

D. B. College Jaynagar Madhubani  
L. N. Mithila University Darbhanga

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class - B. A. I  
Paper - I

Topic - Romantic Poetry  
Lecture - 01

## Romantic Poetry

The eighteenth century is the first great literary century of England. The Romantic Period is the second period extending from 1798 to 1832. The Period of Romantic Revival was the revival of the old values of the Elizabethan period. It was both a revival and revolution. There was a revolution in subject and manner of poetry. The two periods are basically different from each other. The Augustan Period is the Neo-classical period in England. There is balance, poise and control in classical poetry. It is a poetry in which intellect is the guiding principle. Heroic couplet is the main form of poetry prevailing in this period. Romantic poetry is reaction against reason and Heroic couplet. So it is revolutionary in character. It is also a revival because it revives all the old romantic tendencies of the Elizabethan period.

The Romantic period was born of new social and political tendencies. The French Revolution brought about great changes in thought. The writings of Rousseau and Voltaire influenced literature considerably. People were inspired by new ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity. "Man is born free and he is everywhere in chains" became the slogan of the new faith. The individual was considered to be the centre of all social and political activities. Individual became more important than society.

English literature has always been influenced by the continent. The Renaissance period in England was influenced

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by Italy. The Restoration period was influenced by France. The Romantic period also got its first impetus from the French Revolution. But it was Germany which supplied the philosophical basis of Romanticism. The birth of new tendencies, worship of instinct etc, was really brought about in the soil of England but it found a confirmation in the writings of Germany. The main characteristics of Romantic poetry are best outlined in Wordsworth's Preface to the Lyrical Ballads published in 1798. The Preface is a great document of Romanticism. According to Wordsworth the emotion of humble rustics are pure emotions because they can be connected with nature. Man in a state of nature. Secondly, incidents and situations must be chosen from the common life of humble rustics. Thirdly, the language of poetry should not be much different, the poet should give a colouring of imagination over man's emotions. It is from these considerations that Wordsworth arrives at his famous definition of poetry that ~~Wordsworth arrives at his famous~~ "poetry has its origin in the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings; it is emotion recollected in tranquillity".

No single poet of Romantic period represents all the tendencies of the period. The early generation of Romantic poets is represented by Wordsworth and Coleridge. The second generation is represented by Shelley and Byron; and the third by Keats. The nature poetry of Wordsworth, the supernatural of Coleridge, the impetuous passion of Byron, the rebellious and emancipative temperament of Shelley and the sensuousness and Hellenism of Keats are all various aspects of Romanticism. It was their common faith in poetry that bound all these poets together. The supreme faculty of Romantic poetry is imagination which must take the place of reason for the solution of the riddle

of life and nature. Wordsworth and Shelley, though poles apart, agree in seeing the poet as the guide, the prophet and the seer. Romanticism is thus essentially poetic.

Romantic poetry takes up the study of man. The mysterious regions of instinct, feeling and senses, the subtle reactions between man and nature, are the chosen subjects of Romantic poetry. The very definition of poetry undergoes a change. Pope in his Essay on Man sees in poetry a superior method of engraving in the mind the thought of the philosophers. Wordsworth and Shelley see in it philosophy itself, the highest and profoundest philosophy. So Romanticism is short with metaphysics. The Romantics rely on imagination and poetic intuition and substitute for the cold mechanism of cause and effect a vision of mysterious forces, which they call divine. For the expression of this passion they search a more supple and more lyrical form than that of Pope, a language less conventional, more expressive than Heroic couplet. They create fresh images, fresh associations of words on the models of Renaissance and old popular poetry. They refashion the language as well as the matter of poetry.

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Class - B.A.I  
Paper - II  
Topic - Literary Term  
'Satire'

### Satire

Satire has been defined as a literary composition in verse. It is essentially a criticism of folly or vice that it holds up to ridicule or scorn. Its main instruments are irony (expressing the meaning by words or action whose literal meaning is opposite), sarcasm (a better sneer, a remark in contempt or scorn, in verse), a severe or reproachful accusation brought against any one, an attack with words), wit (an ingenious mental faculty) and humour (a mental quality that apprehends and delights in the ludicrous and mischievous). A satirical writing as a style in a verse meant to ridicule. It is widely used ironically in plays and novels to show how foolish or wicked some people's behaviours or ideas are. It satirises individually a group of people whom he criticizes or makes fun of in various literary forms, mainly in plays, novels or poems.

Dryden, Alexander Pope and Jonathan Swift are the great satirists in English literature. Satire ranges human activities as individual or as society on wider canvas. As such we came across allegorically, political, social religious satires.

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Class - B.A. I

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Paper - II

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Lecture No - 03

Topic - 'To A Skylark'  
as a lyric poem or Shelley  
as a lyric - poet.

Shelley's lyrics are said to be very successful. Most of his lyrics are outbursts of momentary impulse. They are expressions of a single emotion and are marked with deep passion. The poem 'To A Skylark' was written at a time when the music of the bird was filling the heart of the poet with joy. It was this momentary impulse that became responsible for the production of this poem. The poem is subjective in character, because through the bird the poet reveals his own personality, his aspirations and longings in poetry. The poet presents his own life and feelings through the personality of the skylark. The poet's personality melts into the song of the skylark until he ceases to be a man and becomes a voice and a lyric incarnate.

The music of the poem is highly remarkable. It is considered as one of the most musical poems of Shelley. The skylark sings fine songs and the melody of the skylark has been captured to a considerable degree by the poet in the melody of the lines of this lyric.

The poem is remarkable for its spontaneity of expression. There is no laboured artistry in the poem. There is spontaneity of expression of powerful feelings. The quality of the lyric is therefore presented in a beautiful manner in the skylark.

There is a unity in the poem because of the comparisons and praises showered upon the bird bringing before us the special picture of the bird. The simplicity of the form is also in keeping with the characteristics of the lyric. Just from all these points it can be said that, "To A Skylark" is a very successful lyric.

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Class - B. A. I  
Paper - II  
Topic - Literary Term  
'Simile'

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### Simile

The term simile is derived from the Latin word 'similes'. It means likeness. A simile is a definite expression of similarity between different objects or events. It consists in placing two different things side by side and comparing them with regard to some features common in both. For example, "She moves like an elephant". In this simile she (a girl or woman) is compared with an elephant (an animal). Two very different objects. But a like in having a common characteristic namely movement thus there are two essential elements in a simile. First, the two objects or events compared must be different in kind. Secondly, the point of resemblance between the two objects or events compared must be clear. A simile is always introduced by such words as like, as, so etc.

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### Paradox

It is a statement which seems absurd and self contradictory at the first thought, but is realised as true in fact afterwards.

Example - "Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter" - Keats.

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