

D. D. College, Jagadgaur Madhubani
L. M. Mithila University, Darbhanga

Dept. of English
Dr. H. N. Prasad
Mob No - 9199295959

Class - B.A. I
Paper - II

Topic - A critical

Appreciation "Ode to a Nightingale"
A critical appreciation - "Ode to a Nightingale"
By - John Keats.

This poem is by far the noblest lyric in English literature. The magnificent sweep of the verse, the far reaching suggestiveness of the ideas, the sublime splendour of the imagery, the symbolism impassionating them all, and the lyrical cry of pain that rings through each stanza - have been woven into harmonies that will keep echoing through the corridors of the human mind for all time to come. Here we have the best that was in Shelley - his idealism, his abstract imagination, the unsurpassable melody of his poetry.

The west wind to the poet, is the symbol of the forces that both create and destroy - that creates in the very act of destruction. As it sweeps across the earth, the sea and the sky, it carries away the old and the worn out, and scatters the seeds of the new and the vital. The symbolism conveys to the mind of the reader the message of hope in the future, that is to be, and who can fail to be inspired by the triumphant conclusion of the poem - "Spring can spring be far behind?"

This is the climax to which the whole poem works and for which the preceding stanzas are preparatory. This clear conception of a climax gives to the poem a close-knit unity of structure and symmetry of design. An analysis of the poem will show how admirable and harmonious this symmetry is. The west wind is first invoked in its manifestation on the land, the sky and the sea. In each sphere of activity, the attention is fixed on its essential elements. On the land, it is the stern charioteer who leads the life of seeds imprisoned