

She Walks in Beauty

-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 mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired 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!

Introduction:

Lord Byron had concern for liberty which was associated with the romantic poets. He also possessed the love of nature and the concept of love and beauty just like the other romantics. But Lord Byron was an admirer of Pope and the trends of 18th century poetry. Byron's natural mode of poetry was narration. He skillfully used Heroic Couplet, the Spenserian and the Ottawa Rima.

Summary:

At the outset of the poem the poet describes the beauty of cloudless and starry skies. He compares this beauty to the beauty of a lady. The poet admires her beauty and is inspired by her beauty and wrote this poem to celebrate her beauty. He says the lady's beauty carries with it the best of both worlds of brightness and darkness which springs from her eyes. This beauty reflects on her face. The heaven has not given this beauty to the gaudy day but made it glitter on her face.

The balance between 'shade' and 'light' in the lady's beauty is so perfect that if one more 'shade', is added or a single 'ray' of light is taken away it would partially damage the woman's beauty. Her beauty and 'grace' are so hard to define that they are 'nameless'. This 'nameless grace' is visible in every lock of her black (raven) hair (tress) and it 'lightens' her face. The balance between light and dark that creates her 'nameless grace' is apparent in both her dark hair and in the expression that 'lightens' her face. Her sweet expressions are reflected of what is

going on inside her mind. The sweetness of this lady's expression suggests that her mind is 'pure' and innocent.

The smiles on her face wins others and the glow of blushes can be seen on her cheek and on her forehead. She is so soft, calm and also elegant. Her face is very expressive. Her calmness reflects that her conscience is at rest and her mind is at peace. Her love is innocent.
