

John Keats: A True Romantic Poet and a Poet of Beauty

Introduction

John Keats was an English romantic poet he was one of the main figures of the second generation of romantic poets along with Lord Byron and Percy Shelley despite his work having been in publication years before his death. John Keats does not write on social issues because the genre of his poetry is romantic. Every romantic poet has his writing style. Romantic poetry has many factors. It is on the poet which ingredient he prefers the most. Some poets prefer nature, some support escapism, and others believe in supernatural elements. John Keats is also not different from others in this regard as he and other romantic poets of his era also critically evaluate these fundamentals of romantic poetry.

Some common factors of his romantic poetry are:

- Pure Poetry
- Quest for Beauty
- Hellenism

These common yet important elements of romantic poetry can be found in the poetry of John Keats.

John Keats: A Pure Romantic Poet

Every poem of John Keats deals with problems of his own. His poetry is objective. It is neither for the sake of criticism nor to apprise the people of any society. He gives neither any message nor does advise to his readers. His poetry lacks morality. His words are not sarcastic. He does poetry for the sake of poetry only. John Keats, hence, is considered the purest poet in the history of English Literature.

His poetry directly hits the senses of his readers. He talks about those things, which he has never experienced in his life. In one of his poems, he writes: **“Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter”**. These lines indicate that Keats was a poet who was always looking to explore and experience new things.

Keats felt and expounded that the human mind was active, synthetic, dynamic, and even visionary; it could achieve the truth of revelation without the instrumentality of ecclesiastical and scientific transmission and sanction. Keats had an instinct for fine words, which are in themselves pictures and ideas; and had more power of poetic expression than any English poet.

Keats's Quest for Beauty

Beauty is the religion of John Keats. He can find it in birds, in clouds, in art, in forests, in flowers even in Greek mythology. He is a passionate lover of beauty. Further, he declares beauty a truth when he writes:

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