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Lecture No - 03
05-10-2020

101
class - B.A. I
Pages - II
Topic - The Eve
of St. Agnes' Explanation

Explanation of The Eve of St. Agnes

Full of this whim was thoughtful Madeline;
The music, yearning like a croon in pain,
See scarcely heard; her maiden eyes divine,
Fix'd on the floor, saw many a sweeping
she sigh'd for Agnes' dreams, the sweetest
of the year. (Stanza 7).

These lines occur in John Keats' colourful narrative poem, "The Eve of St. Agnes". Here the romantic poet describes colourfully the strange predicament of Madeline, the charming heroine of the narrative poem. The poet concentrates his attention upon a particular lady who was thinking all the time of St. Agnes. She had heard very often from old woman the legend of St. Agnes and the latter's particular interest in the love and marriage of pure maidens who prayed to her. It was the lady's belief in the legend which induced her to observe the holy day as a day of prayer and fasting to receive the blessing of the saint in matters of love and marriage.

A maiden who, desirous to see her future husband or lover had to keep a fast and vigil the whole night and pray with devotion to St. Agnes who allowed her a vision of her future husband.

In these lines Keats narrates in detail the thoughts that came into Madeline's mind on St. Agnes' Eve. Madeline was dancing but she was absent-minded. Her mind was completely occupied with the thought of the future husband and she was lost in thought. Her mind was capt in strange fancy or idea. She was unkindful of other things. No distraction