

DEVELOPMENT OF THOUGHT IN JOHN KEATS' SERIES OF ODES

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ABSTRACT

Much has been researched and written on one of the most renowned Romantic poets, John Keats' individual odes in his series of six odes. It is also significant to dwell on the gradual development in the thought process of the poet which is evident as one journeys chronologically along the odes. The paper postulates that John Keats has matured in terms of calmly accepting things as they are, in a state of confusion and uncertainty, by the time he writes the last in this series 'Ode to Autumn.' From the subjective poet persona who chases after answers, he evolves as an objective being admiring the beauty of state of things. His deep sense of individuality is discernible in his previous odes, whereas, towards the last ones, he has happily negated himself, quite like many other great literary figures of the likes of William Shakespeare. From a state of flux arises tranquility. Had it not been for the testing times and a restless quest for truth, peace would never have perched upon the poet. The odes must be studied for their own sake but one can also draw a bigger lesson for living life from those. Beginning from an urge to escape, the poet gradually succeeds in braving and gracefully living with absurdities. The paper discusses these odes as a cohesive whole, underlining the development of thought with each of the series of odes. This series of odes is exemplary of progression in one's thoughts and is more enriching when read as a complete organic whole, rather than being read as individual units.

KEYWORDS: *Escape, Evolution, Calm, Development, Flux, Pain, Truth*

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