

THE SYMBOL OF BEAUTY VIEWED FROM GEORGE GORDON BYRON'S POEM "SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY"

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Abstract

The symbol of beauty viewed from George Gordon Byron's poem, entitled *She Walks in Beauty*, shows a high imagination of George Gordon Byron about beauty, especially in physical and inner beauty. This research exposes the character of a woman who keeps her beauty with her excellent character. The poet expresses a beautiful woman's beauty and good traits. Her beauty in the poem symbolizes many things, for instance, serenity, peace and goodness. The woman is described as a figure who has exceptional beauty in herself. She uses her beauty without arrogance. The woman is the superior woman who can balance her physical and inner beauty. So, a remarkable woman can show good character or attitude to others.

Keywords— Symbol of Beauty, George Gordon Byron, Poem

Introduction

Beauty as the quality or aggregate of qualities in a person or thing that pleases the mind or spirit. (Hellman, Lillian, 1973). It means that beauty is the quality that gives pleasure to the mind or senses and is associated with such properties as harmony of form or colour, excellence or artistry, truth, fullness, and originality. According to the oxford dictionary, beauty is the combination of qualities that pleases the senses, especially the eye and ears, the moral sense, or the intellect. Everyone must admire beauty because beauty can give satisfaction to life.

Literature Review

Romanticism is usually identified with the half-century between the outbreak of the French Revolution and the passage by the English parliament of the first reform Bill. Romanticism began as a reaction against the prevailing enlightenment ideal of the day. It was partly a revolt against the Age of Enlightenment's aristocratic social and political norms and a response against the scientific rationalization of nature. It was strongly embodied in the visual arts, music, and literature.

Our modern sense of romantic character is sometimes based on Byronic ideas. Romanticism reached beyond the rational and ideal classicist models to elevate medievalism and elements of art and narrative perceived as authentically medieval in an attempt to escape to the confines of population growth, urban sprawl and industrialism.

The ideologies and events of the French Revolution, rooted in Romanticism, affected the direction, and the confines of the industrial Revolution, which was in part of an escape from modern realities; indeed, in the second half of the nineteenth century, "Realism" was offered as a polarized opposite to Romanticism.

Romanticism elevated the achievement of what it perceived as misunderstood heroic individuals and artists that altered society. It also legitimized the individual imagination as a critical authority which permitted freedom from classical notions of form in art. There was a strong recourse to historical and natural inevitability in representing its ideas. In 1790, the first period of British Romanticism was mainly defined by the works of William Wordsworth, William Blake, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

The period was defined politically as contemporary to the French Revolution until the Victorian period and was later titled "Romantic" by later Victorian critics to title the reaction against Neoclassicism. The movement was formalized with the joint publication by Wordsworth and Coleridge of *Lyrical Ballads* in 1798. The work emphasized what would become the critical tenets of Romanticism, namely the reconciliation of man and nature, along with an attempt to abandon the high language of 18th-century English poetry and to attempt to convey poetic ideas via a common vernacular. And then, John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and George Gordon Byron comprised the latter half of the movement, mainly continuing in the same tradition, though deviating slightly into more metaphysical matters.

Some of the major poets of the Romantic period are William Blake (1757-1827), William Wordsworth (1770-1850), Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), George Gordon Byron (1788-1824), Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822), John Keats (1795-1821). There are also some minor poets of the Romantic period, such as: Robert Southey (1774-1834), Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832), John Clare (1793-1864), Robert Burns, Thomas Lovell Beddoes (1803-1849), etc.

The term 'Romanticism' has been variously defined by various writers. Peter, for example, calls it the "addition of strangeness to beauty". And Watts Dunton describes it as "the renaissance of wonder". Her food calls it extraordinary development of imaginative sensibility. Legouis and Cazamian emphasize both the emotional and creative aspects of Romanticism and call it "an accentuated predominance of emotional life, provoked and directed by the exercise of imaginative vision" All such definitions are, however, unsatisfactory and partial. Instead of giving a composite view, they emphasize one or the other element of this type of literature. Therefore, it would be more profitable to consider the salient features of English Romantic poetry instead of wasting time defining Romanticism. The salient features of English

Romantic poetry are:

a. Subjectivity

All Romantic literature is subjective. It is an expression of the inner urges of the soul of the artist. The poet does not care for the rules and regulations but gives free indication to his emotions. Emphasis is laid on inspiration and intuition rather than on the observance of set rules. The poet writes according to his own fancy and is often guilty of wild excesses. Romantic poetry is fanciful and reflective and is often marked by extravagance. Hence it has been criticized as irregular and wild. As the poet is free to write any theme and in any form he likes, we have an immense variety of Romantic poetry.

b. Spontaneity

The Romantic is extraordinarily alive to wonder, mystery and beauty of the universe. He feels the presence of unseen powers in nature. The unseen, transcendental world is more accurate for the poet than the world of the senses. The supernatural has a unique charm for him; the stories of fairies, ghosts and witchcraft attract him—his poetry of the

universe. Supernaturalism is an essential element in Romantic inspiration. This often makes Romantic poetry mystical and removed from the everyday experiences of life.

c. Love of the Supernatural

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d. Melancholy

A Romantic is a dissatisfied individual. The poet may be dissatisfied with the circumstances of his life, age, literary conventions and traditions of the day, or the general fate of humanity. Romantic poetry is, therefore, often pessimistic in tone. A Romantic may revolt against the existing conditions and seek to reform them or try to escape into the imaginative world of his creation. Often the poet runs into the past. The middle ages have a particular fascination for him, for they not only provide him with an escape from the sordid realities of the present but also delight his heart with their colour pageantry and magic.

e. Love of Nature

Zest for the beauties of the external world characterizes all Romantic poetry. Romantic poetry carries away from the suffocating atmosphere of cities into the new refreshing company of the out-of-door world. It not only sings of the sensual beauty of nature but also sees into the "heart of things" and reveals the soul behind it.

f. The Democratic Note

The Romantics have an instinct for the elemental simplicities of life. Their hearts overflow with sympathy for the poor and the oppressed. They glorify the innocence and clarity of the commoner. They try to see the divine in man, plead for this emancipation from all bondage, and claim equal rights and liberties for the humblest 'The Romantic poetry is democratic'.

