

Subject - English
English Hons. Core Course
Paper - ENGH-H-CC-T-9 (Semester - IV)
"Bright Star"

Analysis:

Bright star is a sonnet, written by John Keats. The sonnet is Shakespearian in rhyme-scheme. There is found an apostrophe in the opening line of the poem:

Bright star! Would I were steadfast as thou art

This line conveys the urgency of the poet's desire to attain the stability and repose symbolised by the bright star. The poet yearns

for the steadiness of the bright star in the sky. But the poet says, "Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night." It means

that he does not want to be suspended like the starⁱⁿ lonely beauty ~~above~~^{at} the night-sky.

The poet stresses his desire to have the steadfastness

fixe and fixedness of the star. But he ~~abhors~~
does not ~~find~~ seek its coldness and solitariness.
He aspires to attain the stability symbolised
by the star but instantly he rebreathes from
this aspiration as he does not ^{desire} ~~want~~ the star's
solitariness. The star stands [^] above process
and combines stillness with animation,
wakefulness with disinterestedness. ~~It watches~~
~~perpetually~~. The transcendental remoteness of
the star is equally stressed, but ~~it has~~ watches
perpetually, in a state of contemplative
vigilance, the state of flux, and the
cyclic movement, involving death and change,
is given a positive, purificatory function.

The emphasis is on the need for continual
vitalization and cleansing of the earth's
body (and the human world), and the removal
of all that is dead and putrid is part of the

vitalizing process. This purg. act is presented
in the form of a ritual ^{carrying} ~~carrying~~ religious sanction
and it is pointed out in the word 'ablu^{tion}':

The moving waters at their priestlike task
of ~~of~~ pure ablu^{tion} round earth's human shores,

The poet imagines the star as a religious
recluse in the realm of nature. It is never
tired; ~~it~~ never sleeps, its eyelids are
always open. It is eternally awake
to see that the task of purifying the
earth is ceaselessly, unflinching performed.

The poet no longer seeks identification
with the star, but he presents the lonely
splendour of the 'sleepless Hermit' and
the magnificence of the nature's operation.

Unlike the remote star, the
poet seeks an active, ardent and

Sensuous participation in physical beauty, but he also longs for a poised, changeless state. He wishes to be in the world and to enjoy the sensuous joys of love. He The poet wants to be involved in physical passion. Unlike the bright star, the poet does not want to be isolated or detached from human life, instead, he wants to spend eternity locked in a passionate embrace with his beloved. The poet knows that the intensity of ardour cannot be permanently retained. The poet ~~wish~~ - wishes to preserve the moment of emotional ardour and achieve a condition in which the stability of the star can be reconciled with the pulsating rhythm of desire. He The star ~~which~~ is associated with an eternal order beyond

flux; and this eternally wakeful consciousness is contrasted with the ardent, warm sensuousness of the mortal lover who wishes to perpetuate his sensation. The poet feels ^{the} transience ~~of the mortal~~ of ~~the mortal~~ life. He knows that in this temporal ~~order~~ ^{world}, there is no escape from mutability and the state of intense passion cannot be made permanent. In this poem the poet regards death as an alternative. as the word ~~the~~ ~~word~~ 'or' indicates the possibility of an alternative choice. He says, ~~And so~~ "And so live ever, — or else swoon to death." But there is also the realisation that in the temporal ~~to~~ order there is no escape from mutability. Death is sought both as a consummation and ^{as} an escape.

Death is also the dissolution of consciousness.
~~It~~ It can be said that through death,
he may achieve a reconciliation of
contraries — ~~repose~~ changelessness and
the intensity of human passion.