

AN INTRODUCTION INTO POETRY

"O Solitude!"

John Keats

O Solitude! If I must with thee dwell,
Let it not be among the jumbled heap
Of murky buildings; climb with me the steep, --
Nature's observatory -- whence the dell,
Its flowery slopes, its river's crystal swell,
May seem a span; let me thy vigils keep
'Mongst boughs pavilion'd, where the deer's swift leap
Startles the wild bee from the foxglove bell.
But though I'll gladly trace these scenes with thee,
Yet the sweet converse of an innocent mind,
Whose words are images of thoughts refin'd,
Is my soul's pleasure; and it sure must be
Almost the highest bliss of human-kind,
When to thy haunts two kindred spirits flee.

John Keats: is a romantic poet (1759-1821) .

This poem talks about the beauty of nature , it is a romantic poem which talks about nature and friendship. He talks about the beauty of nature and his friend George Felton Mathew, and how can they enjoy themselves in the nature.

Nature is a symbol of purity and innocence ,and talks about the city life which is corrupted, dark , and dirty.

The poem has two parts: Octave and sestet. The octave talks about his nature while the sestet talks about friendship.

New words:

Solitude : loneliness

Dwell: live

Jumbled: untidy

Heap: pile

murky buildings: dark, reference to dirtiness

steep: hill

dell: valley

Crystal: shining

Swell: movement up and down

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Paraphrasing:

The poet addresses solitude as if it is a person saying that he wants to live lonely, so he prefers to live in nature on the top of a mountain away from the dark buildings of the city. After that , he addresses solitude to climb with him to the hill and to sit there and watch the elements of nature from the top of the mountain like flowers, valleys, and the sparkling river.

May seem a span; let me thy vigils keep
'Mongst boughs pavilion'd, where the deer's swift leap
Startles the wild bee from the foxglove bell.

New words:

Span: the distance between the fingers

Vigil: night watch

Leap: jump

Pavilion: shelter

Swift: very fast

Boughs : branches

Paraphrasing:

He tells us that he will sit up all the night under the branches of the trees in order to watch the deer jumping and running.

Also, he wants to watch the escaping bees from the flowers when they are frightened by the jumping of the deer.

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Yet the sweet converse of an innocent mind,
Whose words are images of thoughts refin'd,
Is my soul's pleasure; and it sure must be
Almost the highest bliss of human-kind,
When to thy haunts two kindred spirits flee.

New words:

Trace: watch

Sweet converse: happy thoughts

Innocent: good- hearted

Gladly: happily

Flee : escape

Paraphrasing:

The poet addresses solitude. He wants to share the beauty of nature. He will watch the scenes of nature and share the happy thoughts with a good hearted friend .When two good friends escape from the dark buildings of the city, they will have the happiest moment.

Figures of speech:

O solitude: **Apostrophe**

The poet address solitude (it is an idea) as if it a person who can understand him.

Climb with me: **personification**

The poet personifies solitude as a person who climbed with him.

river's crystal swell: **image**

because it makes an image in our mind .

let me thy vigils keep: **image**

the poet address solitude as if it a person who can understand
boughs pavilion'd: **metaphor**

he compares the boughs of trees to a shelter who can protect
people.

converse of mind,: **personification**

the poet personifies the innocent friends to someone who is
talking in sweet way.

words are images: **metaphor**

the poet compares the words to images

soul's pleasure: **exaggeration**

highest bliss: **exaggeration**

kindred spirits(innocent friends): **synecdoche**

spirit: it is a part of the human

innocent mind (good hearted friends) **synecdoche**

mind: it is a part of the body.

Sound Devices

Murky – me : Alliteration

Slopes- swell: Alliteration

Seem – span : Alliteration

Seem – keep: Assonance

From – fox: Alliteration

These – scenes: Assonance

Rhyme scheme:

It is a Petrarchan sonnet :

a-b-b-a-a-b-b-a octave

c-d-d-c-d- c sestet

Scansion:

O So/litude! / If I /must with /thee dwell

U _ U _ U _ U _ U _

Iambic pentameter

THE END