

***She Walks in Beauty like the Night by Lord Byron***

The present poem *She Walks in Beauty like the Night* is a thought-provoking poem, composed by a great romantic poet Lord Byron. The poem is about an unnamed woman. She is really quite striking and the speaker compares her to lots of beautiful, but dark things, like night and starry skies. The second stanza continues to use the contrast between light and dark and day and night to describe her beauty. We also learn that her face is really pure and sweet. The third stanza wraps it all up- she is not just beautiful; she is good and innocent too.

**In stanza first**, her beauty is compared to night. This seems strange- night is dark right? Isn't beautiful woman usually compares to a summer day? (that would be Shakespeare's Sonnet 18, in case you were wondering). But the featured woman is just not compared to any night, she is compared to a night in a place where there are no clouds and lots of stars. We suppose that means she has a very clear and lovely complexion?

You see starry skies at night but the brightness of the stars relieves the darkness of the night. This is the first hint of the contrast between dark

and light in the poem. There is some pretty sweet alliteration in these lines. The contrast between light and dark that was first brought up by the starry skies. Everything that is great about both dark and bright come together in this woman. Essentially, she has got the best of both.

Byron's setting up a binary or opposition, between bright and dark but it is important to realize that neither is considered better or worse than the other. Both have aspects that are best. Since Byron has been talking about night, try thinking about starlight or moonlight – that would be a tender light that is less gaudy or bright and blinding, then the light you get during the day.

**In stanza two,** the balance between shade and light in the lady's beauty is so perfect that if you added one more shade or took away a single ray of light you had mess everything up. Her beauty and grace are so hard to define that they are nameless. The poet can't quite put his finger on what makes her so graceful, but he will give it a try. After all that's what the poem is doing- attempting to put sentiments into words. The expression on the woman's face shows how serenely sweet her thoughts are. Her sweet expression, the speaker reasons is an accurate reflection of what's going on inside her mind, which is the dwelling place of her thoughts.

**In stanza third**, the woman's smiles and her healthy blushes that glow on her cheek and brow are serene and calm. (Brow is just a poetic way of saying forehead). In other words, she is quite and rather elegant – she does not joke and laugh a lot; she seems to be more of the lovely and regal type. But what exactly, do these smiles express? We are so glad you asked: Byron tells us that they reflect all the time that the woman has spent doing good deeds. She is certainly not just a pretty face – she is also kind and good, that is why she is able look so calm and serene: her conscience is at rest. The woman's serenity and smiles also reflect the calmness of her mind. Because she is good person, her mind is at peace with all below (everyone on earth). Not only that, but her love is innocent. This could mean that she is not in love with anyone, or it could mean that she is, but that her love is pure and innocent – in other words that its not a sexual love.

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