

The Poetry of Earth



John Keats

John Keats (1795-1821) was a noted poet of the English Romantic Movement. He belonged to the second generation of Romantic poets who came after Coleridge and Wordsworth. He is known for his vivid imagery which are noted for their sensuous appeal. Some of his famous works are *Ode to a Nightingale*, *Hyperion* and *Isabella*.

The argument put forward by Keats in this poem is that, the natural music of the earth never ceases to play through the cycle of seasons. The poem is a sonnet in which the song of the grasshopper is embodied in the octave and that of the cricket is portrayed in the sestet.

The poetry of earth is never dead:

When all the birds are faint with the hot sun,
And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run
From hedge to hedge about the new-mown mead;
That is the Grasshopper' —he takes the lead
In summer luxury, —he has never done
With his delights; for when tired out with fun
He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.

The poetry of earth is ceasing never:

On a lone winter evening, when the frost
Has wrought a silence, from the stove there shrills
The Cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever,
And seems to one in drowsiness half lost,
The Grasshopper's among some grassy hills.

mead: meadow

stove: a device for cooking and heating

wrought: made