



## Sensuousness of Keats

DR. SUNITA TRIVEDI

Jwala Devi Vidya Mandir P.G. College, Kanpur (U.P.), India

**Abstract :** *The most obvious characteristic of Keats's poetry is its abundant Sensuousness, Keats's sensuousness is as pure and as holy as religion. He believed in a philosophy of sense. Sensuousness is the determining element of the distinctive individuality of Keats genius. The distinctive quality of his sensuous hers is its spiritual and mystical approach. It determines his attitude to nature and also towards life. In his poetry he has given expression to his passion for the beautiful and romantic atmosphere. His devotion to the principles of beauty was not mere impulse of a voluptuous mind; it was associated with the memory of great-men with the sentiment of the eternal being. Keats sensuousness on external level is all pervasive. Keats was much more than a poet of sensuous beauty. He was a thinker, a critic, an interpreter of life. Keats had a knowledge of life, of man and his problems, of his sufferings. He did not choose to write about social and political problems in the main. He believed that he should be remembered only for what he has discovered in the principle of beauty in all things.*

### Introduction:

John Keats is known as a romantic poet because of his passionate poetry. His odds are among of the best instance of English language sensuous poetry. He was seeming to think, looks at subjects of life with their rapid movement of correspondence call him into a play of deep feelings. "Keats was great romantic poet well us a prominent mystic of English poetry full fill with sensuousness. Sensuousness as a striking quality in poetry affects the senses of hearing, seeing, touching, smelling and tasting. Sensuous poetry confers more delight to the senses of readers rather than presenting ideas and philosophical thought. (1)

Keats Poetry is primarily the poetry of the sense. According to Cazamian "Keats is pre- eminently a man of sensation, with whom the very activities of intelligence being into a play concrete notions, images and qualities."(2) Poetry should be simple and sensuous. Keats as a poet is abundantly and enchantingly sensuous. He delights and luxuriates in all those things which please the sense. "He is very much interested in sensations. By sensation is meant intuition, and Keats places intuition higher than reasoning. He lives for a life of sensation rather than of thoughts." He is a poet of perception rather than of contemplation and speculation. He is a passionate worshipper of beauty, and can find it even in the most common objects.

He does not philosophise over nature: he only paints her validity imaginatively. He approached nature, art and even abstract thoughts and passions in a sprit which is best described by the term 'Sensuousness'. He was committed to the religion of beauty and observed towards the close of his life that he had loved the abstract principal of beauty in all things. But this beauty become real to him only when he could grasp, touch, smell and even taste it with his sense.

Keats poetry abounds in sensuous descriptions. It is full of vivid descriptions pictorial richness and organic shakes of things concrete as well as abstract ideas and passions. Each image is thrown up rounded and whole as a physical creation, with subjective interpretation lending depth. He imagines joy as a person with his finger on his lips bidding adieu and in sheer sensuous appeal to sight, smell, touch etc. Nothing can surpass the description of Madeline in St. Agnes. 'A shielded Scutcheon blushed with blood of queens and kings, throws warm 'gules' and 'rose bloom' upon her. Keats poetry provides a rich feast all the five senses.



What Milton precisely meant by his definition that poetry is a sensuous art, is a easily classified by examples from Keats poetry. Keats could not stay long in domain of the abstract, abstractions given place to the concrete. Owing to the dense foliage of the breech trees, Keats cannot see what flowers are at his feet, but by smell he can guess each sweet plant or blossom with which the month has endowed the grass the thicket and the wild fruit-tree, white hawthorn and the pastoral eglantine and fast fading violets, and he can guess what soft incense hangs upon the boughs in the scented darkness. The sense of smell helps him to recreate the pious atmosphere of the pagan rituals in his ode of psyche. Both the sense of touch and smell are gratified by the perfumes of fruits and syrups which he lovingly enumerates in the Eve of St. Agnes: For Example: -

