

She Walks In Beauty

By : Lord Byron

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes
Thus mellow'd to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impair'd the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent !

Lord George Gordon Byron was born on 22 January 1788 in London

She Walks in Beauty by(Lord Byron) .

was written when the poet met , (his cousin Mrs. Anne Beatrix Wilmont) .

Byron met Mrs. Wilmont at a (funeral)

The speaker spends the lines **celebrating the beauty of one woman**. He compares her beauty to the night rather than the day. The latter is suggested to be “gaudy,” and the “lady” certainly isn’t. The speaker describes different aspects of the woman, like her hair and skin. She is the image of peaceful beauty. The woman is unaware of the impact that she’s had on the speaker, who is also the poet, by the end of *‘She Walks in Beauty.’* The speaker is interested in the woman’s inner beauty as well as her outer beauty or physical beauty.

Q / Explain the first stanza ?

**She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes
Thus mellow'd to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies .**

The speaker opens the poem with perhaps the two most famous lines that Byron has ever written. Byron sets the tone of the poem with a comparison that seems almost divine — beauty like the vast, starry night. Her beauty does not seem purely physical, either; instead, it is almost an aura, a shield of beauty, unaware and almost innocent in its unawareness. It is interesting to note that the poet compares his beloved’s beauty to the night rather than daylight — in fact, the day is considered gaudy .

Q / Why the day is considered gaudy ?

because the tradition for Romantic poetry was to compare one to nature, but to bright nature. The darkness of the word ‘night’ seems to be a reference to the Greek ideal, the beauty that is so strong that it could be almost catastrophic.

Q / Explain the Second stanza ?

**One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impair'd the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express .
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place**

in the second stanza to compare and contrast different aspects of beauty: her dark hair and her white face, which the light hits, seem to recall images of the Virgin Mary. It is easier to make associations with the divine and the religious due to the poem's structure. which would further strengthen the images of religion — on innocence. The lady's beauty is largely innocent, almost virginal, and the poet cannot find a word that fully encompasses her beauty. She reconciles dark and light together, appearing both glowing and also shrouded in darkness.

Q / Explain the third stanza ?

**And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent !**

Unlike the day, the night is devoid of people, devoid of clouds, and quiet. It is when things rest. She is not warped by her beauty, and she exists in a world that is. her heart is innocent, her mind clear. Given his nature for troubled thoughts, it is interesting to see what Byron emphasizes as beautiful, though not at all surprising given the rumors that followed him throughout his life.

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There is not much happening in the poem; it describes a few snatched moments of peace, quiet, and wonder. The woman is left unaware of the impression she has made on the poet and continues, not knowing that she has become a **symbol of beauty** to someone witnessing her presence.

Themes :

Throughout this piece, Byron engages with themes of beauty and purity. When seeing his cousin, he's struck by both elements of her physical presence. She has a pure beauty that he feels is unmatched by any he's seen in the past. He's taken by what she looks like as well as her inner beauty. Byron certainly idealizes his vision of his cousin but, it's this perfect image that makes the poem so widespread and long-lasting. Many readers find themselves connecting to what he has to say or dreaming about experiencing the same feelings for themselves .

Literary Devices :

1 - **Alliteration**: occurs when the poet **repeats** the same consonant sound at the beginning of multiple words. For example, "Which waves" in stanza two and "serenely sweet" later on in that same stanza. The latter is also an example of **sibilance**.

2 - **Juxtaposition** : a **contrast** between two opposites. For example, "all that is best of dark and bright."

3 - **Imagery** : occurs when the poet uses particularly interesting descriptions that trigger the reader's senses. For example, "Which waves in every raven tress, / Or softly lightens o'er her face .

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