

D. B. College Jaynagar Madhubani  
L. N. Mithila University Darbhanga  
Dept. of English Class - B.A. I  
Dr. Anand Kumar Paper - II  
Mob. No. 9199295259 Topic - Consider  
Lecture No - 25. The Eve of St. Agnes as  
a narrative poem.  
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Keats wrote a number of long narrative poems, *Isabella*, *Lamia*, "The Eve of St. Agnes", and *Hyperion*. A narrative poem tells a story in verse.

"The Eve of St. Agnes" is an unforgettable narrative poem of John Keats, a romantic poet of the second generation. Here the poet narrates romantic love-adventures of Porphyro and Madeline with economy and clarity. The charm of the narration doesn't fade till the end of the poem.

It is an accomplished fact that Keats made a mark as a successful narrative poet in some of his great poems, as for example "Endymion", *Isabella*, *Lamia* and *Hyperion* but *The Eve of St. Agnes* is only immaculate romantic narrative poem. The poet has blended two themes in this poem. One is based on the popular superstition regarding St. Agnes Eve, and the other is the love of an adventurous youth Porphyro for Madeline, the daughter of a hostile person. It has similarities with Shakespearean *Romeo and Juliet* and Sir Walter Scott's *Lochinvar*.

Keats does not, however, treat the subject tragically as one notice in the story of *Romeo and Juliet*, but quite significantly he makes happy ending of his story, as in Scott's *Young Lochinvar*.

The story of the poem hinges on the popular belief that if a pure young girl would perform certain rites on the "Eve of St. Agnes" (28 January) that maiden might gain sight of her future husband in a dream, while sleeping on