worthy and eighth Wise Man.

In April 1787, the second edition of Burns' poetry was published in Edinburgh. It brought him money and allowed him to explore more of his native area. Robert traveled extensively around the country, witnessing the stunning scenery and lochs of the Highlands. He had a memorable experience visiting historical sites. This poem is the consequence of his tour.

"My Heart's in the Highlands" has a fairly simple theme: love for the nation, nature, and longing for Scotland's beauty. In "My Heart's in the Highlands," Robert Burns employs natural elements to signify homeland - Motherland. The poem transforms the abstract concept of home into a real picture through vivid descriptions of nature and a specific location in Scotland. The picture of the Highlands, its stunning scenery, and its "valiant" people evokes feelings of pride and belonging in the reader.

CONCLUSION

In exploring Robert Burns's portrayal of Scotland as the motherland, we uncover a tapestry of love, nostalgia, and cultural identity woven into his poetry. Burns's verses continue to resonate, reminding us of the enduring bonds between individuals and their native soil, shaping Scottish identity and literature for generations to come.

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