

A THING OF BEAUTY

JOHN KEATS

BEAUTY -

“The chief forms of beauty are order and symmetry and definiteness ” – Aristotle

“Beauty is in the ideal of perfect harmony which is in the universal being” – Rabindranath Tagore

“Beauty is Truth; Truth Beauty” – John Keats

ATTRIBUTES –

- 1) Joy for ever – source of eternal happiness/ pleasure/ delight/ bliss
- 2) It never fades/ recedes into insignificance/ nothingness/ oblivion/ obscurity
Beautiful things will never become ‘nothing’ as they shall continue to hold us in their spell and soothe our souls.
- 3) Keeps a bower quiet for us – is as blissful as the shady shelter/ retreat to a tired traveller
- 4) Induces sleep/ slumber filled with happy dreams
- 5) Fosters good health and relaxed breathing

THEREFORE – a logical conclusion is arrived at

In appreciation of beauty – Every morning we enter into a communion with the object of beauty. This band/ link/ union, is again, as delicate as a wreath of flowers that unite us with the earth, the repository of all beautiful objects.

SOURCES OF UNHAPPINESS –

- 1) Despondence –of the inhuman dearth of noble natures – acute lack of gracious, dignified individuals
- 2) gloomy days – sad, depressing times
- 3) unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways – sickness and darkness of ignorance

Made for our searching – that present for us/ that are in existence

IN SPITE OF ALL DESPONDECE

Some shape of beauty moves away the pall from our dark spirits – there are the objects of beauty that dispel the shroud of dejection/ sadness/ hopelessness/ despair that covers the dark souls

CATALOGUE OF BEAUTIFUL OBJECTS

- 1) The sun
- 2) The moon
- 3) Old and young trees that endow a shady blessing
- 4) Timid/ simple sheep
- 5) Daffodils that grow amidst a green world

- 6) Mountain streams /clear rills that create a cooling effect in the caves/covert they flow down by the mid forest brake (a shrub) overgrown with musk-rose blooms – the flowers are so plenty in numbers that it seems these have been ‘sprinkled/ showered upon’ the shrubs
- 7) grandeur of the dooms – magnificence/ splendour in death of great souls – the legends of the great men we have either heard or read of
- Of things that connote great ruin/ destruction

HAVING APPRECIATED / PARTAKEN THE JOY OF THE BEAUTIFUL OBJECT

It is as if one has drunk nectar that seems to have poured unto one from heaven’s edge.

The feeling is one of divine bliss

Questions and Answers

“...yes, *in spite of all,*
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep: and such are daffodils”

What does ‘in spite of all’ refer to?

The expression refers to all the pessimistic and negative thoughts that impede the way to happiness. In spite of the sense of hopelessness and gloom that overshadow and darken our way, we are able to find our happiness in the beautiful objects in nature.

What, according to the poet, drives away the sadness from our life?

Beauty, in shape or form, helps in driving away the sadness and despair from the dark recesses of our spirit.

What does the reference ‘simple sheep’ symbolize?

Lambs and sheep are envisioned as the embodiments of innocent and serene beauty

What according to Keats are the things that cause suffering and pain?

- 1) Despondence –of the inhuman dearth of noble natures – acute lack of gracious, dignified individuals
- 2) gloomy days – sad, depressing times
- 3) unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways – sickness and darkness of ignorance

What makes human beings love life in spite of all the suffering?

The poet says that the beautiful things on earth lifts the pall off our dark spirits and make life worth living. Each beautiful thing is like a link that forms a chain or wreath that binds us to the earth.

Why does the poet say ‘mighty dead’?

Magnificence/ splendour in death of great souls – the legends of the great men we have either heard or read of