



## **THE VERSATILITY OF POETIC CREATIVENESS IN SHELLEY'S ODE TO THE WEST WIND AND TO A SKYLARK**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Through this article I would like to bring out the versatility of Shelley and his esteem contribution to English Literature through his Odes. Percy Bysshe Shelley, a Romantic poet, is also called rebel for his idea of revolution in his poetry. As it has been described for years Shelley is still living among us through his works especially artistic nature of his poetry. It is undeniably true, when we study the poems and other works of Shelley definitely we might be able to comprehend his sensibility and strong mentality on nature as well as the society. It is strongly believed that Shelley is a man of power, a man of idealistic by nature and he sometime recommends the revolutionary ideas through his poems. Shelley's geniusness has been proven outstandingly in all his poems as reader I deeply charmed by the words that he uses in his poems. As a sensible writer Shelley makes everyone sensible and as a revolutionary writer he makes everyone reliable in their approaches.*

**Key Words:** Versatility, Revolution, Artistic, Geniusness, Shelley, Romanticism

### **INTRODUCTIUON**

**Percy Bysshe Shelly (1792-1822)** was born in Sussex with scoliosis. Shelley was one of the most prominent English Romantic poets. He is critically regarded among the finest lyric poets in the English language literature, yet he achieved fame posthumously, with many works suppressed in his lifetime and little financial gain from his writing. He was the son of an Member of Parliament and a wealthy landowner. Shelley was tempestuous a revolutionary who flouted the conventional views of his society. He went to University College, Oxford in 1810, but in March of the following year he was expelled for the suspected authorship of a pamphlet entitled The Necessity of Atheism. This caused a big trouble between him and his father, so instead of going home, Shelly went to London. In 1811 he met and eloped to

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Edinburgh with Harriet Westbrook whom he got married to in the same year. However, by 1814, and with the birth of two children, their marriage had collapsed and Shelley eloped once again, this time with Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, daughter of William Godwin, the radical philosopher, and of Mary Wollstonecraft, author of 'A Vindication of Rights of Women'. In 1816 Shelley spent the summer on Lake Geneva with Byron and Mary who had begun work on her Frankenstein. Shelley married Mary Godwin shortly after drowned herself in the Serpentine in Hyde Park. Shelley himself drowned in a sailing accident in 1822.

### **Important Features of Shelley's Poetry**

Shelley's poetry reveals a person who devoted his mind, soul, and life to the improvement of his native society as a voice for the people who lacked the courage or intelligence to challenge authority themselves. Shelley wrote about all the romantic themes; his romantic thrill and wonder in the presence of majestic and beautiful objects and forces of nature, his intensely biased passion of joy, melancholy, despondence, hope, escapism and despair dominated and colored his poetry. Shelley's poetic style swings between adolescent immaturity characterized by self-pity and exaggerated artificiality, and elevated lyrical beauty, mature mysticism and a calm philosophy of life which affirms the immortality of the human spirit. His poetry was characterized by unrestrained passion and exalted imagination. Imagination was his passion through which he explored the whole universe to bring together impressions and associations indicative of his ideals and aspirations.

### **Ode to The West Wind**

In the "Ode to The West Wind" Shelley is seen as a rebel and he wants revolution. He desires a social change and the West Wind is to his symbol of change. "For the Romantic poet, the idea of revolution has a special interest, and a special affinity. For Romanticism seeks to effect in poetry what revolution aspires to achieve in politics: innovation, transformation, defamiliarisation"

*O wild West Wind; thou breath of Autumn's being, Thou,  
from whose unseen presence the leaves dead Are driven,  
like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing, Yellow, and black,  
and pale, and hectic red, Pestilence-stricken multitudes:*

This poem is an outstanding work in Shelley's poetry. Thus, he wants to invoke the spirit in the wind and not the wind only. So, he treats the wind as a human being, who has a peculiar power to scare the dead leaves, as they are seen by the poet, and to preserve the winged seeds from death. Hence, he used the season of Autumn as an attribute of man's old age, especially when he describes the dead leaves and the breath of the Autumn's being: Shelley has employed the clours to be a manifestation to death, that has overwhelmed the leaves and rendered them futile:

## **To a skylark**

### **Theme in To a Skylark:**

*To a Skylark* discusses several important themes that dominated the romantic period. Among these themes are:

### **Man and the Natural Beauty:**

In this poem it is evident that Shelley exposes a great adoration for the beauty of nature, and he feels intimately connected to nature's power. The poem reflects Shelley's desire to know the secrets of nature, to know how birds feel when they sing. Because there is a contact gap between mankind and the world, the poet is enchanted by all the ways in which human beings interact with the natural world. There is a glamorous relationship between the bird and nature which creates fabulous feeling in the skylark.

### **Art and Culture:**

"To a Skylark" conveys the limitations of art, and the impossibility of our songs or poems ever measuring up to the beauty that is all around us. Shelley compares the song of the bird with human creativity to find at the end the second sadly wanting. This comparison between Shelley's own writing and the skylark and its song is one of the key ideas in *To a Skylark*. Repeatedly, the speaker imagines the skylark as a kind of natural artist, and thinks of his own work as being like the bird's song. The inefficiency of human poetry not only expresses its general failure to match the expressiveness of the bird, but also marks the failure of this particular poem to achieve its object.

### **Sadness:**

Throughout the lyric, the poet feels things really deeply. Shelley establishes sadness as the necessary condition for joy, concern with the sadness of *To a Skylark* does not make it a less joyous poem. The sadness that the poet feels is a general and normal sadness that fills all of human life. It's never the prevailing theme in "*To a Skylark*." Shelley mentions sadness only when he talks about human beings and their feelings, but this is not the case when he mentions nature because nature itself doesn't feel that same sadness.

### **Happiness:**

The skylark in "*To a Skylark*" is a creature of pure joy. It inspires Shelley to feel a agitated, delightful joy that has no part of pain or suffering. The bird doesn't know anything about feeling old or tired or lonely. It is full of "delight" all the time, and its song is an expression of that happiness. Unlike people, it doesn't have to think about the past or the future, or lost love, or any of the other things that make us miserable.

## **CONCLUSION**

In Ode to the Westwind Shelley paved the way for revolution and change in the English society and his people through igniting the sparks of their minds to make an active measures to change their miserable reality. So, it is an invitation for freedom and change through liberating themselves by sacrificing their materialistic life, to maintain that utopian life. In other hand To a Skylark is one of the greatest works of all time. The theme of the poem is fulfillment and through the richness of images, the poet has prolonged its fulfillment. It is most satisfying in thought and expression. This poem is rich in sensuous imagery. Shelly uses the excellent imagery, literary devices, and wonderful writing skill that he is known for. Then, Shelly explains a fault in man, using the "things more true and deep" that the skylark has. Finally, Shelly praises the skylark again, and pleads that it teach him some of its gladness, that he may pass it on to humanity. This poem shows that Shelley possesses all the romantic traits-love of nature, beauty and imagination.

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