

**Dr. H. N. SINHA ARTS AND COMMERCE  
COLLEGE, PATUR.**

**Faculty of Commerce and Management  
B.COM. I SEMESTER I  
Subject : Compulsory English**

**THE WORLD IS TOO MUCH WITH US**

**BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH**



William Wordsworth (1770-1850) was a pioneer of the Romantic Revival during the nineteenth century in England.

Nature for him was the embodiment of the Divine spirit and so he regarded nature as the greatest teacher.

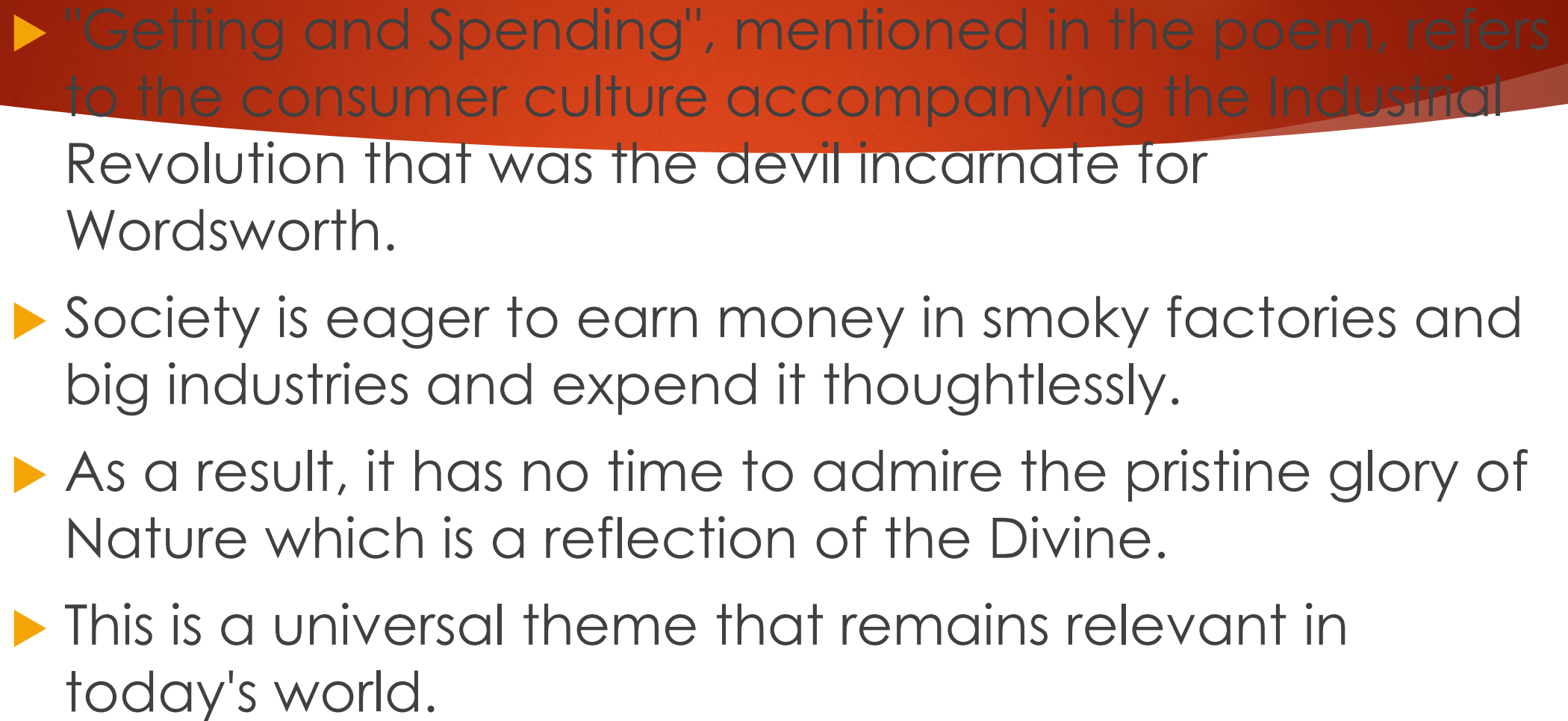
Most of his poems sought to establish a communion between Man and Nature.

