

An Overview of the Romantic Age, Romantic Poets and Romantic Poetry in English Literature: A Critical Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This article aims at giving an overview on the whole romantic period. The start of the romantic period, the way it happened, the poets that helped to make this period shine, the background of the poets and the details of the romantic poetry that ruled this era – all of the aspects are described very elaborately in this article. The romantic age was established at the end of the eighteenth century and it lasted up to the 30's of the nineteenth century. This romantic period replaced the neoclassical period where the classical poets like Alexander Pope made classical poetry famous among readers. Elements such as imagination, emotion, nature were used very passionately in the romantic poetry. There are more than four poets who wrote romantic poems in this period but only the life and poetry of the significant four poets are written in this article who was William Wordsworth, Samuel Coleridge, John Keats, P. B Shelley. Wordsworth and Coleridge were the very first influencers of the romantic period. Wordsworth portrayed nature very artistically with his imagination in his poems. He wrote poems to pleasure the feelings of the common people. His close friend, Coleridge was influenced by some early politic affairs, his master James bowers and poet William Bowles to write romantic poetry. His investigation of the human nature through his poems made his poems very relatable. John Keats came after Wordsworth and Coleridge in this era. He upheld beauty and imagination frequently in his writing and shared the importance of his created term 'negative capability.' P.B Shelley differed from the other romantic poets by giving some importance to logic. He cared about morality and good lessons in his poems. He also portrayed melancholy very beautifully with his pen. This article will guide people in knowing even the little things of the romantic era.

Keywords- methodology, analytical, critique, explanation, prophetic traditions.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Romantic period changed the whole complexion of English literature during the nineteenth century. The Romantic Movement started with 'Lyrical Ballads' in 1798 A.D which was written by Samuel Coleridge and William Wordsworth. This new age of romantic poets broke the traditional classical style of literature writing which was primarily written for the higher class of people. As the people of the eighteenth century experienced only the classic form of literature, the people of the nineteenth century experienced a completely new and refreshing form of the English literature. This so called Romantic period ended in 1837 by covering only one-third of the century. Romantic

period poets were very different from the traditional poets of the previous century. They included many new elements in their poetry which were completely neglected in the classical era. The romantic poets induced imagination, individual emotion, sensitivity in their poems and made their poems very reachable to all classes of people. Poems with stories of king, queen and heroes were replaced by emotional and sensible stories of the common people which attracted more audience. Eighteenth century poets did not pay much attention to nature in their poetry but the romantic poets cherished the connection of man and nature in their works. 'Romantic writers saw nature as a teacher and a source of infinite beauty.' Individualism was given the priority in Romantic poetry: stories of individuals regarding their

passion, daily deeds were given the upper hand rather than a fully general or objective approach in writing poetry. This kind of poetry had a fair amount of reliability and uniqueness to it. The standard form of poetry was easily recognized by some heroic couplets which the classical poets put in their poems for their heroes or kings whereas the romantic poems had much more to them such as ballads, sonnets, blank verses etc.

The poets who made the romantic period popular with their poems are William Wordsworth, S.T. Coleridge, P.B Shelley, John Keats, Lord Byron and a few more. They were the faces of English literature at that time. Among them, William Wordsworth started to write in simple language for the better understanding and enjoyment of all the people around the globe. He neglected the conventionalized language and wrote in a basic and simple manner full of emotional aspects. Foreign politics and the thought process of foreign poets greatly inspired the romantic poets and helped to form their writing style. The French revolution with Napoleon Bonaparte had an important part to play in Romantic literature. The aspects that rose with that revolution such as liberty, equality assisted the romantic poets to have a humanitarian take in their poetry which was the main theme of that era.

The German poets are the reason for the birth of the Romantic Movement in the nineteenth century. At first, they identified the fact that spiritual reality should be the main focus in poetry while materialistic reality should be the less focused aspect. German idealist poet Friedrich Schiller enriched the knowledge of the English Romantic poets with ideas such as individualism and spiritualism which was the basic theme of Romantic poetry.

So, German poets like Schiller successfully passed through the significant characteristics of poetry which brought romanticism in the poems. This information makes us realize that English Romantic poetry had to take influences from many different places to shape the Romantic period.

