

CHAPTER- 4 (POEM)

CHAPTER NAME – A THING OF BEAUTY

BY JOHN KEATS

ABOUT THE POET

John Keats was born in London in 1795 and died in Rome in 1821 at the young age of 25 due to illness. He is a romantic poet. His poetry is characterized by sensual imagery in his most famous work, a series of odes (a lyrical poem meant for a particular subject). Today, his lyrics are one of the most sought after creations in English literature. The above-given poetry is an excerpt from his poem, -Endymion: A poetic Romance-(1818), considered an epic poem.

CENTRAL IDEA OF THE POEM

The poem "A thing of beauty" from John Keats's poem Endymion is usually read as a straightforward assertion with the central idea that any beautiful thing gives unending pleasure. This idea can be interpreted in several diverse senses. For the reason that human beings share the same essential natures and respond to the same motivations in the same basic ways, a thing of beauty, even if lost for a time, perhaps even for centuries, will still have the ability to give joy to future generations if it is experienced again later. A beautiful thing is a happiness forever. Whatever happens, we cannot hate a wonderful thing. Even when it fades, decays or dies, we love such things without any conditions. It will never be elapsed even after its death, a thousand or two thousand later. When we live enclosed by beautiful people, places and things, our minds will be refreshed and have sweet dreams while sleeping. As a further result, we will have good health and quiet breathing.

THE TONE OF THE POEM

In this poem, Endymion, the mythical character, has a tone of desire for a romantic self-transcendence that aims to fuse him with cosmic creations' embarrassment. It is the perception of the viewing subject, of the critical mind responsible for his well-being, and which should ideally aim at a balanced synthesis of his egotistic feelings with the donated borrowings and emotional provisions of beauty. It is a personal unity that is more complicated than Wordsworth in a notion of Pantheism. The stimulated state of mind that turns its prejudice onto the gaze of nature demonstrates the idea of the scholar poets negative capability.

THEME:

The theme of the poem rests in the opening line of the poem. A beautiful object is treasured in our minds because it provides us with eternal and everlasting joy. This happiness never fades into nothingness but multiplies manifold whenever it flashes on our minds.

NEW WORDS

- Bower- a pleasant shady place under trees or climbing plants.
- Morrow - the following day
- Wreathing - covering or to encircle.
- Spite - desire to offend or annoy someone.
- Despondence - disheartened, hopeless.
- Noble - of superior quality, having high moral principles
- Pall - a cloud, here, a dark cloud of gloom and sadness.
- Spirits - the soul where lie our emotions and character.
- Sprouting - to develop suddenly in large numbers.
- Shady boon - a shade which is helpful to someone.
- Rills - streams of running water.
- Covert - not openly known or displayed.
- Grandeur - to impress.
- Dooms - last day of existence.
- Immortal - living forever.
- Heaven's brink - the door of God's home.

POETIC DEVICES

Changing your Tomorrow ▲

Metaphor:

- 'bower quiet'-refers to a quiet shady part in the garden
- 'sweet dreams'-happy dreams
- 'wreathing a flowery band'-connecting to nature
- 'pall'-a covering like a shroud
- 'endless fountain of immortal drink'- refers to the deeds of great men and women that have made them a source of inspiration for people of all times
- The list of beautiful things is metaphors and symbols of nature.

Alliteration:

- 'noble natures'

- 'cooling covert'
- 'band to bind'

Imagery:

- 'flowery bands'
- 'shady boon'
- 'clear rills'
- 'daffodils in green world'
- 'grandeur of dooms'
- 'cooling covert'
- 'endless fountain of eternal drink'

Transferred epithet:

- 'gloomy days'
- 'unhealthy and o'er darkened ways'

Oxymoron

- 'mighty dead.'

Form

- 'A Thing of Beauty' belongs to the Romantic genre.
- The poem is written in rhyming couplets, and the rhyme scheme is AABB.

SUMMARY/UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT:

A beautiful thing is a source of eternal joy, its attractiveness grows with time, and its impact never fades away. It is as pleasant as a calm, quiet bower or sound sleep with sweet dreams; or robust health and mental peace. It provides the beholder with a haven of tranquillity and solace.

It is the beauty of nature that keeps us attached to this earth. Every morning we collect lovely fresh flowers and prepare garlands. The fascination for flowers is our bonding with the earth. It helps us steer clear of despondency and disappointments. We forget all our despair, of acute shortage of noble souls, of misfortunes that overtake us to test our forbearance. Life is full of trials and tribulations, and we often find ourselves amid the gloom. At such depressing moments, a sight full of beauty dispels the pall of sadness from our spirits, making room for hope and optimism.

