

# W.H. AUDEN'S POETRY OF FIRST PHASE- A QUEST OF LIFE

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## **Abstract**

*The objective of this research project is to articulate the various components of the first phase of W. H. Auden's poetry which belongs to the period of five years (1928-1932). The first poetic phase is not only about middle class, turmoil, tensions, and capitalist society but also about psychological malaise. W.H. Auden wanted to relieve the grief-stricken people. Hence, he frequently shifted his focus in quest of life. He could not focus on one remedy and ideology. He kept on changing them. The poetry of the first phase is different from that of other phases. The paper discloses the noticeable inclinations and apprehensions reflected in this phase of poetry.*

**Keywords:** *First Poetic Phase, Middle Class Society, Capitalist Society, Psychological Malaise, Remedy.*

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## **1. Introduction**

W.H. Auden, an Anglo-American poet with the qualities of head and heart is a great versatile personality who displayed his skill and competence in all his literary genres with numerous ideas. He endeared himself to his readers by dint of some certain qualities and characteristics of his poetry. These qualities and characteristics precisely made his poetry not only appealing but also discordant to one and all.

W.H. Auden was affected by various kinds of conflicting and differing impacts. There was an impact of psychology, Marxism and religion on him. He sometimes agreed and sometimes disagreed to these influences. He wanted to do something for the suffering mankind. He began to explore the life in order to relieve one and all. He expressed his despair and concern for the mankind. His poetry became the mouthpiece of numerous national as well as international social, political and religious problems.

His earliest phase of poetry was written under the influence of psychologist Sigmund Freud, George Groddeck, John Layard and Homer Lane. It was their influence which made him believe that crime and ailment are caused by psychosocial maladies. Furthermore, he had learnt that repression of sexual impulse and life-force (Id) triggers strong disturbances in the body and mind.

Auden wrote on psychological themes in his first phase of poetry which belongs to the period of five years (1928-1932). His poetic taste was at that time under the prominent influence of Sigmund Freud, George Groddeck, John Layard and Homer Lane. He