

D. B. College Jaynagar Madhubani

L. N. Mithila University Darbhanga

Dept. of English

Class- B. A. I

Dr. Anand Kumar

Paper- II

Mobno-9199895259

Topic-Explanation
'Ode to the West Wind'

Explanation-01 From whose unseen presence the
leaves dead
Are driven, like ghosts from an
enchanter fleeing.

These lines are taken from Shelley's ode to the West Wind. The poet says that just as a magician drives away ghosts by means of magic incantations. Similarly, the West Wind scatters the dry leaves of trees in autumn. The magician's power can only be felt in the effect produced, but who is never seen. The leaves pale and weathered are here compared to the ghosts and the West Wind to the exorcist. Note that Shelley illustrates a concrete fact by means of a supernatural and less familiar image.

Explanation-02

o thou who chariotest to their dark wintry bed
with living hues and odours plain and hill.

The poet, turning to the creative aspect of the West Wind says that it drives the seeds underground, where they will lie inert like dead bodies in a grave till they are quickened into life at the advent of the Spring season, just as dead bodies are raised on the Day of Judgement by the blast of the trumpet of Doom. The wind in Spring is represented as sister of the autumnal West Wind and it awakens the earth from its slumber in winter. And as a result of this re-birth of Nature in Spring season flowers will bloom and cover plains and hills with their colour and fragrance.

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Explanation No. - 03

These are spread on the surface of the airy surge,
The locks of the approaching storm.

These lines occur in Shelley's Ode to the West Wind. The poet describes here the gathering of storm in autumn. The storm is personified as a maiden. The cloud spread on the blue atmosphere of the whole sky, from the lowest point in the horizon to the highest, like the dishevelled locks of the frenzied female worshippers of Bacchus. The long wavy strands of clouds are pictured as the dishevelled locks of hair on the head of some Maenad while in a state of drunken frenzy.

Explanation 04

Thou dirge of the dying year,
Vaulted with all thy congregated might
of vapours.

The West Wind is described as singing the funeral song of the expiring year, because the howling of the West Wind means the approach of winter when all the natural vegetation dies out. Addressing the wind the poet says that the night that is closing upon us with its congregated mass of clouds is like the vaulted dome of some mighty tomb, and as you whistle and carry overhead, you sound like the dirge of this dead year.

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