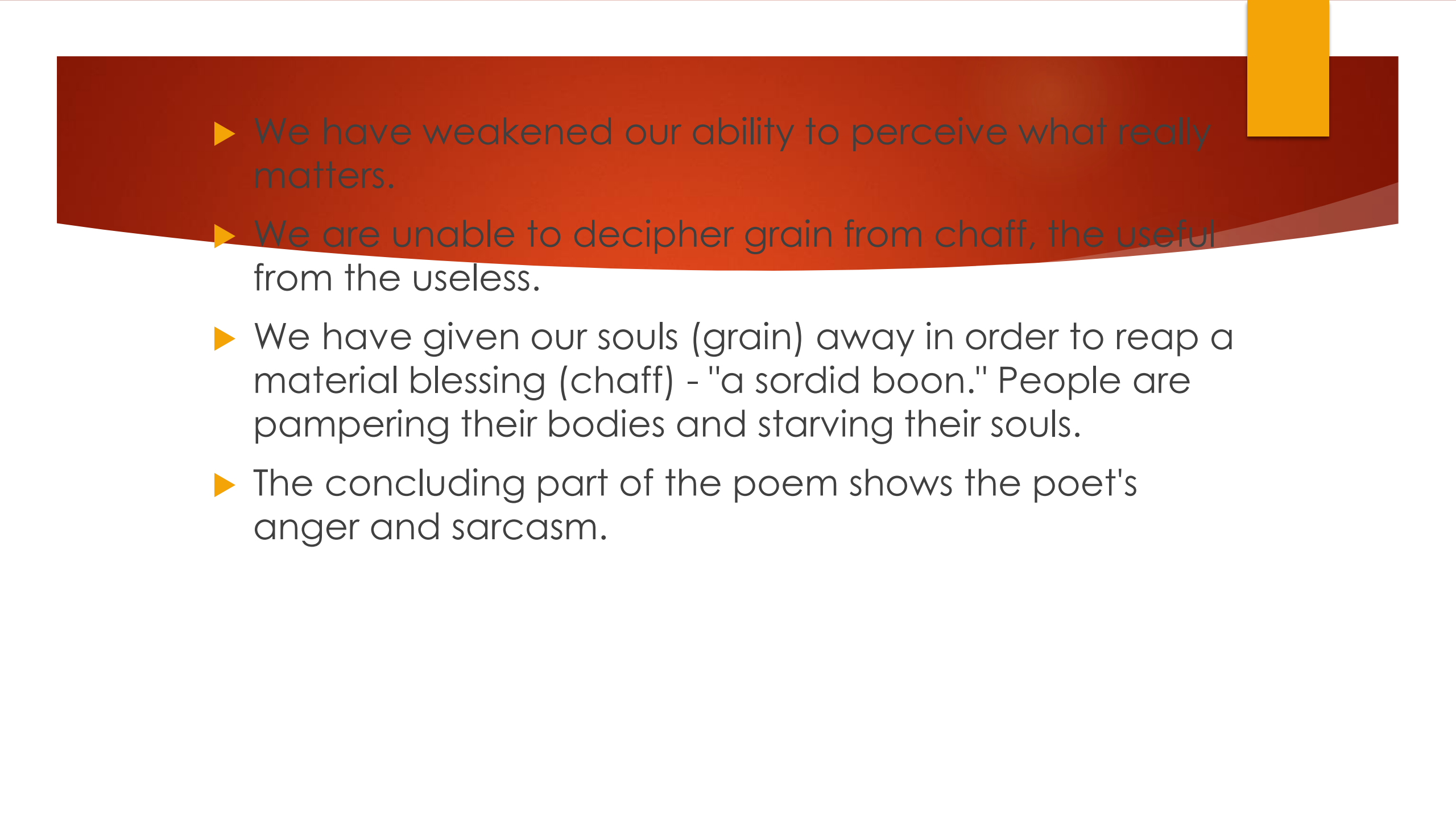
"The World Is Too Much With Us" is a sonnet by William Wordsworth.

It was published in 1807, though it was composed in 1802

# The World Is Too Much With Us

The world is too much with us; late and soon,  
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:  
Little we see in Nature that is ours;  
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!  
The Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;  
The winds that will be howling at all hours,  
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;  
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;  
It moves us not.--Great God! I'd rather be  
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;  
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,  
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;  
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;  
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed horn.

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- ▶ "Getting and Spending", mentioned in the poem, refers to the consumer culture accompanying the Industrial Revolution that was the devil incarnate for Wordsworth.
  - ▶ Society is eager to earn money in smoky factories and big industries and expend it thoughtlessly.
  - ▶ As a result, it has no time to admire the pristine glory of Nature which is a reflection of the Divine.
  - ▶ This is a universal theme that remains relevant in today's world.

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- ▶ We have weakened our ability to perceive what really matters.
  - ▶ We are unable to decipher grain from chaff, the useful from the useless.
  - ▶ We have given our souls (grain) away in order to reap a material blessing (chaff) - "a sordid boon." People are pampering their bodies and starving their souls.
  - ▶ The concluding part of the poem shows the poet's anger and sarcasm.

- ▶ He scolds society for devoting all its energies to material gains and fleeting pleasures.
- ▶ He sarcastically suggests that he would rather be a Pagan, brought up in an outdated religion.
- ▶ Then he could stand in a meadow and appreciate Nature around him.
- ▶ He could find Proteus rising from the sea or listen to Triton blowing his counc shell.



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THANK YOU