The objects of beauty are countless. These include heavenly bodies like the sun and the moon, the old and young trees that provide excellent shelter to sleep, the daffodil flowers encased in green leaves, the streams that flow through a shady passage they make themselves with plants, and the bushes that bear fragrant flowers. These simple and even commonplace things lift the human spirit filling it with joy and delight. In addition to these natural objects, there are beautiful tales of our legendary heroes, who lived and died heroically, which inspire us with their matchless beauty. These beautiful things are metaphorically an endless source of nectar that pours down to us from heaven, bringing eternal joy for the soul's grandeur. They are like an elixir of life, a never diminishing source of pleasure and delight, an endless fountain of joy that seems to be a precious gift from heaven.

Explanation Lines 1-5: "A thing of beauty is a joyquiet breathing". According to the poet John Keats, a thing of beauty is a source of constant joy. Its beauty goes on increasing. It will never fade and pass into nothingness. A bower is a peaceful and pleasant place in the shade of a tree. It provides shelter or protection from the hot rays of the sun. A beautiful thing also gives us sound sleep, full of pleasant dreams, health and peaceful breathing. Therefore, beauty does not lead to inertia but a constant battle to guard our nature/earth.

Explain Lines 6-13: "Therefore, on every morrow ...yes, in spite of all," As a result of every morning, we are weaving a flowery wreath to bind us to the beauties of the earth despite the sadness and the feeling of depression. We all possess evil qualities of hatred and disappointment. We suffer from a lack of noble qualities and unhealthy evil ways, although all these beautiful things help to remove the cover of gloom or darkness from our lives. It makes us love life despite the things that make us sad and dampen our spirits.

Explain Lines 14-20: "Such the sun, the moon..... musk-rose blooms" The sun, the moon, trees old and young are all sources of happiness for us. The trees sprout and spread their branches to provide shelter within their green covering for the simple sheep. The daffodils bloom within the green surroundings in which they grow. The clear and small streams of water make a cooling shelter for themselves against the hot season. The thick mass of ferns looks grand with their beautiful musk roses.

Explain Lines 21-25: "And such too is the grandeur the heaven's brink". The mighty dead people whose achievements made them great and powerful inspire us through the sagas of their noble works. Their legends and stories enthuse us, and we imagine their magnificence. A beautiful thing is also a source of joy, just as the lovely tales we have heard or read give us profound happiness. A fountain of immortality pours its sacred and immortal drink into the heart and soul of man. This immortal drink gushing out from nature's endless fountain is a source of immense joy for us.

LIST THE THINGS OF BEAUTY MENTIONED IN THE POEM.

- The Sun
- The Moon
- Shady trees
- Beautiful daffodil flowers
- Streams of water
- Dense green bushes of forest ferns where fragrant musk roses grow
- Tales of heroic men who sacrifice their lives

LIST THE THINGS THAT CAUSE SUFFERING AND PAIN.

- Desire to offend others
- Hopelessness
- Lack of noblemen
- Bad health
- Unhappiness
- Gloom
- Darkness

CONCLUSION

The poem concludes by saying that beautiful things are figuratively an endless source of nectar that pours down to us from heaven, bringing eternal joy for the soul's grandeur. They are like medicine of life, a never diminishing source of pleasure and delight, a boundless source of joy that seems to be a precious gift from heaven. A beautiful thing will give joy throughout one's lifetime. One can return to the beautiful thing and never finish finding it a source of joy. Even after one dies, the thing of beauty will continue to exist and will give joy to people of the next age group. When they pass, it will give joy to the peer group after theirs, and so on. Thus, a beautiful thing may be a joy forever in that sense. Even if the thing of beauty, practised in the past, can't for whatever reasons be experienced at the present moment, our memory of the experience can still give present pleasure. Even when we are depressed or dejected, our experience of a beautiful thing can help us shake off our sadness and can bring us joy.

Video Resource- <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8p0WJed8EQsV7nUMZh7kR5V-RxHQ8lhb>

Audio recording - <https://youtu.be/cFOM2gYumaw>

MIND MAP**A THING OF
BEAUTY****BY: JOHN KEATS****About the Poet**

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John Keats

- An English Romantic poetic.
- Worked as an apprentice to a surgeon
- He died in Rome (1821)
- Works – A thing of beauty, Ode to a Grecian Urn & Ode to Nightingale.

Characters:**- Endymion****- Cynthia**

- ✓ Endymion stands for the poet as man
- ✓ Cynthia stands for ideal beauty

**Theme
of the lesson**

- Beauty and its importance in life
- Return to Nature
- Beauty has the power to remove darkness and negativity and helps us to survive.

**Lesson
Contents**

- It is based on Endymion and Cynthia, to seek her out through the forest and down under the sea.
- A beautiful thing provides joy for ever
- Every morning we are surrounded by the beauty of nature.
- Keats says that life is full of despondency, gloom and sorrow.
- The objects of beauty remove the gloom from our lives.
- The sun, moon, old & young trees, daffodils, small streams, fair-musk rose blooms are beautiful things.
- Heaven provides an endless fountain of immortal drink
- Beautiful objects of nature are in plenty on the earth and they are source of joy for ever.