

THE ROMANTIC REVIVAL

The Romantic Revival Period is completely different from the spirit of the Augustan Age. Augustan Age was primarily an age of reason. Poetry was sought to be modelled after the classical writers of Rome and Greece. Most of the poetry of the period is in the form of heroic couplets which were brought to a pitch of perfection by Pope in particular. The 19th century, specially the first half of it, is an age of individualism. Wordsworth in his 'Preface to the Lyrical Ballads' has said that he chose the language of shepherds and rustics for poetic expression as in such language deep and intimate emotions could be expressed. This stand of Wordsworth shows a reaction against the 18th century language and poetry. During this age the poets are deeply influenced by an important event that is the French Revolution. They searched for a sense of social justice and fairness. Shelley can be

mentioned here because he too was deeply moved by the idea of social justice.

Other poets also came under the influence of French Revolution but the excesses that followed later disappointed some of them. Wordsworth was one such case. The age also was influenced by the idea of return to Nature. Nature was not only concerned with giving a vivid picture of the earth, the sky and the hills but he was imbued with a spirit. Wordsworth particularly felt that Nature had spirit and it could influence the human personality. Thus a new feeling for Nature is to be seen during this age.

Poetry was henceforth the expression of personality. We find a sense of individualism very much dominant. The poets unlike the one of the previous age did not present a picture of society. The poets, here, present their

intimate passions and emotions.
The age also does not look
back to the great ancients
for inspirations and guidance.
Instead they look at the
Elizabethan period and the
middle ages.
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