From the poets mentioned above, William Wordsworth and Samuel Coleridge were considered the first generation poets of the Romantic period as they were much older than some of the other romantic poets who were considered the second generation of Romantic poets.

The second generation poets are P.B Shelley, John Keats and Byron who were inspired by the writings of Wordsworth and Coleridge. These two first generation poets released a project named 'Lyrical Ballads' which was a collection of their poems. These poems rejected the traditional style and followed the romantic aspects. The poets were afraid of the negative reception that it might get from the audience. So, they published the first edition of 'Lyrical Ballads' anonymously in 1798. The language used in those poems was real language of men which gave vivid sensations to the readers.

II. DISCUSSION

William Wordsworth explained the new styles and themes of poetry in his 'Preface to Lyrical Ballads'. In his preface, he described that incidents that were very much related to the common life or real situations were written in those poems by the language in use. Those situations were uplifted with a touch of imagination which brought out the emotion in the audience and made them excited about the poems. These poems chose to connect with people in a deeper level. So, the poets took inspirations from the humble and rural lives of people. Necessary emotions and passions were evoked when nature was described very beautifully and magically. The simple mannerisms of simple people speaking simple language brought out the raw feelings of readers and helped them to get engaged in those poems. Previous poets shed honor upon themselves in their poems by not caring about the mass people which made their poems very stale. Wordsworth also said in his preface of *Lyrical Ballads* that all of the poems should have a purpose. The poems should excite those feelings with which the poets wrote them. A very significant line from his preface is mentioned below:

'For all good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings.'

He also added these lines- 'For our continued influxes of feeling are modified and directed by our thoughts, which are indeed representatives of our past feelings; and as by contemplating the relation of these general representatives to each other, we discover what is really important to men, our feelings will be connected to important subjects, till at length.'

In these lines Wordsworth talks about connecting to past feelings. We can reminisce our past sensations for the usage of real life adapted scenarios. These scenarios and objects have a high chance of somehow having links with our past. These past feelings can get very attached with the subject if we treat the subject sensibly. This natural process of evoking sentiments helps to get into the minds of the people. In this way, the purpose of the poems gets achieved very effectively. The poet himself is very much attached to his childhood. He knows he cannot get his past years back. So, Wordsworth uses his imagination to go into his childhood. He uses a cuckoo in his poem 'To the cuckoo' to remind him of his cheerful youth. This fact proves that Wordsworth did not just imagine to write good poems for readers, he imagined for expressing his own self as well. Abstract ideas and their personifications do not get a place in the romantic poems. Natural language with a little bit of poetic diction is used in these poems. Poetic dictions are used to show the comparison of the elite language and the language of the general public. Though sometimes figures of speech are needed and abstract personifications get used in that

category. A good poem may well be compared to a prose as some of the best lines of poems are often written in the language of a prose. They follow the same language pattern. As for the metrical language of poems, prose writers also use lines and passages of meter in their writings. Romantic poets are able to portray human nature very subtly in their poems. A poet of the common people can feel human compassion and express themselves according to that feeling just like any other passionate human being. William Wordsworth shared his perception of the identity of a poet where he described a poet to be a man with lively sensibility, much enthusiasm and greater knowledge of human nature. He states that all poets have a single purpose of giving pleasure to the readers. Poetry and art are very similar in nature. They both portray the world very elegantly especially nature. It has been mentioned earlier that nature has been celebrated time and time again in the romantic poems. Wordsworth had great admiration for nature, he always wanted the closeness of nature. Nature for Wordsworth was a spirit which brought delight and showered inspiration for the people. Now I will be talking about such a poem which is written by Wordsworth and is named 'I Wondered Lonely as a Cloud'. The poet has blended in nature with his touch of imagination in a mesmerizing way. Some lines of the poem will be given below:

"I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills" 'Daffodils'

Here, the romantic poet has used simile in a very cunning manner to associate himself with nature. A cloud is compared with him as it roams over the hills and valleys as an observer of nature. I will put down some more lines –

"A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way"

