

A critical Appreciation of ode to a nightingale :-

ode to a nightingale is a very beautiful, marvellous and romantic ode, composed by John Keats, one of the greatest and most sensuous Romantic poets. Herein the ~~credit~~ <sup>speaker</sup> addresses a nightingale standing in a dark forest listening to her melodious song.

This poem was composed in the spring of 1819, the song of the nightingale provokes a deep meditation in the mind of the speaker about death, beauty, nature and human suffering. Sometimes, the speaker finds comfort in the nightingale's song.

He believes that poetry will bring him metaphorically closer to the nightingale.

ode to a nightingale is a personal poem that narrates Keats' journey into the state of negative capability. Keats' poetic feelings have been revealed in the present ode to hear the nightingale's song.

It is considered as one of the greatest odes of English literature. It is a very complex lyrical poem in which the poet or the speaker seeks relief from a humdrum existence and the suffering of life by escaping to the imaginary world of a nightingale.

This particular poem consists of eight separate stanzas of ten lines each and





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it is iambic pentameter. This poem is set both inside and outside a forest. The speaker imagines that the bird is living in the forest like a pleasure-seeker in the sun-soaked Mediterranean. When he compares the forest to the world outside, the place where most human beings live, it makes the external world look like the scenery of endless death and decay. The thick leaves of the forest stop the light from the moon and the stars and arouse a good smell of several plants. The speaker hears the heart-breaking song of the nightingale.

Then the imagination of the speaker takes him back through time. He further experiences the nightingale through others who might have heard the same song. But just as quickly as he left the regular world, he returns to it again. The forest appears like a desired but unreachable place as the nightingale flies away to find a new and suitable perch in the next valley.

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The speaker wishes he had a special wine distilled directly from the earth. He wants to drink such a wine which was deep delved into the earth for a long time. Thus he wants to fade into the forest with the nightingale. He wants to get rid of worldly worries and concerns of life, age and time. He thinks to die at night in the forest, with no one around except the nightingale singing sonorously. The nightingale seems to the poet as an immortal bird. The speaker further says that so many different pastorexies have heard the nightingale's song throughout history.

The speaker's vision is interrupted when the nightingale flies away and leaves him alone. He feels excessively frustrated that his imagination is not so powerful enough to create its own reality. This poem has certain figures of speech, like alliteration and assonance.

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