

D. B. College Jaynagar Madhubani 101
L. N. Mithila University Darbhanga
Dept. of English Class - B. A. I
28, AnandKumbar Paper - II
Mob No - 9199895259 Topic - "The Eve of
Lecture No - 22 St. Agnes" as a love poem.
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The Eve of St. Agnes is a remarkable love-poem by John Keats. Keats composed this in January 1819 and revised it in September the same year. His love affair with Isabella brought in temporary relief to his troubled and disturbed mind. And in this happy mood, Keats composed this poem at Chichester. Robert Grating throws light on the date and circumstances of the composition of the poem. He says "A successful love-affair with Isabella, at the same time, the lovely excitement of the flirtation with Fanny Brawne, combined the sensuous love atmosphere of the poem, but as the poem went on and the details of its setting began to form in Keats' mind, another decidedly different lady also took a hand". The happy atmosphere of Chichester and the love-affair of the poet accelerated the composition of The Eve of St. Agnes.

Keats composed this poem when he was in the best of his spirit. His passion for Fanny Brawne must have been the immediate inspiration for this poem. However, this happy moment did not last long, but then The Eve of St. Agnes, in the expression of his love-horn feelings. The fever and fret of life which had been tormenting him for quite a number of years were conspicuously absent for a short time during the composition of The Eve of St. Agnes.

This poem owes great appeal in its sensuous element and religious background. The superstitious belief about St. Agnes's Eve and the bold adventures of Porphyro for Madeline have been described in colourful and decorative language. And that is why, the poem has been called on a long sensuous utterance and a lyrical expression. Absurdly the grandeur of Hyperion and the sober and sensuous ideas of life as

expressed in Isabella, Lamia and Endymion
are even seen in The Eve of St. Agnes. 102

The Eve of St. Agnes is a passionate poem of love. In it the sensuous aspects of love-making are stressed. The plot of the poem resembles the tragic story of the Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet". As in Romeo and Juliet the lovers in this poem - Porphyro and Madeline - belong to two hostile families. Porphyro is an adventurous lover. He enters the castle of the Baron, who is Madeline's father in spite of all the dangers of encounters. Though surrounded by enemies he quietly steps into Madeline's bed chamber through the help of Angela, the old woman. He has a passionate meeting with Madeline. Her dream turns into reality, when she sees Porphyro in her bed room.

"Into her dream he melted as the ^{rose}
Blendeth its odour with the violet".

Porphyro very slyly persuades Madeline to escape from the castle. The security guards are all drugged, and taking advantage of the situation when a magnetic storm is blowing the lovers escape into the night. Thus this passionate love story ends happily, unlike the story of the star-crossed lovers in Romeo and Juliet.

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