These lines give a wonderful visualization of nature. In the eyes of Wordsworth, the daffodils dance and flutter freely in the breeze. They seem like the shining star and milky way in the sky. His imagination of nature has no bounds which makes the poem a heart touching creation of words. He has many other poems where he expressed his creative brilliance with regular objects and subjects. One of those poems is 'The Solitary Reaper'. I will give some of the lines down below:

"Behold her, single in the field
Reaping and singing by herself
Alone she cuts and binds the grain
And sings a melancholy strain"

"No nightingale did ever chaunt
More welcome notes to weary bands
Of travelers in some shady haunt
Among Arabian sands"

The poet creates a string of auditory and visual sensations. A solitary girl was observed and described by William Wordsworth. Her melancholy pouring out in her singing creates an auditory image which appeals to our sense of hearing and creates auditory sensation. Her cutting and binding of grains give us a visual representation of the scenario. Then the poet compares her singing with a Nightingale and describes how a nightingale gives travelers welcome tunes in Arabian sands. The poet created a masterful visual and auditory image which gives us some excitement and sensation. The natural imagery and imagination of Wordsworth makes it a perfect Romantic age poem. Expression and emotion has defined the romantic era in a massive way and Wordsworth has immensely outpoured these two elements in his poems.

Samuel Coleridge and William Wordsworth shared a friendly bond at that time. Samuel Coleridge developed his interest in imagination and visionary philosophy when he was in his school and afterwards in his university. So, he had early roots in terms of the romantic aspects which later on began to flourish in his poems. He witnessed the French revolution in his university days. The revolution left a long-lasting effect on his mind with some of the bold ideas it had. This led to his curiosity of the human nature which kept growing as days passed. At a point in his journey, he met William Wordsworth and they both jointly investigated the nature of the human mind and wrote about that from different perspectives. He started writing poems in his early years and even published a small volume of juvenile poems in 1796. But those poems were very ambitious, he used a large amount of double epithets in his poems and also his poetic diction was considered very over the top and fancy. The critics critically judged him for his faults but also expected better things from him in the future. His later works also had a little bit of the overly emphasized diction and imagery which he was unable to remove from his poetry. He was always enthralled with the use of a simplistic style in writing with a touch of enthusiasm as a perfect recipe to amuse the readers. The life of Samuel Coleridge was initially shaped by his master James Bowyer, from whom he learned so many things. He made Coleridge read all the poems of the classical poets and also poets of the Augustan era. His master had a firm belief in the superiority of truth, logic and reason in terms of poems. In the prose 'Biographia Literaria', written by Coleridge he mentioned some thoughts of his master such as "Poetry had a logic of its own as severe as that of science; more difficult, because more subtle, more complex, and more dependent on more, and more fugitive, causes. In the truly great poets, he would say, there is a reason assignable, not only for

every word, but for the position of every word". The master harshly rejected the thought of using metaphors or any imagery without any rational connection as these ornaments on their own seemed very pathetic to him. He filled Coleridge with the ongoing classical knowledge about literature or poems. Then the second influence in his life was William Lisle Bowles and his sonnets. The contemporary style of Bowles inspired Coleridge a lot. Coleridge felt enthusiastic as he read the sonnets as they had a style that was completely new to him. Samuel Coleridge in his prose 'Biographia Literaria' quoted as saying "But the writings of a contemporary, perhaps not many years older than himself, surrounded by the same circumstances, and disciplined by the same manners, possess a reality for him (a young man) and inspire an actual friendship of a man for a man." Coleridge admired the simple and ordinary style written in everyday language, He called those poems 'the properties of flesh and blood'. Poems of Bowles fascinated him so much that he made transcriptions of the poems as the school finances did not allow him to buy copies of the sonnets of William Bowles. Bowles and his contemporary poems helped him come out of that phase and give attention to poetry. Samuel Coleridge found no interest in reading the poems of the poets who characterized their writing from school of French poetry.

