

As *Adonais* soars above the practical problems, it naturally has not an ethical character. On the contrary *In Memoriam* is essentially ethical. The idea of duty to God and man, a sensitiveness to right and truth, guided Tennyson's whole thought and action.

When poor Shelley looked upon life he saw death and sadness everywhere.

"As long as skies are blue, and fields are green,
Evening must usher night, night urge the morrow,
Month follow month with woe, and year wake year to sorrow."

See too the pathetic stanza of *To a Sky-lark*.

"We look before and after,
And pine for what is not,
Our sincerest laughter,
With some pain is fraught,
Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought."

He is struck by the pain of life and its transience, and he sees no hope in these thoughts. In Tennyson, however, even though he says,

"Never morning wore
To evening but some heart did break."

there is a note of hope.

However bitter the sorrow is, it serves a sacred purpose; in his thought.

"'Tis better to have loved and lost
Than never to have loved at all."

The unfortunate Shelley had no fixed hope, no faith in a kind and loving God to make life sacred, and sweeten all its bitternesses. Tennyson's whole thought is colored by a warm light of faith in a righteous God.

"Oh, yet we trust that somehow good
Will be the final goal of ill."

He trusts in

" . . . one far off divine event,
To which the whole creation moves."

He cannot remain buried in his sorrow, centering his thought upon himself, but must arise and go forth into life to help others; for, to him life is sacred.