

BIOGRAPHY-

Thomas Carlyle was a Scottish philosopher, historian, essayist, and social critic who lived from 1795 to 1881. He was born in the village of Ecclefechan in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, and was the eldest of nine siblings.

Carlyle's father was a stonemason, and his mother was a devout Calvinist. Carlyle was educated at home by his father and then attended the University of Edinburgh, where he studied mathematics and philosophy.

After graduating from university, Carlyle worked as a mathematics teacher, but he found the job unsatisfying and soon turned to writing. He wrote for several literary magazines, and in 1824 he published his first book, a translation of Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship*.

In the 1830s, Carlyle became famous for his works on the French Revolution, particularly his three-volume work, *The French Revolution: A History*. This work was praised for its vivid descriptions and its emphasis on the importance of historical events.

Carlyle's other major works include *Sartor Resartus*, a philosophical novel that explores the idea of a universal spirit, and *Heroes and Hero Worship*, which examines the role of great men in history. He also wrote biographies of Oliver Cromwell and Friedrich Nietzsche.

In addition to his writing, Carlyle was also a social critic who was concerned with the problems of his time, such as poverty and inequality. He was a strong advocate of social reform and believed that the key to progress was a strong, virtuous leadership.

Carlyle's writing had a significant impact on his contemporaries, and he was considered one of the leading intellectuals of his time. His ideas on the importance of history and the role of great men in shaping events continue to be studied today.

INTRODUCTION TO POEM –

"Hero as a Poet" is an essay by Thomas Carlyle, first published in 1840 as part of his book "On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and The Heroic in History". The essay explores the idea of the poet as a hero and the power of poetry to inspire and shape the world.

In the essay, Carlyle argues that the poet is a special kind of hero who has the ability to see beyond the surface of things and to grasp the deeper meaning of life. He believes that the poet has a unique vision and can communicate this vision through language that touches the hearts and minds of others.

Carlyle goes on to argue that the power of poetry lies in its ability to inspire and move people to action. He sees the poet as a kind of prophet who can awaken the people to their true potential and lead them towards a better future.

Throughout the essay, Carlyle uses examples from history and literature to illustrate his points. He cites the poets Dante, Shakespeare, and Goethe as examples of heroic poets who have shaped their respective cultures through their poetry.

Overall, "Hero as a Poet" is a celebration of the power of poetry and the role of the poet as a hero and a leader. Carlyle sees the poet as a vital force in society, capable of inspiring and guiding people towards a better future.

HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION-

Thomas Carlyle's "The French Revolution: A History" is a three-volume work that was first published in 1837. The book is a detailed account of the French Revolution, which took place from 1789 to 1799 and had a profound impact on European history.

Carlyle's book is known for its vivid descriptions and its emphasis on the importance of historical events. He believed that history was not just a record of past events, but that it had a powerful influence on the present and the future.

In "The French Revolution", Carlyle describes the social and political conditions that led to the revolution, the key events of the revolution itself, and the aftermath of the revolution. He also examines the role of key figures such as Robespierre, Danton, and Napoleon Bonaparte.

One of the main themes of the book is the idea of heroism and the importance of great men in history. Carlyle believed that it was the actions of individuals such as Robespierre and Napoleon that shaped the course of history, rather than impersonal forces such as economics or social structures.

Carlyle's work was controversial in its time, and some critics accused him of romanticizing the revolution and of being too sympathetic to its radical elements. However, the book was widely read and praised for its literary style and its insights into the nature of historical change.

Today, "The French Revolution" is still regarded as an important work of history and as a classic of English literature. It continues to be studied and debated by scholars and students of history, politics, and literature.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT –

Thomas Carlyle wrote "The French Revolution: A History" in the 1830s, a few decades after the end of the French Revolution in 1799. During this time, Europe was undergoing significant social, political, and economic changes.

In France, the July Revolution of 1830 had overthrown the Bourbon monarchy and established a constitutional monarchy under Louis-Philippe. This new government was seen as more liberal and democratic than the previous regime, and it encouraged a wave of cultural and intellectual creativity.

In Britain, the Reform Act of 1832 had extended the right to vote to a larger portion of the population and was seen as a significant step towards democracy. The industrial revolution was also transforming the British economy and society, creating new opportunities for social mobility and economic growth.

Carlyle was writing at a time when the idea of progress was dominant in Western thought, and many believed that society was moving towards a brighter and more enlightened future. However, Carlyle was skeptical of this idea, and he saw the French Revolution as a cautionary tale about the dangers of revolutionary change.

His work reflected the growing interest in history as a discipline and the belief that the study of the past could shed light on the present and the future. Carlyle believed that

history was not just a record of past events, but that it had a powerful influence on the present and the future.

Overall, the historical context in which Carlyle wrote was one of social and political change, intellectual ferment, and growing interest in the study of history.

SUMMARY OF "HERO AS A POET"-

"Hero as a Poet" is an essay by Thomas Carlyle, which explores the concept of the poet as a hero and the power of poetry to inspire and shape the world.

Carlyle argues that the poet is a unique kind of hero who has the ability to see beyond the surface of things and to grasp the deeper meaning of life. He believes that the poet has a special vision and can communicate this vision through language that touches the hearts and minds of others.

Furthermore, Carlyle sees the power of poetry lies in its ability to inspire and move people to action. He considers the poet to be a kind of prophet who can awaken the people to their true potential and lead them towards a better future.

Throughout the essay, Carlyle uses examples from history and literature to illustrate his points. He cites Dante, Shakespeare, and Goethe as examples of heroic poets who have shaped their respective cultures through their poetry.

Overall, "Hero as a Poet" is a celebration of the power of poetry and the role of the poet as a hero and a leader. Carlyle sees the poet as a vital force in society, capable of inspiring and guiding people towards a better future.

CONCLUSION-

In "Hero as a Poet," Thomas Carlyle explores the concept of the poet as a hero and the power of poetry to inspire and shape the world. Carlyle sees the poet as a unique kind of hero, who has the ability to see beyond the surface of things and to grasp the deeper meaning of life. He believes that the poet has a special vision and can communicate this vision through language that touches the hearts and minds of others. Overall, "Hero as a Poet" is a celebration of the power of poetry and the role of the poet as a hero and a leader, capable of inspiring and guiding people towards a better future.