Poets like Alexander Pope, William Crowe fall under the category. They used the observations of men and mannerisms in an artificial state and they also used epigrammatic models or epigrammatic couplets to do it. They neglect the usage of natural behaviors or natural language. Epigrammatic couplets use lines which run into each other rather than closing at each couplet which takes this style among the worst styles. Though this style of writing dominated the eighteenth century and Alexander Pope was considered one of the best poets of that generation. The next century saw the rise to fame of the contemporary and romantic era where the sonnets of William Bowles played a crucial role. Coleridge did mention some important literary points from his observation for all the poets. He mentioned the significance of the poem having rereading qualities. The readers should get the same pleasure even after reading it a thousand times. In the second point, he spoke the words of his master, William Bowers. He said that every word is logical in a line and a particular word cannot be changed without hampering the meaning of the line. Coleridge also described a third point and the third point is about the novelty factor of a surprise. If the surprise does not follow the same path or be in the same boundaries as the story, it hampers the continuous reading aspect of the story. The metaphysical poets and the neoclassical poets both followed an out of the line theme. Metaphysical poets write in the natural language but use extraordinary thoughts as their topic. On the other hand, the neoclassical poets like Pope used simple thoughts but used complex language. It is in the poems

of Bowles that Coleridge found a clinical combination of simple thoughts written in simple language.

That is the reason Coleridge got influenced by Bowles so much. After that he indulged himself into writing modern romantic poetry. But he had some issues when it comes to writing poems. 'His poetry is unequal; he is capable of large tracts of dreariness and flatness and he seldom finishes what he began.' Despite of these issues, he wrote many kinds of poems. He also wrote some personal poems as he liked to let his personal stories known to everyone. He was also into writing political poems but the poems that got him the most success was his romantic poems. His famous romantic poems include The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Christabel and Kubla Khan. The poem Kubla Khan itself was a product of his imagination. Samuel Coleridge used to take opium for his physical and mental health. At first, it was just the physical aspect where opium worked as a healer of his bodily diseases but afterwards he used opium to unlock the deepest parts of his mind. It turned into his addiction. 'He became hooked as a young man after taking laudanum, a form of the drug considered medicinal during his time.'

Kubla Khan was the result of an opium induced dream. In the fall of 1797, Coleridge had dysentery and took opium to get rid of it. He took a walk in the countryside and suddenly fell asleep. After two or three hours he woke up with a complete poem in his mind about Kubla Khan. He would describe the process of the creation later on by saying that images of the composition rose up before him without any sensation or any conscious effort. He would wake up remembering a complete two hundred to three hundred lined poem. But he could only write fifty four lines on a piece of paper as he was interrupted by an unwelcome visitor. As he was interrupted, he forgot the remaining lines of the poem and the poem remained unfinished. So, he got influenced to take opium for creative purposes and which he did take in the future.

What can be more romantic about a poem than the poem itself being written with a vision of a dream. Coleridge used a lot of supernatural characters and supernatural elements in his poems, his ways of handling out of this world entities and unreal aspects in his poems are very unique. The romantic poems of Coleridge possessed all the characteristics of a romantic poem such as the use of expressionistic imagination, clever use of the supernatural elements, nod to nature etc. No one could mix the natural and the supernatural aspects so gracefully like Coleridge. His wild imagination helped him a lot in his poems and his opium intake turned out to be an useful asset for his imagination. Coleridge always inspired poets to use imagination rather than reason in their poems as real world is full of limitations. In the seventeenth century, people regarded imagination and fancy as similar things. This myth was diminished when Coleridge in his *Biographia Literaria*, pointed out the differences between them. He defined fancy as a process

in which people see fixed images which does have the creative mindset of the owner but with imagination, people are able to control and direct the images with their mind. He also classified imagination in two parts. (Aaditya, 2020) Coleridge could not write many poems in his era but he inspired many young poets who followed his style and became the second generation poets of the Romantic periods. Those poets are John Keats, P.B Shelly and Lord Byron. Here are some lines from the poem 'Kubla Khan' -

“So twice five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled round
And there were gardens bright with sinuous rills,
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree;
And here were forests ancient as hills”

In these lines, the poet describes the natural beauty of the property of Kubla Khan. He makes us visualize the five mile fertile ground, bright gardens, incense-bearing tree and ancient forest. The visual imagery is very soothing for a reader and also by mentioning the about the incense, Coleridge is trying to attract the sense of smell in the readers. The love for nature of Coleridge also shows in these lines. Let me show some more lines from this poem -

“And from this chasm, with ceaseless turmoil seething,
As if the earth in fast thick pants were breathing,
A mighty fountain momently was forced
Huge fragments vaulted like rebounding hail,
Or chaffy grain beneath the thresher’s flail:
And ‘mid these dancing rocks at once and ever
It flung up momently the sacred river”

“And ‘mid this tumult Kubla heard from far
Ancestral voices prophesying war!”

