

3/4/2020

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S.No 3 B.A. Part 1, Subsidiary English

Topic: Critical appreciation of the poem; *She Walks in Beauty, Like the Night*.

She Walks in Beauty like the Night is one of the few lyrics of Byron where we find the ring of sincerity, the appreciation of the beauty of character and the beauty of appearance. In the appreciation of the beauty of Mrs Horton, the wife of his cousin, we find here the poet seems to well up from his heart. Though the portrait is idealized we do not feel as we feel in the *Stanza For Music* that he is giving an exaggerated expression to his feelings. It is free from the passionate outspokenness of the love lyric. Here the images don't appear to us self conscious like the images in *Stanza For Music*. Nor again the devices used here for producing music seem to be deliberate in that lyric. The repetition of the 'ing' sound in five consecutive lines in *Stanza For Music* produce a sense of monotony. No such a flaw here mars the beauty and music of the poem. It is softly and sweetly worded and the images are suited to the theme. The repetition of the 's' sound throughout the poem and particularly in second stanza gives a peculiar softness and sweetness to the poem.

There are some similarities between this poem and Wordsworth's *She was a Phantom of Delight*. Both the poets seem to hold the view that beauty of character passes into outward grace of a person from his inward goodness and appears on his face. In short this poem moves us by its sincerity of feeling and softness and sweetness of diction.

31/3/2020

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S.No 2

B.A. Part 1 Subsidiary English

Topic: Summary of the poem; *She Walks in Beauty, Like the Night*.

The poem is about the beauty of a lady. The lady in her black dress has drawn the attention of the poet. The poet compares the serene beauty of the lady with that of a dark night in the cloud free sky. She looks as beautiful as a dark night appears when the sky is free from clouds and stars are shining brightly. Her hair is dark like her dress and her face and eyes are bright like her spangles. The blending of light and darkness gives her softer charms

There is an amazing kind of balance in her beauty. If her black glossy hair had been a little darker, the beauty of her waving locks would have been half short. If her face had been less bright even by a single shade, the beauty of the soft glow visible on her face would have been impaired. On her cheeks and on her brows soft calm smile is found playing which is expressiveness of her inward goodness. Her winning smiles and the glow on her cheeks show that she had led a virtuous life. There is contentment in her life and his love had been pure. Her outward grace is the mirror of her inward goodness and innocence. There is also a serene expression on her face which speaks of the purity of her soul.