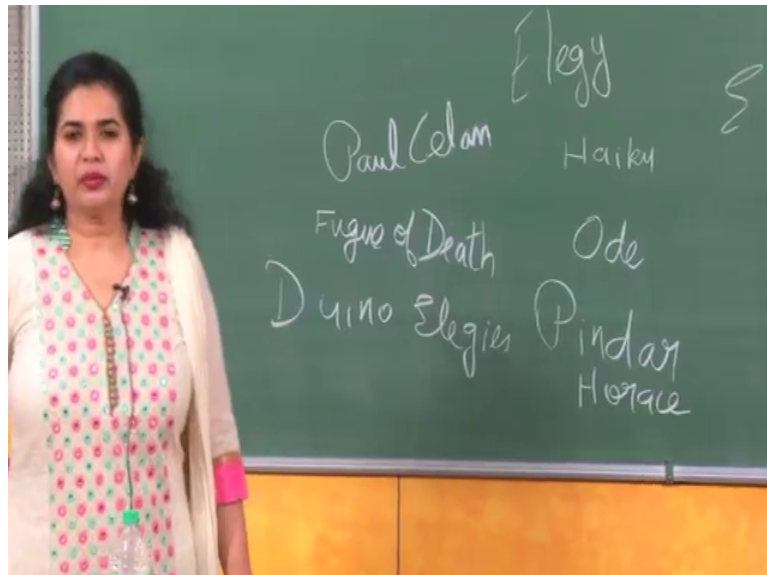


Literature for Competitive Exams
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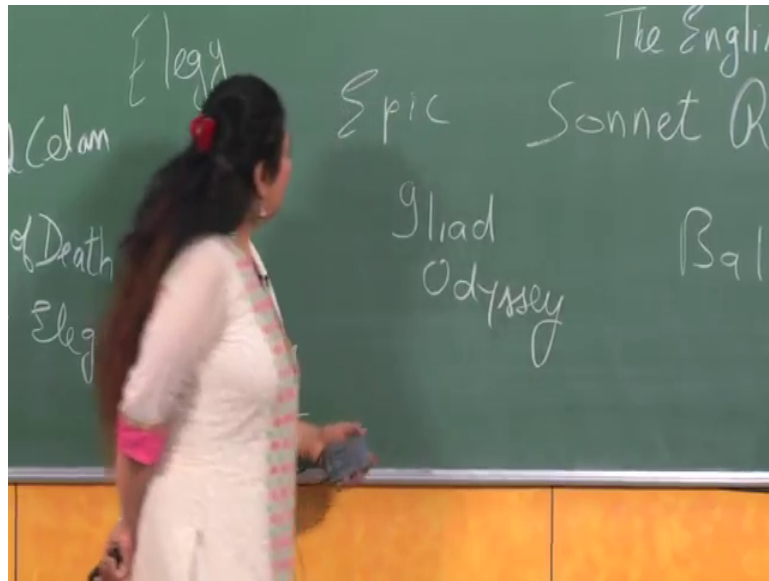
Module - 04
Lecture – 14
The English Romanticism

So, we were talking about the English romanticism the other day and we will continue with the English romanticism and the grades of it particularly with reference to Keats and Shelley today, but later on we will also do Byron and of course, today we will do there is a correction Keats and Blake today and then later on we will continue with Shelley and Byron although we have been referring to these poets occasionally in various forms especially during the time we did some exercises. Now look at what we are going to do today the English romanticism I will talk about that with particular reference to Keats and Blake but before I move on to that today I am also going to talk about various poetic forms.

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So, these should be your key concepts we will talk about epic with reference to Iliad and odyssey because that cannot be we cannot discuss epics without discussing Iliad and odyssey at least some parts of that we have been doing we have been referring to the epics very often primarily because of their enormous significance for the competitive exams

Then we will do elegy we will do ode sonnets ballads and also did I write here no I did not. So, haiku poetic forms the haiku poetry is not really taught at most Indian universities and colleges, but there is robust interest in this form also of late. So, perhaps it would do well if we know something about it at least let us scratch the surface. So, this is basically I am going to talk about today please take a very good look at the board the poetic forms English romanticism. So, beginning with ode which is a formal and ceremonious lyric poem that addresses and celebrates the person or place or thing or sometimes even an idea most of us are familiar with Keats and Shelley's odes we also know Coleridge's an ode to dejection. So, that is giving respect or giving reverence to an idea dejection is not all that bad thing for Coleridge.