These lines are the proof of the power of imagination of Samuel Coleridge. He compared the sound of the relentlessly ongoing waves of the river to the breathing sound of the earth with fast thick pants as if the earth was very tired after exercising and was breathing loudly. After that the poet has made two more comparisons. He compared the sound of the waves hitting the rocks to the sound of falling hail and with the sound of the crushing of the grains. So, we can see the range of imagination of Coleridge here. In the last two mentioned lines, we can see a little bit the supernatural element of the poem. Kubla Khan hearing the voice of his ancestors as the ancestors tell him about some upcoming war. Coleridge liked the presence of inhuman entities in his poems. These explanations give a good hint of him using the romantic attributes in full flow in his writing to create solid romantic poems.

John Keats was one of the second generation poets of the romantic period who got his inspirations from the likes of Wordsworth and Coleridge who were

the first generation romantic era poets. Keats is known for his imagination heavy poem writing and also as a poet who put his emotion in all of his writing. Similar to all of the romantic poets, he used imagination as the main theme in his poems. As a young poet, he showed his raw feelings strongly through his poems and it can also be found in the letters he wrote for his fellow friends and critics at that time. All his life, he treasured the power of beauty. ‘Keats was a champion of analyzing beauty; but his treatment was quite new in a way that he longs for the beauty of the unknown.’ The only truth in his opinion was beauty. He even quoted a line saying ‘Beauty is truth, truth is beauty’ in his poem ‘Ode on a Grecian Urn.’ The formula of beauty was mentioned in his letter that he wrote for his friend Benjamin Bailey on 22nd November, 1817. He referred to all the passions of a human as the necessary element for creating beauty. He thought imagination can help a man gain insight into reality rather than his plain thoughts. Keats compared imagination to Adam’s dream as Adam dreamt of the existence of Eve and Eve suddenly appeared as he woke up from his dream. Truth can only be found through imagination and through finding beauty. An aspect cannot be considered true through reasoning, people look for rationality and in the quest, do not succeed to achieve the truth. In reality, most of the times we fail to get the bigger picture but with the freedom imagination, we can make the small picture as big as we want in our minds. John Keats merged religion and imagination by saying ‘Adam’s dream will do here, and seems to be a conviction that imagination and its empyreal reflection is the same as human life and its spiritual repetition.’ Imagination is described to have a connection with our spirituality. This quote by Keats is kind of an evidence that he treated imagination as the most superior object in his belief. John Keats invented a term which he named ‘Negative Capability’ He explained this term as ‘When a man is capable of being in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact and reason’. He believes that it is a need of the poets to feel the dilemmas, the suspicion in a stable state of mind without any attempt to solve the issues with real life causes. In this way, truth and beauty can be found in any possible situation. Shakespeare had this negative capability in him. He can portray the dark and also the light with equal beauty and get a hold of the truth in both the situations. Keats observed Coleridge and found out that Coleridge could never bear the doubts and the dilemmas and would try to find answers with reasoning. The unfulfilled knowledge felt like a curse for him which was the total opposite of Shakespeare. In the different letters wrote by Keats, he narrated the different qualities and different needs of sound poetry. The letter he wrote to John Hamilton Reynolds on the 3rd February of 1818, also had a requirement of a poem written in it. He said that a poem should have the quality to touch the soul by it being unobtrusive. He also mentioned that the

