

Date: Sep 25, 2018

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What are the underlying themes of *Henry von Ofterdingen*? According to Henry, what is poetry? Do not consult any other source than the novel itself.

For the chapters I read, this book is telling a story of Henry's journey, exploring what is poetry (art) and its relation (connections) to nature, human and mind.

There are many underlying themes in this book. For example, it claimed that dreams are good for life. Without dreams, we should certainly grow old sooner. Dreams are a divine gifts from heaven above. The book also uses music to connect people. One example is when Henry met this woman Zulima, whom he felt a strong compassion and shared thought and ideas with her. Their lives were somehow connected by a lute.

In the conversation between Henry and Klingsohr, the writer emphasizes the importance of nature to an artist's mind. Nature will make the artist's mind translucent or transparent. Nature is to our enjoyment, and our soul, but also to our intellect. The author also believes that an artist should live a simple life, because great and complex events will disturb their introverted thoughts. A great artist will exercise their sensitiveness by the common little things at hand which will reflect the great world once again.

In different chapters, the author mentioning "blue flower" in many different places. The blue flower seems to imply the inner desire, hoping, and longing of this young boy "Henry". Finally at the end, he founds his true love, a girl name "Mathilda".

According to Henry, the most important thing to poetry is "the heavenly vision of love". It is also the "blue flower" that he has been dreaming and searching for.

One particular I like so much in this reading, in page 105, "The choir of the stars stood out in the dark heavens...". What an amazing imagination!