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Class - B. A. I
Paper - II

Topic - Explanation
The Eve of St. Agnes'

Explanation - 04

These delicates he heapp'd with glowing hand
on golden dishes and in baskets bright

open thine eye, for neek st. Agnes' sake,
or I shall drowbe beside thee, so my soul
dost ache".

(stanza - 31)

These lines form part of Keats' romantic colourful narrative poem "The Eve of St. Agnes". This is a description of Porphyro's activities in Madeline's bed chamber. He arranged the table near the bed and loaded it with all kinds of delicacies. Foods and drinks were piled upon the table. They looked nourishing in a quiet retired place, far away from disturbances or noise of the revels. The cold room became pervaded with the scent of food stored there. Porphyro now addressed Madeline as the object of highest adoration. He described her as a goddess. He called himself her solitary and ardent worshipper. He entreated her eyes in the name of St. Agnes. He wanted to lie down beside her, for his yearning to sleep beside her was uncontrollable.

This descriptive passage ends with a passionate call by Porphyro to Madeline for the consummation of their love. We have here the climax of the love poem.

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