emphasis should always be put on the subject to resonate with the readers rather than the whole poem itself. In another letter, Keats focused on referring to three axioms about poetry which he followed. One of them is that the beauty aspects in the poem should not be half shown, Beauty aspects should be portrayed in a complete manner for the satisfaction of the people. Another axiom is the fact that poem writing for poets should be a free-flowing natural process, there should not be any forceful poem writing. Yet another axiom is mentioned, Keats described that the shock element if present, should not be an extra-ordinary shock element, it should shock the readers to a extent where the readers would reach their deepest thought. John Keats felt that a poet had no certain self, no certain personality as the poet had to talk about any subjects in any environment with any random objects. He mentioned the poets as men with no certainty. He had connections with another second generation poet, P.B Shelley. They wrote letters to each other. On 16th August, 1820, Keats replied to an invitation letter from Shelley who invited Keats to his home as he heard that Keats was suffering from Tuberculosis. In his letter, Keats wrote about his fear of dying in the cold of England. So, he showed his interest in visiting Shelley. Shelley also sent Keats a copy of a melodrama written by him. Keats understood that people of that time started to take poetry and dramas materialistically as Shelley experimented with her poems and did not use mannerisms and any system of poem writing. So, Keats told him to 'curb the magnanimity and be more of an artist'.

Keats also emphasized that poems should have a proper purpose and writing poems materialistically should not be a choice of thought for the poets. These letters show the insights of the mind of Keats regarding the vision of poetry and poetry writing. John Keats had a rough short life of twenty six years. In his childhood, he experienced two of the biggest blows in his life. He lost his father at the age of only six and then just six years later he lost his mother due to Tuberculosis. After these incidents, he completely focused on the academic studies as it always kept his mind busy and diverted.

His impressive academic status made him very close with the headmaster of the school and especially the son of the headmaster who was named Cowden Clarke. These two people assisted him into directing his hunger for reading to the library. Books were his comfort zone at that time, he read many books there. The guardian of Keats made him an intern for a surgeon. As for being a surgeon, there were no educational requirements. So, Keats joined this occupation but as a curious and energetic person, he quickly lost interest in that occupation. He had many late night discussions about books with Cowden Clarke which had some sort of impact on him being a poet. One book that truly inspired him to write poetry was the book named 'Faerie Queene' by Edmund Spenser. He had his love for nature, love for beauty inside him all along but it needed some

sort of a push to make it visible to Keats. This book of Spence did exactly that and brought out the poetic genius of John Keats. Keats was thrilled with this enchanting world that Spencer created in that book. Influenced by the writing of Spencer, Keats wrote his first poem called 'In Imitation of Spencer' in 1814. The imagery in that poem was similar to the imaginary world of dreams of Spencer. The authentic description of nature in that helped Keats portray a beautiful world in the rhyme scheme of Spencer. John Keats was also influenced by Browne, Drayton, Milton, Wordsworth and especially Shakespeare. At a point in his life, he wrote many poems.

He wrote about the desires, the sufferings of human heart. As he saw many deaths in his own family, he was very fascinated with death and death became a major topic in many of his poems. Basically, he wrote about the melancholic aspects of human life. Keats showed a different perspective of melancholy by stating that melancholy creeps up in the gleeful moments of life rather than the sad moments which we generally connect melancholy with. As John Keats believed in beauty, he also had a firm belief in melancholy. He thought that there is always sadness at the place where happiness exists. John Keats was a pure romantic poet. He did not write poems to call out the wrong doings of people and to promote justice. He wrote poems for the satisfaction of the senses of the readers. He gave readers the lyrical pleasure they look for in a poem by writing pure poetic stanzas or lines. One of the reasons of Keats being so successful as a poet is the readiness to avoid any other intentions except the sere intention of providing genuine pleasure through poetry. Another attribute his poems is the brilliant use of imagination. Keats thought the real world was full of problems and misery. People cannot but escape the fatal reality of the world. That is why he preferred his imaginary world as a way to escape the calamities of real life. John Keats created colorful imaginary worlds in his poems which were full of natural beauties and could provide a peace of mind for the readers. Beauty in the poems of John Keats was a must. He declared beauty as the most truthful thing in the universe. Keats believed that beauty can be found almost out of everything. A palace, a creature, a natural scenario, it can be anything that can have beauty inside it. In his opinion, beauty can give sensuous pleasure to anyone and there is no end to beauty. Even in the deepest of pains, he throws up a line like 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever.' So, he took beauty pretty seriously in his life. The love for nature was shown clearly by Keats in his poems. All the natural elements of the world are considered beautiful in the eyes of Keats. Flowers, birds, hills were highlighted in many of his poems and they were quoted as the most pleasurable things of the mortal world. His expression of nature knew no bounds. Alongside the ream forms of nature, he even imagined unreal forms of nature and used that in his poems. Keats used to believe that our own existence

