Letter to fanny Brawne

John Keats’ letter to fanny Brawne brings the poet’s heart to vivid life. His letters to his beloved are timelessly enchanting and elegantly sentimental.

Written on July 3, 1819, two hundred years ago, the love letter is a symbol of eternal love and the words are a soulful expression of the intensity and depth of love. Keats does not want his letter to sound like Rousseau’s Heloise. He chooses the morning time to write to her since the lonely and silent nights seal him in; the beautiful country, the lovely cottage window open up his mind in the morning; looking onto a beautiful country with a glimpse of the sea, the mornings are his love letter writing times; despite his ill health, he is reminded of the unalloyed happiness he has had due to his relationship with his beloved.

Fanny Brawne has entrammelled him so much that he feels he is deprived of his freedom and wants her to reply to him, consoling him on the loss. He is certain that her reply will be like poppies of intoxication to uplift his drooping spirit; he wants her to kiss the words she writes so that he may touch his lips where hers had been.

His devotion to her is so intense that he does not know how express it; he needs a brighter word than bright, a fairer word than fair. He wishes that they were butterflies and live for three happiest days rather than an entire lifetime. At the same time, he assures her that even though he may sound selfish, he can never act selfishly. He cannot expect to engross her heart entirely and is highly realistic in his love. He assures her that in case the worst happens to him, he will still love her.

The lines Keats quotes at the end of the letter are an expression of true love; they are timeless, precious and immortal as his love .

Letters to Fanny Brawne remains to this day as the most famous love letters ever written. They are not simply romantic, but immortally elegant expressions of the beauty of love and what it does to the souls of not only the lovers but also to the readers. It is truly a masterpiece where Love attains immortality.