

∴ Romantic Revival = Romantic Poetry (D)

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The Romantic Revival is a Movement against the neo-classical strict adherence to Reason, logic, order and sanity, clarity and objectivity. It is the revival of Renaissance and Medieval Romance in English literature. It gives way to the sharpened sensibility and heightened imaginative feelings. It stands for freedom from all kinds of bondage of rules and regulations. It makes the readers to roam in the medieval age of enchantment and heralds the dawn of a new way of looking at life.

The poetry of the Romantic Revival is in the direct contrast to characteristics of the neo-classical poets. The neo-classical poetry was governed by a set of rules. But the poets of Romantic Revival break from the bondage of rules. They take interest in the life of the common people, the shepherds and cottagers and leave the gallant lords and butterflies of fashions. A renewed interest in simple life gets momentum. A feeling of humanitarianism colours the poetry of Byron, Shelley, Coleridge and Wordsworth and Keats. That is, the Romantic poetry is marked by the intense human sympathy and the consequent understanding of human heart.

Return to Nature is most obvious trait of the Romantic poetry. The 18th Century poets were concerned with clubs, coffee houses, drawing rooms and problems of the city life. Nature had nothing to do with the classical poets. But the Romantic poets go to the country life and glorify the natural beauty and loveliness of Nature. Nature reveals its own importance in their poetry. Wordsworth presents physical and spiritual beauty of Nature. He enables the readers to discover charmers in the wild flowers and the chirping birds. All the Romantic poets



poets describe Natural scenes both in its calm and stormy moods. In short, the Romantic poetry discards the glammers of artificial life and presents the elemental simplicities of a life in closer touch with the charm of Nature.

Medievalism is another trait of the Romantic Revival. The Romantic poets are quite dissatisfied with the existing modes of literature dreaminess of life. They feel suffocating in materialistic attitude of the age. They consider this age to be full of sorrows where to think of anything is to invite new problems. So, they turn back towards the Middle ages to sooth their sorrow-stricken soul. With the flight of their imagination, they create their own world where men are free from anxieties and take delight in beauty. In fact, their enthusiasm for the medievalism satisfies their emotional sense of wonder as well as their intellectual sense of curiosity.

Reason and Intellect of the neo-classical poetry is replaced by imagination, emotion and passion. The Romantic poets exhibit heightened emotional sensibility and imaginative flight of genius touching a height unscathed by the previous poets. The objectivity is also subdued and subjectivity comes to the surface. The Romantics give subjective interpretation to the objective realities of life. Consequently, the Romantic poetry becomes individualistic in outlook.

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Supernaturalism is another feature of Romantic poetry. A sense of wonder and mystery is imparted to poetry by Coleridge, Scott and Keats. In 'The Ancient Mariner' and 'Kubla Khan' Coleridge creates a world where supernatural agencies are at their full play. Keats' 'La Belle Dame Sans Merci' celebrates the



(24)

the glory of the supernatural world of enchantment and mystery. It is this supernatural note that gives to Romantic poetry its atmosphere of wonder.

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To conclude, we see that the 18th Century neo-classicism gives rise to the Movement of Romantic Revival. Romantic poetry is distinguished for its heightened sensibility, unequalled flight of imagination, powerful feelings, passion, emotion and intense love for Nature and Beauty. Nature is both a teacher and a goddess for the Romantic poets. For them a thing of beauty is a joy for ever. They little interest in their existing problems and roam in the medieval world of wonder where flowers can close and be buds again. They bring a crusade against convention. Freedom is the breath in which Romantic breathe freely. Their Language and poetic diction are simple easy and Comprehensible. Really, the Romantic poetry makes an epoch in the world of art and literature.