Research Method

The method used in this study is library research. The library research conducted in this study follows (Herbert, 1990) in which he asserts that library research is research to collect ideas, theories, and reported empirical data within the context of scholarship in the library. The data are collected from various sources.

The primary source is taken from the poem *She Walks in Beauty*, and the secondary sources are other books relevant to the subject matter of the thesis. The supplement data of the thesis is derived from any literature sources such as encyclopedias, articles, biographies, etc. She also consults her supervisors and friends about the subject matter of this study.

Results and Discussion

Every woman with inner and physical beauty can commonly get pleasure, which is also represented by a woman in Lord Byron's poem, *She Walks in Beauty*. The woman in this poem is described as a woman who has extraordinary beauty. In *She Walks in Beauty*, the woman is described as having glossy black hair, which lightens her physical beauty. Besides her physical

beauty, she also shows her elegance in herself. It offers serenity in her beauty. The woman's beauty symbolizes her tranquillity. See the quotation below:

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impair'd the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
(Byron, 1997)

From the above quotation, it can be inferred that the woman in this poem has extraordinary beauty. She is a woman who has serenity in her beauty and elegance. It can be seen from her raven tress. Her raven tress shows her elegance waving in it, in which we can feel the serenity. Furthermore, it is clearly seen that brightness spouts from her raven tress. The woman's beauty is not only found in her raven tress but also her face. It can be seen in the following quotation:

Or softly lightens o'er her face;
(Byron, 1997)

From the above quotation, it can be seen that the woman's beauty lightens on her soft face. Her pale face lightens extraordinary beauty. Again the softness on her face spouts serenity so that everyone who sees her face will feel quiet and serene. In other words, the woman's beautiful raven tress and soft look show composure. Serenity is not only found on her raven tress face but also in his way of speaking. It means that the woman in the poem has either physical or inner beauty. She always shows he excellent character, which can be seen through her expression.

In George Gordon Byron's poem *She Walks in Beauty*, the woman is presented as perfect beauty. Through her beauty, the woman can make someone who sees her get happy. The woman enjoys her beauty, and she has a calm figure which makes her beauty complete. See the quotation below:

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
(Byron, 1997)

From the above quotation, it can be inferred that the woman's face shows her peace. Her face shows her elegance as a good woman. Even though her face is so soft and so calm, especially on her cheek, she is very eloquent. The woman has not only physical beauty but also inner beauty. She has a good character, which she shows in her daily life. She spends her days doing suitable activities. It can be proved in the following lines:

The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
(Byron, 1997)

The lines above show that the woman is a peaceful woman. She fills her days with goodness. Her smiles are always in others' hearts, and everybody who sees her will feel peaceful as her physical beauty reflects her inner beauty. The smile on her face, which can attract everyone who sees it, shares a soft feeling with everybody. Her face also spouts tints that glow to share a peaceful feeling with those who encounter her. However, the woman's bright face does not trap someone through her physical beauty. She also treats someone through her excellent character. It means that someone will not be disappointed with her physical beauty, which may be accompanied by bad characteristics, as many people have. Still, she will even give a deep impression of peace from her good soul and character.

Beauty is the aggregate of qualities in a person that gives pleasure. In *She Walks in Beauty*, the poet picturizes the beauty of a woman in a very extraordinary way. The description of the woman is so natural that everyone will smile happily in reading the poem as if there were a really beautiful woman in front of him or her.

The poet expresses the beautiful woman in his poem as cloudless climes and starry night. She is the one that covers the best moment during the day and night. This is what the author means: the woman's beauty shows goodness. See the quotation below:

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
(Byron, 1997)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that the woman's beauty is like cloudless climes and starry skies. This is a description of goodness from the beauty of the woman. The poet describes her beauty in a very extraordinary way. It is shown that the cloudless climes are the best moment during the day for people to do their jobs, travel, or do other activities, while the starry skies are the best moment during the night for people to enjoy themselves or to spend their spare time out the door.

The poet is very enthusiastic about describing the woman's beauty in his poem by choosing the best words to express her beauty. The author emphasizes the woman's beauty in his poetry as a symbol of goodness in her life. Through the following quotation:

And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
Which heaven to gaudy day denies
(Byron, 1997)

From the lines quoted above, it can be seen that the woman's beauty shows goodness. The best dark presents beauty as a symbol of goodness and brightness and the mellow to the tender light and heaven. Those perfect words are the expressions the author chooses to show the distinction symbolized by the woman's beauty.

There are so many things in the world that symbolize goodness, innocence, and purity. However, in many cases, the best things may have dark sides. Integrity is one of the qualities of divinity, so it bears happiness for anyone who shows it. The woman in this poem has the highest level of goodness in herself, so she is most welcome wherever she is. The poet describes the woman as a woman with various good qualities that is hard to find in real life. She is a woman who can make other people happy by seeing her because of her smiles and tints. She is a woman who can give serenity and peace to others from her excellent attitude and character and from her raven tress, among which serenity waves. The author pictures a beautiful woman to be her partner or friend.

Conclusion

After analyzing this study, the writer concludes that a wonderful woman is a woman with physical beauty and inner beauty who can give pleasure to others from her beauty. A wonderful woman is a woman who can provide serenity, peace, and goodness to others from her beauty and also who can show good character or attitude to others.

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