



4. How does the poet bring out the immortality of the bird?

Answer: While the poet is grieving on the unpleasant aspects of human life, he cherishes the nightingale's song and feels elated and finds peace in it. He praises the beauty of it. He calls the bird immortal for its humming is not to fade away like humans wither with age and death. He wishes to fly to the nightingale, wants to die and live with the bird. However, Keats soon realises that what he imagines is impossible. Keats is bewitched by nightingale's singing and he sings in praise of this bird whose ageless humming has been heard by the emperors and clowns and even Ruth and by all since times immemorial and will be there to be heard by posterity. Spellbound, he further embellishes and adds the beauty to the bird's song by his personification. Enchanted by the evergreen beauty of the sound of this bird, Keats delays the inevitability of death and lives the immortality of the bird, though not for long.

5. How does the poet tossed back from ecstasy into despair?

Answer: While Keats praises the bird's song, the nightingale flies further away from him. The poet sighs, "Forlorn!" As the sound is distanced, the spell breaks and Keats awakens to the reality. He realises that while dreaming he had travelled far from reality. He is thrown back to the physical world again and he grieves that his imagination is not to become reality. Keats laments at the loss and wonders whether he was dreaming or he envisioned it all. He bemoans for he is bereft of his art and the beauty.

6. How does the poem bring out the elusive nature of happiness in human existence?

Answer: The poem is an attempt to distinct happiness and true happiness, the real and imaginary, reality and dream, the pleasure and pain, the ideal and the actual as Richard Fogle calls it. The everlasting and the momentary have been differentiated in the poem. The true pleasure as Keats defines lies not in the physical world which is full of miseries and pain and loss. We chase the beauty and happiness the way the poet chases the bird's song and still at a point the spell is bound to break like a bubble bursts and the human is thrown into the reality to realise the ultimate and inevitable, the death! Happiness is elusive and evanescent and can not be held for ever. It is fickle and promiscuous. The poet when felt that he has found the true happiness in the singing of the nightingale, which is beyond age and time; he wakes up to the reality. He realises that it was just a vision a dream, so is happiness, like a dream, not stationary! All that we can do is delay the inevitability of death through this beauty that gives transcendental happiness.

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