**While he from forth the closet brought a heap Of candied apple, quince, and plum, and ground; With jellies soother than the creamy curd, And lucent syrup, tinct with cinnamon; Manna and dates, in argosy transferr'd From Fez; and spiced dainties, every one, From silken Samarcand to cedar'd Lebanon. (3)**

Sensuousness means something that has to do with our five senses. It is that hair of poetry which influences our fine senses. Keats uses incredibly sensual language to illustrate how he is feeling and what he is imagining which gives the Odes a sensual feeling of being alive. In, "Ode to Autumn he is using a large amount of sensual language to by and take us to the place in his mind, his choice of words is hugely important for making Autumn a sensual ode. His poetry makes us hear, see, smell, taste and touch the object he describes The poetry of Keats is characterised by sensuous uses of language. The sensuousness of Keats is a striking characteristic of this entire poetry all his poems including his great odes contain rich sensuous appeal.

Keats always selects the objects of his description and imagery with a keen eye on their sensuous appeal. His sensuousness is the principal of his poetry. A general recognition of this quality leads to the consensus that Keats, poetry is particularly successful in depicting, representing or conveying reality or experience that his poetic language displays a kind of solidity or concentrate ness capable or convincing the reader of the reality of what it communicates and persuading him, almost to imagine that he is literally perceiving the objects and the experience that the verse describe.

"Keats is not only a great romantic poet, but also a prominent mystic of English poetry saturated with sensuousness. Sensuousness as a striking quality in poetry affects the senses. Sensuous poetry confers more delight to the senses of the readers rather than presenting ideas and philosophical thoughts." (4)

Keats is poet of beauty. Beauty is the dominant passion and theme of Keats's poetry. Keats declared that with a great poet the sense of beauty overcomes. In the beginning, his love of beauty was entirely sensuous. He was possessed with an extraordinary 'organic sensibility' and so could perceive objects as sense more intensely than ordinary people. Even common, everyday objects which leaves others unmoved and unaffected thrilled him and filled him with aesthetic literature: in short loveliness of everything from earth to heaven threw him into wild raptures. Keats sensuousness on the external level is all pervasive. Nothing escaped him. The sense of imagination is his poetry. We find this everywhere. Keats sensuousness is not confirmed merely to the theme of love, nor is it of a light and sportive nature. It is serious: it is serious, it is erotic sphere alone. And it that all embarrassing and gorgeous sensuousness which was won for his poetry this distinction of being described as the most fragrant flower of English naturalism. Some of his finest poems are all but literally lyrics of the sensuousness embodiments of the feeling of ennui, fatigue, physical languor, and the like, in tissues of fancied circumstances of sensation.

In fact, sensuousness is a paramount bias of Keats's genuine. Sensuousness is a striking characteristic of his entire poetic output. Keats as a poet in "abundantly and enchantingly sensuous."- - - - -

Keats is sensuous in the sense that he delights and luxuriates in all those things which please the senses. He is mainly interested in sensations.



By sensation he means intuition, and he places it before reasoning, when he says, "O for a life of sensation rather than of thought." His sensuousness is equally perceptible in his wonderful felicity of expression. Every line of his poems is crowded with sensuous record, which gives the reader an exact feeling of colours, sound, tastes and smells stored them.

In this way John Keats is a well-known poet of Romanticism and Sensuousness because each sense reflects in his near about all poems. Poetry comes to him as "Joy wrought in sensation."

In Odes, Sonnets or in Narrativepoetry, Keats is richly sensuous. His sensuousness is not only delicate and delicious but also aesthetic and tasteful."

#### References

1. Discerning Sensuousness in Keats's poetry, Lok Raj Sharma September- 2021, Shan lax, international journal of English.
2. The Concept of criticism\_ L. Ashen Bruner\_ 2012 Art, Springer.
3. The Eve of St. Agnes John Keats in Published in 1820.
4. Discerning Sensuousness in Keats's poetry September 2021. Shan lax international journal of English. 9(4).

\*\*\*\*\*