

P.G Department of English
Maharaja College, Ara
P.G SEM. II CC-6
Unit-III

Illustrate the basic themes of Keat's Poem Ode to Nightingale

Wordsworth described poetry as "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings," and "Ode to a Nightingale" by John Keats is a great illustration of what he meant. The poem was written in the spring of 1819 and appeared in an Annals of the Fine Arts issue in July of the same year. According to Charles Armitage Brown, a friend of Keats, the poem's occasion is highly intriguing. He claims that this poem was composed in the grounds of Wentworth Place in Hampstead, behind a plum tree. The true tale of how Keats wrote the poem on the spot after hearing the nightingale's singing was recounted by Charles Brown.

One of the most beautiful pieces of English poetry, "Ode to a Nightingale," has achieved unquestionable popularity and gained a prominent position in both Romantic and English literary history for a number of reasons. 1. In addition to illustrating the poet's persona's workmanship, it also highlights a variety of conflicts and contrasts, including: i) Between life and death. ii) iii) iv) v) Between the real world and the fantasy. between death and life. between Nightingale's realm and the human world. between the ideal and the actual. The poet presents each of these opposing issues throughout the poem.

As a whole, the poem is definitely Romantic. The poet's character is repulsed by the human world and longs to escape it, which is a decaying place that can only bring him misery and pain. In his real life, Keats has endured a great deal of hardship. He feels the need to "return to nature," to the lap of nature, just like the other Romantic writers. He believes that the world of the nightingale is wonderful and devoid of sadness. Beauty and romance come from the nightingale's singing. For the poet, it is the source of timeless beauty. He aspires to reach an area where passion endures forever and beauty never fades.

Keats' talent for Hellenism is another significant feature of his poetry. There are numerous allusions to traditional myths and legends in this poem, including Bacchus and the "light-winged Dryad of the trees." Shelley referred to him as "a Greek."

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Keats has taken a very different approach to death. In the realm of the nightingale, where death is "easy" for the poet, he can accept death with ease.

Keats' escapism is another characteristic of his poetry. He wishes to escape into the realm of the nightingale instead of remaining in the human world.

There are numerous examples of Keats' sensuality throughout the poem. All of his poems have a lot of sensual imagery. However, many of his images contain deep undertones of melancholy. We are reminded of painters by Keats' use of language. He has the ability to depict strong feelings and passions through words. In this way, he emerges as the real forerunner of the Pre-Raphaelite poetry movement.

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