

### Display of Negative Capability in Keats's Poetry:

- **John Keats's *Ode to a Nightingale*:** Keats's Negative Capability is the ability to bask in the beautiful. In *Ode to a Nightingale*, he can truly be with nature through the song of the nightingale, abandoning this world completely.

*Away! away! for I will fly to thee  
Not charioted by Bacchus and his pards,  
But on the viewless wings of Poesy,*

Keats leaves his “sole-self” to join with the nightingale in verse that briefly realizes, in human language, the ageless beauty of its unintelligible song. Just using his poetic thoughts, he can find an escape from this harsh and cruel world that causes nothing but sadness. It focuses on Keats's attempt to escape from the rigid realities of the world.

- **John Keats's *Ode to a Grecian Urn*:** Throughout the poem, Keats captures moments and holds them to prevent change and decay, reveling in that moment of perfection. In the final stanza, the poem shifts the focus from the images on the urn to the urn itself.

*Beauty is truth, truth beauty,” –that is all  
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.*

A poet not using Negative Capability may have chosen the final lesson given by the urn to be self-focused, as something that the poet himself has discovered while contemplating the urn; Keats places the final lesson directly in the voice of the urn. The speaker is utterly effaced in contemplation of the urn; the urn does not allow inspiration to strike his brain but allows him to selflessly hear the urn's message. Furthermore, the message is not judged by the speaker. The urn is the ultimate communicator of the poem. These techniques in culmination create a poem that succeeds in poetic self-effacement, achieving Keats's ideal of negative capability.

### Conclusion:

Although John Keats died a young poet, his influence on modern and contemporary poetry is monumental. Perhaps, Keats's greatest and most studied contribution is the principle of “*negative capability*”. Unlike other Romantic poets such as Wordsworth who are often criticized for what Keats termed the “egoistical sublime”, Keats was of the view that the poet must efface his subjectivity and negate his intervention to see into the Beauty of things. Negative Capability means “being capable of eliminating one's personality, in order imaginatively to enter into that of another person, or, in extreme cases, an animal or an object.”