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| **Poets on Poetry** |
| 'Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquillity.'  William Wordsmith  ‘Deprivation for me is what daffodils were for Wordsmith.’  Philip Larkin  ‘Writing free verse is like playing tennis with the net down.’  Robert Frost  ‘I wish our clever young poets would remember my homely definitions of prose and poetry; that is prose; words in their best order;- poetry; the *best* words in the best order.’  S.T. Coleridge  ‘In my view a good poem is one in which the form of the verse and the joining of its parts seems light as a shallow river flowing over its sandy bed.’  Basho  (Translated by Lucien Stryk)  ‘Use no superfluous word, no adjective, which does not reveal something. Don’t use such an expression as ‘dim land of peace.’ It dulls the image. It mixes an abstraction with the concrete. It comes from the writer’s not realizing that the natural object is always the *adequate* symbol. Go in fear of abstractions.  Ezra Pound  ‘Poetry is the journal of a sea animal living on land, wanting to fly in the air.’  Carl Sandburg  ‘I consider myself a poet first and a musician second. I live like a poet and I’ll die like a poet.’  Bob Dylan    ‘Poetry fettered, fetters the human race.’  William Blake  Poetry is, at bottom, a criticism of life.’  Matthew Arnold  ‘The poet’s mind, is in fact, a receptacle for seizing and storing up numberless feelings, phrases, images, which remain there until all the particles which can unite to form a new compound are present together.’  T.S. Eliot    ‘There are three things, after all, that a poem must reach: the eye, the ear, and what we may call the heart or the mind. It is most important of all to reach the heart of the reader.’  Robert Frost  ‘Poets aren’t very useful./ Because they aren’t consumeful or very produceful’.  Ogden Nash |
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