

Shelly's Views of Poetry and the Poet

from P. B. Shelly. *A Defence of Poetry*, 1821, published 1840.

1. <i>The creative process</i>	How does the poet's mind work when the creative process is in progress? Can the poet's will and reason control the process?	Poet favours poetic inspiration, it's hidden to himself, when it begins the composition inspiration is already in decline. The poetry is free from the will of the poet.
2. <i>The poet's identity</i>	Who is the poet? To what extent is he different from other men?	The poet records the best and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds (of the same poets) through the poetry. The poets are different from other men because they have the most delicate sensibility and the most enlarged imagination. And their mood is tormented.
3. <i>The poet's task</i>	What does the poet do and how?	Poet makes immortal all that is best and most beautiful in the world, thought poetry.
4. <i>Definition of poetry</i>	What is poetry? What is the source of? What function does it serve?	Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds. Shelley mainly insists on the moral value of poetry. Since poetry is fundamentally the product of the creative imagination, it can be achieved only through insight into the moral problems of men, it is the very basis of moral life. Poetry makes immortal all that is best and most beautiful in the world.