can be foreseen in nature. He also wanted to use nature to know his own reality. John Keats served romanticism in his poems in a manner that hit the audience right in the feelings. Here are some lines from the poem 'Ode on a Grecian Urn' by John Keats:

“Thou still unravish'd bride of quietness,
Thou foster child of silence and slow time,
Sylvian historian, who canst thus express
A flowery tale more sweetly than our rhyme”

Here, the poet uses his imagination to address the urn as the bride of quietness and the foster child of silence and slow time as the urn cannot make any sound but can only stay still and quiet and portray the imageries on itself. An urn can be thousands of years old and still stay strong, So, Keats termed it as a symbol of slow time. Keats uses more of his imagination to call the urn a Sylvain historian who is unable to tell his flowery tale. Sylvain means something related to woods or forests and to call the stories of urn, a flowery tale is a brilliant use of valid natural imagery as the images portrayed on the urn are created with patterns of flowers and leaves. There are some more lines from this poem given below:

“Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard
Are sweeter; therefore, ye soft pipes, play on;
Fair youth, beneath the trees, thou canst not leave
Thy song, nor ever can those trees be bare;”

In the first two lines, we witness that John Keats is describing the beauty of the heard melodies and also of the unheard melodies. With his imagination, he thought of the melodies totally unknown and found the beauty in them. He then disclosed the player of the melodies and it was a young boy underneath the trees who could not leave the place as the place was in an urn. He will keep playing melodies on and on but the seasons will not change and so the trees will never be bare and it will always be spring. It is also a beautiful imagination by Keats. He portrayed trees and nature so gracefully in this line. In the above mentioned line the visual and the auditory imageries pleasure the senses. So, we can say that the romantic elements were very strong and evident in the writing of Keats.

Percy Bysshe Shelley was another poet who belonged to the second generation of the romantic era. Shelly was unlike the previous romantic poets in his thinking. Shelley felt the need of imagination as well as reason in the thoughts of a poet to write a poem. He termed poetry as 'the expression of the imagination' in his essay named 'A Defence of Poetry.' Imagination is thought of as the driving force for poetry where impressions of external and internal imagination guide the human mind into creating the art of poetry. Imagination can track similarities between things and make a connection, this connection helps in producing

harmonious poems. Reasoning is slightly less important than imagination in poems as reason works just as a logical thought but assists in giving the mechanical facts for imagination to perceive it in different ways. Shelly also respected the social aspects of the real world. He advised the poets not to write any random poem which only concentrates on the delight of the readers. He encouraged them to spread the lesson of morality in their poems by putting their foot on the shoes of others and pay attention to the lessons the poems are providing. In his opinion, poets take inspirations from natural objects and reflect them in different ways or orders in their poems. The same objects are looked at in many different perspectives which create diversity in the poems. In this way, the poems reach less close or more close to the ultimate pleasure of the readers. By expressing various thoughts about the natural elements or beauties from various angles, the poets play a significant part in influencing the society.

P.B Shelley has tied in religious statements with Poetry. He says that the poet is not only a society influencer but also a prophet as the poets seem to work with the eternal aspects and seem to tell the 'moods of time, and the difference of persons, and the distinction of places' with their poetry. In his essay 'A defence of poetry', Shelley quoted by saying 'Language, color, form, and religious and civil habits of action, are all the instruments and materials of poetry'. Poets work with the medium of communication which is language and this language is fueled by imagination. But the painters, sculptors etc. work with the other elements like color, form.

