company of friends splits into its component parts. The 'natural connections' in a brook are followed and recreated by the poetry, such that personal continuity and hence integrity are secured—as in a pause of stupefied feelings Coleridge melts and moves forward. These pauses and transitions in the life of the self—pauses which effect transitions—are then, as Coleridge sees it, paralleled in the occasions of social and interpersonal experience, the nearness and separation, the conversation and the silences through which individual people are linked together.

… that still roaring dell, of which I told;
The roaring dell, o'erwooded, narrow, deep,
And only speckled by the mid-day Sun;
Where its slim trunk the Ash from rock to rock
Flings arching like a Bridge;—that branchless Ash,
Unsunned and damp; whode few poor yellow leaves
Ne'er tremble in the gale, yet tremble still,
Fann'd by the waterfall! And there my friends
Behold the dark green file of long *lank Weeds,
That all at once (a most fantastic sight!)
Still nod and drip beneath the dripping edge
Of the blue clay-stone.

* *Of long lank Weeds.* The Asplenium Scolopendrium, called in some countries the Adder's Tongue, in others the Hart's Tongue: but Wuthering gives the Adder's Tongue as the Trivial name of the Ophioglossum only.