



Shelley: A Defence Of Poetry

Percy Bysshe Shelley

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Shelley: A Defence Of Poetry Details

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Author : Percy Bysshe Shelley

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From Reader Review Shelley: A Defence Of Poetry for online ebook

Noah says

boni

Peter Sukamto says

Absolute fire

Marco says

Another essay I had to re-read for college, another essay I enjoyed more the second time.

Erin says

Shelley is always enjoyable, if at times using a defense based on what sounds good over what it.

Tayla says

tears

Claire says

Another one for my English seminar; not. a. fan. Had to force myself through it and still wasn't really convinced by most of it.

Marios says

Is it me or is this completely unconvincing???

Shelley extends the definition of poetry in order to include all arts(even music, painting etc). This is no poetry, this is arts in general!

He then distincts poetry and believes it superior to all other arts and sciences and the major(only?) force to influence societies...how can this be? A musician or a painter need not read a single verse to be great in their art and influence society with their works, let alone a scientist.

He also considers people like Plato, Locke, Hume, Voltaire, Rousseau as poets. Painters like Rafael and Michelangelo. Historians too. These are, strictly, political philosophers, painters and historians. They are no poets! Their contributions cannot be linked back to poetry.

I dont think someone can argue for the value of poetry in a society(as is the book's purpose) by making such broad assumptions.

Otherwise it's a great read, only it should be titled differently.

A Defence of Arts, yes.

A Defence of Great Minds, yes.

A Defence of Poetry, no.

Ali says

An ssronger defence of poetry in comparison with sidney.

Adam says

Despite what I'm about to say, I still think Percy Bysshe's name is ridiculous and that he was a total prat. M.W.G. Shelley remains the far more compelling 19th-century Shelley.

Still, with every reading of this *Defence*, I become more and more convinced of its unique greatness. This is philosophically and theoretically really compelling, not a mere polemic or a poorly reasoned reaction to attacks on poetry. When I first read it as an undergrad, years ago, the thing came across as *just* a cute, impassioned plea for people to give a shit about something important. When you pay attention, though, when you *really* pay attention, it turns out that Shelley's *Defence* offers a great deal to think about and think through. These sorts of realizations are humbling in the most important way: they teach you that you don't know as much as you think you do and that there's almost always something you've missed in a classic text you're initially dismissive of (not saying a book or essay's necessarily great *just because* it's a "classic," by the way, just that there's usually a reason and it's awfully easy to miss it when you've got other shit to do that doesn't involve sitting and thinking through some musty old thing).

Maite says

Shelley has an exquisite style yet he rushes through the essay and ends caught up in circularities and contradictions. Nevertheless, an entertaining reading.

eliana says

"A poet is a nightingale, who sits in darkness and sings to cheer its own solitude with sweet sounds; his

auditors are as men entranced by the melody of an unseen musician, who feel that they are moved and softened, yet know not whence or why."

"Poetry is a mirror which makes beautiful that which is distorted."

Susan says

This is a short but very rich essay on poetry-- invigorating, radical, and surprising.

"The parts of a composition may be poetical, without the composition as a whole being a poem. A single sentence may be considered as a whole though it be found in the midst of a series of unassimilated portions; a single word even may be a spark of inextinguishable thought. And thus all the great historians, Herodotus, Plutarch, Livy, were poets, and although the plan of these writers, especially that of Livy, restrained them from developing this faculty in its highest degree, they make copious and ample amends for their subjection, by filling all the interstices of their subjects with living images."

"The great instrument of moral good is the imagination; and poetry administers to the effect by acting on the cause."

"Poetry is not like reasoning: a power to be exerted according to the determination of the will. A man cannot say, "I will compose poetry". The greatest poet even cannot say it: for the mind in creation is as a fading coal which some invisible influence, like an inconstant wind, awakens to transitory brightness: this power arises from within, like the colour of a flower which fades and changes as it is developed, and the conscious portions of our natures are unprophetic either of its approach or its departure. "
