

D. B. College Jaynagar Madhubani
L. N. Mithila University Darbhanga
Dept. of English
Dr. Anand Kumar
Mob. No. - 9199895259
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Class - B.A I

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Topic - Explanation

'The Eve of St. Agnes'

Explanation - 07

Beyond a mortal man impassion'd far
At these voluptuous accents, he arose,

Like Love's alarm pattering the sharp steel
Against the window-panes; St. Agnes' moon
bath set. (Stanza 36)

These lines form the climax of Keats' impassioned love poem, "The Eve of St. Agnes". Madeline and Porphyro were madly in love with each other. Since they belong to two feuding families, the love affair met with hostility. Their possible marriage was disapproved by both the families. On St. Agnes' Eve, Madeline was dreaming of Porphyro. She complained that Porphyro was pure and clear in the dawn dream but now he was changed into a gloomy and pale person. She confessed her ardent love for him. On hearing this unmistakable confession of love from Madeline, Porphyro felt happy.

Here Keats describes the reaction of Porphyro to Madeline's confession of love for him. His joy at this moment was more intense than ever felt by a man. He was extremely happy to hear the confession of love from Madeline, and so was moved with passion. Now he rose on his feet like a divine figure trembling with emotion and blushing all over. He looked like a twinkling star shining in the deep blue calm sky. The actual Porphyro was transformed into the ideal or visionary Porphyro.

Dr. Anand Kumar

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