These elements fade away and are destructible but language is everlasting and has no complex classifications, Language also works as the guiding partner of those elements to make those elements shine better. That is the reason poets are of a higher class than them. Shelly took his time to also show the difference between a story and a poem. Stories are facts which are connected to a certain place or time while poems are representations of the various aspects of the constant human nature. Stories slip out of our minds as they are harder to keep in our minds but poems stay for many days for the universal aspect of it among the common people. In his family, among six siblings, Shelley was the one that was chosen to inherit the state of the grandfather. In his life, Shelley faced a lot of bullying for his beliefs in atheism. He entered Syon House Academy first, where he first got the taste of bullying, and then he went to Eton college where he faced even more bullies. Thomas Hogg who was a friend of Shelley helped a lot in the poetic journey of Shelley as they both talked about many aspects like philosophy, literature with each other and strengthened their sense of imagination about them.

Shelley had many romantic elements in his poems. His love for nature in his poems is pretty evident. Shelley portrayed nature as the superior feature in his

poems. 'He never gave colors to the things in nature; he described them as they are.' Shelley often gave nature the human qualities and glorified the existence of itself. Shelley believed that nature had the power to heal, he felt comfortable around nature. He presented nature in many ways and in different moods such as dancing waves, dark storms etc. (Nasser, 2013)

Shelley also used a lot of imagination in his poems. How he gives preference to the power of imagination has already been discussed above. We talked about his belief of poetry being the expression of imagination and Imagination being the spiritual force for writing poetry. Shelley had a habit of exploring the unknown with his imagination in his poems. Imagination helped him by giving him the freedom to wander in the unfamiliar territory. He used melancholy to a good effect in his poems. Totally against his real nature, he pursued melancholy to show the sad and dark side of the human life in his writings.

Like other romantic poets, Shelley also used supernatural elements in his poems. Presence of the inhuman entities was a frequent occurrence in the poems of Shelley. Shelley used entities like ghosts and spirits very cleverly in his poems. Here are some lines from the poem 'Ode to the West Wind' by P.B Shelley -

"O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being,
Though, from whose unseen presence the leaves dead
Are driven, like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing,
Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic red,
Pestilence-stricken multitudes:"

In these lines, the poet imagined the west wind as the breath of Autumn. The poet also compared the sweeping of the fallen leaves by the wind to ghosts fleeing from an enchanter through his witty imagination. The imagery of nature is pretty strong here and mentioning the different colors of the leaves create great sensation to our appeal of sight. Some more lines from the poem are given below:

"Oh! Lift me as a wave, a leaf, a cloud
I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!
A heavy weight of hours has chained and bowed
One too like thee: tameless, and swift, and proud."

Here, Shelley expresses melancholy very brutally. He is portraying his vulnerability in these lines. The poet is comparing the difficulties of life with thorns of flowers. The difficulties or thorns are making the poet bleed. He mentioned that he was once very strong and fierce just like the west wind but now the hard problems of life has bowed him down. A request is being made to the west wind to lift him up like clouds and leaves. The melancholy mixed with the natural imageries makes this stanza a heaven for the lovers of romantic poetry. Thus, Shelley used many romantic elements in his poems.

III. FINDINGS

The above discussion let us know about the mindset of the romantic poets. The way the poets handled nature, imagination, melancholy, beauty is the most significant thing that we found in this article. The romantic period cared about the emotion and satisfaction of the readers. This period neglected the harsh logical reality of the neoclassical poets. We found out that the readers were sensually satisfied with the romantic poems and the poems touched their feelings. The poets had a big impact on the lives of the common people as these poems were more close to the common people. The romantic poems attracted all classes of people and rejected the elite writing style of the previous era. These poets also turned people towards nature with their poems. Nature-minded people grew in a large quantity in this era. Basically, we found out the poetic simplicity and the broad overwhelming effect it had on the readers.

IV. CONCLUSION

To conclude, Wordsworth, Coleridge started this journey of Romantic poetry with fresh perspectives and open-minded readers. Keats, P.B Shelley finished this journey with elevated writing and overly satisfied readers. They all contributed a lot to make this romantic period valid to all classes of people and showered them with all the emotions, feelings, sensations. The romantic period replaced the neo-classical era very smoothly as the readers started liking the positive vibes rather than just ignoring it.

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