

Topic - Keats.  
Poet - John Keats.

B.A. Part I (Hons) Sub-English  
Paper II - Faculty - Art.

Introduction - The Poem of  
St. Agnes - Continued from  
earlier pages that is page  
NO - 3.

The first major poem  
of 1819, *The Eve of St. Agnes*,  
celebrates as it does the  
fragile and beautiful love  
of Madeline and Porphyro,  
surrounded by inimical  
forces of war and hate,  
and lost in the distant  
past. In this contrast,  
the brilliant descriptions  
have their own sake,  
but because they make  
a constitutive symbol -  
that is they describe the  
life and love itself  
that is so easily  
destroyed and the more  
that life is described

The worse the destruction  
seems to be.

The conception  
of a young lover slipping  
into the castle and stealing  
his love from her violent  
and boarish relations is  
attractive in itself, especially  
when joined to the legend  
of St. Agnes, when

Young virgins might have  
visions of delights,  
And soft adornings from  
their love receive,  
Upon the honey'd top of the  
middle of the night --

To be continued.

Prof. Karunaditya Singh  
Asst. Prof. English  
Sher Shah College  
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