# Workshop № 01:

# Critical Analysis of Selected Literary Texts from Plato’s Perspective

# 1. William Wordsworth’s *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*

# Read the poems carefully, then answer the question below.

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| **I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud**I wandered lonely as a cloudThat floats on high o’er vales and hills,When all at once I saw a crowd,A host, of golden daffodils;Beside the lake, beneath the trees,Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.Continuous as the stars that shineAnd twinkle on the milky way,They stretched in never-ending lineAlong the margin of a bay: Ten thousand saw I at a glance,Tossing their heads in sprightly dance. | The turquoise waves beside them danced; but theyOut-did the sparkling waves in glee:A poet could not but be gay,In such a jocund company:I gazed — and gazed — but little thoughtWhat wealth the show to me had brought:For oft, when on my couch I lieIn vacant or in pensive mood, They flash upon that inward eyeWhich is the bliss of solitude;And then my heart with pleasure fills,And dances with the daffodils. **William Wordsworth**  |

**B. John Donne’s *Death Be Not Proud***

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| Death, be not proud, though some have called theeMighty and dreadful, for thou are not so;For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrowDie not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,And soonest our best men with thee do go,Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.Thou'art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,And poppy'or charms can make us sleep as wellAnd better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?One short sleep past, we wake eternally,And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die. **John Donne** |

**Discussion Question**

According to Plato, the poets would fail to provide us with knowledge of how to behave because they base their observations on nature which is the copy of the ideal and real world. He mentioned that as their poetry appeal to emotion rather than reason, it is bound to change over time. To what extent does this idea correspond to each of the above poems? Justify your answer with relevant examples from the poems.