

THE THEME OF MOTHERLAND IN ROBERT BURN'S POETRY

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ABSTRACT

This article delves into Robert Burns's profound depiction of the motherland theme in his poetry, focusing on his passionate portrayal of Scotland. Burns, known as the national poet of Scotland, intricately weaves themes of patriotism, nostalgia, and cultural identity throughout his works. Through analysing selected poems such as "Auld Lang Syne" and "To a Mouse," this study illuminates Burns's deep emotional connection to his homeland and its people. By examining the linguistic and thematic elements employed by Burns, this article offers insights into how his poetry continues to resonate with readers, capturing the essence of Scotland's enduring spirit and collective identity.

KEYWORDS: Robert Burns, Motherland, landscape, novel, character, homeland, Scotland

INTRODUCTION

Robert Burns, the iconic Scottish poet, has immortalised his love for his homeland through verses that resonate with passion and pride. Central to Burns's poetic vision is the theme of the "motherland," a concept that transcends mere geography to encompass a profound sense of belonging and cultural identity. In his works, Burns paints a vivid portrait of Scotland as a nurturing motherland, whose landscapes, people, and traditions shape the very essence of his poetry. This article embarks on a journey through Burns's poetic landscape, illuminating the enduring significance of the motherland theme and its role in forging a collective sense of Scottish identity. As we delve into Burns's verses, we unravel the layers of emotion, nostalgia, and resilience that define his portrayal of Scotland as a cherished motherland, cherished in the hearts of all who call it home.

FINDINGS

Robert Burns was born on 25 January 1759 in Alloway, Scotland. He was the eldest of seven children in a poor farming family. He and his brother Gilbert were first educated at Alloway School, but its closure due to financial trouble meant the brothers were educated for a time by John Murdoch, who had studied in Edinburgh.

After Murdoch left for a job in Dumfries, Burns' father educated the brothers for a short while before they attended Dalrymple School. From the age of 12, Burns

worked on his father's farm in Ayrshire, though the farm didn't make much money. The family moved from farm to farm, finding no financial success at any of them. After Robert Burns' father died in 1784, the family moved to a farm in Mossgiel.

Russian literary critics (N. Aleeva [1], E.N. Elistratova [3], D.N. Zhatkin [4], [5], B.I. Kolesnikov [6], Yu.D. Levin [7], P.M. Toper [8], and others) have already examined R. Burns' literary legacy numerous times. It has also frequently been the subject of specialised scientific investigation in the field of foreign literary criticism (D. Ferguson [12], Th. Crawford [11], J. Kinsley [14], K. Witting [22], J. Carruthers [10], J. Skoblow [20], and others). Simultaneously, the interpretations of Burns' image in Scottish emigration poetry from the nineteenth century were not even mentioned by this group of literary-critical and literary studies, nor were they compared to the same image in Scotland. Meanwhile, this viewpoint might shed fresh light. In the meantime, this viewpoint may shed new light on the main issues with literary emigrational studies as well as Burns' image.

However, the very characteristics that appear to associate Burns with the Romantics were sensible reactions to the Scotland of the eighteenth century in which he was raised. In addition, his modest upbringing on a farm rendered him somewhat of an advocate for all Scots, particularly the underprivileged and downtrodden. Throughout his life, he expressed his awareness of humanity's unequal state in letters, poems, and songs. Perhaps the most poignant of these was the repeated comparison of the rich and the poor in the song "For A' That and A' That," which powerfully affirms the humanity of the honest, hardworking, impoverished man: "The Honest man, though e'er sae poor, / Is king o' men for a' that."

As a Scottish poet who emigrated, R. Burns in Scotland did not immediately fit into the literary framework of his day or Scottish literature in general. Due to the unstable economy and persistently low level of life, Scotland in the late 18th and early 19th centuries was already starting to search for alternative values. These values were material. The liberating and patriotic impulses that dominated Burns' poetry did not align with this reality. Despite their unique styles and exceptional poetry, the Scottish emigrant poets were nevertheless unable to establish themselves as important writers in Scotland or the United States. This is the place to remark on the evaluation of Robert Burns's work in the United States. For American civilization, Burns is a symbolic figure (literary,

In the nineteenth century, Burns was not a novel character in American society, even in terms of literature. When the Burns Club met in Washington in January 1865, Abraham Lincoln gave a toast honouring R. Burns as a man and a poet [11, P. 136]. R. Burns was also regarded by American poets (R.W. Emerson, J.R. Lowell, O.V. Holmes, J.G. Whittier, and W. Whitman) as one of the most iconic figures in Great

Britain. W. Whitman praised him as the best British poet, noting that his poetry is highly accessible to and understood by Americans [21, P. 427–435].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Robert Burns's poetry serves as a timeless tribute to the enduring bond between people and their motherland. Through his eloquent verses, Burns captures the essence of Scotland as a nurturing, resilient homeland, instilling a deep sense of pride and belonging in his readers. As we reflect on Burns's portrayal of the motherland, we are reminded of the universal longing for roots, heritage, and a place to call home. His poetry transcends time and borders, serving as a poignant reminder of the enduring power of literature to connect us to our cultural identity and to the lands that shaped us. In the tapestry of Burns's works, the theme of the motherland remains a guiding thread, weaving together the past, present, and future of Scotland's rich heritage. As we bid farewell to the pages of his poetry, let us carry forth the spirit of the motherland, cherishing and honouring the ties that bind us to our ancestral soil.

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