

A Critical appreciation of the poem Ode to Autumn by John Keats

John Keats is regarded as one of the most outstanding and brilliant poets of Romantic Era. He is widely known as a poet of truth and beauty. He is a great lover of beauty in which the truth exists. He is also known as a sensuous poet of his age. Although he died quite early without enjoying the earthly pleasures of life. He died at the very young age that shocked everyone. It is true that he is bodily no more with us but intellectually he will always be with us through his wonderful and immortal works of art. Keats is also known as a great poet of Odes.

Ode is a type of poetry which addresses the abstract quality of someone or something. The present poem is also an ode in which a season has been addressed by the poet a season which is considered by the many poets as the season of decay and destruction but in the view of John Keats, Autumn season is not the symbol of decay and destruction but it is the symbol of new beginning a season of transformation from old to new a season of mellow fruitfulness.

John Keats wrote this poem to celebrate the season and the various changes which take place during the time. The poem is about autumn and covers the three stages of the season- the beginning when fruit/plants are ready to harvest, the middle when the animals go into hibernation and things begin to die, and the end as winter begins.

The first stanza of the poem is a celebration and it suggests that Autumn begins in a rich and calm way. In the second stanza, the poet speaks directly to Autumn and makes the suggestion that Autumn is in no rush to move on. The final stanza of the poem shows change, just as the season is changing from Autumn to Winter, Keats recognises this is accepting of the fact he cannot control this.

The poem Ode to Autumn is a beautiful poem which describes the images of nature that tells us the truth of life and its process from the birth to death. His famous line is "*A thing of beauty is a joy forever*", that suggests his love towards beauty which is in truth.

By, Arshad Khan
Dept. of English
J N College Madhubani