Remember for ode the stanza forms vary. So, we have the so called the Greek or Pindaric ode which is dedicated to or which derives its name from Greek poet Pindar who lived

between 552 to 442 BC and ode was a public poem usually set to music that celebrated athletic victories English odes were written in the Pindaric tradition and included grace the progress of poesy a Pindaric ode and also William Wordsworth immortal intimations of immortality from reflections of early childhood Horatian odes is also another kind after the Latin poet Horace. So, Greek Pindar Horace Latin roman were written in quadrants you know 4 lines in a more philosophical and contemplative manner.

So, this was followed by the English Meta physical or Meta physicist poets especially Andrew Marvell who wrote an ode upon Cromwell's return from Ireland. see how these things travel Cromwell we have talked about Cromwell we have talked about the meta physical poets. And now we are talking about how marvel derived from the Horacic or the Horatian sorry Horatian tradition of writing a poet the odes of the English romantic poets and that is what we are doing the vary in it is stanza forms they often address an intense emotion at the onset of a person crisis. For example, Coleridge's dejection ode or dejection an ode sometimes they celebrate an object or an idea or an image and Keats is a lovely odes are indication of that ode on a Grecian ode to a nightingale ode to autumn. So, all these are I cannot stress enough on the significance of Keats and Keats is odes and also other odes of that period.

elegy one of the most sober grave serious way of writing poetry and it begin again as an ancient Greek literary form poetic form and is traditionally written in response to the death of a person or a group the similar in function the elegy is distinct from the. So, called epitaph or ode and even eulogy the epitaph is very brief we have seen do not remove my bones that is Shakespeare right the ode is only for praising celebrating exalting and eulogy is the is most often written in formal prose. So, what that is the difference elegy is serious it is grave it also discusses other matters not just exalting the death person in whose honour is being written the elements of the traditional elegy mirror three stages of loss there is lament lamentation is extremely important you should know that in the romantic period in the romantic poetry the nature laments spring laments we were doing Shelley's Adonais which is an elegy for Keats.

So, spring the personified lamenting for Keats. So, there is a lament. Firstly, when the speaker expresses grief and sorrow and then praise and admiration of the idealized dead

the dead person is idealized is not just an obituary, but an idealization and comparison with the best and the greatest that have gone before him and then finally, consolation and solace that the person may not be there with us anymore, but his ideas live on or he is an he gives hope or inspiration to the rest of us other well know elegies include fugue of death by Paul Celan written for victims of the holocaust. And then of course, in America you have the immortal o captain my captain by Walt Whitman written for president Abraham Lincoln many modern elegies have been written not out of a sense of personal grief, but rather a broad feeling of loss and meta physical more philosophical kind of sadness famous example is the moon full series of ten poems in do you know elegies by German poet Rainer Maria Rilke.

So, Rilke's elegies are again very famous you should be familiar with that sonnet is a another often referred to poetic form a fourteen line poem invariably sonnet is fourteen line with a variable rhyme scheme originating and this is form originated in Italy brought to England by Sir Thomas Wyatt and Henry Howard who was the earl of surrey in the 16th century Elizabethan period and also they also lived in the era before the Elizabethan period in Tudor in a they were existing when Henry the eighth was Elizabeth's father. So, the literary sonnet means a little song.

So, the sonnet traditionally reflects upon a single sentiment with a clarification of turn of thought in it is concluding lines there are many different types of sonnets most famous is the Petrarchan one perfected by the Italian poet Petrarch divides the fourteen line in to 2 sections and eight line stanza and a 6 line stanza octave sestet you can do the rhyming on your own, but 8 and 6 all right Miltons when I consider how my light is spent is an example of patriarchal and Elizabeth Barrett Browning; Robert Browning's wife how do I love the; so, these 2 poems employ this form please look at the poem here when I consider how my light is spent by John Milton and look at the rhyming scheme here a b - b a, a b - b a and c d - c d or c d e - c e d it can vary.

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ABBAABBA, and a six-line stanza (sestet) rhyming CDCDCD or CDEEDE.

- When I consider how my light is spent,
- Ere half my days in this dark world and wide,
- And that one talent which is death to hide Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent
- To serve therewith my Maker, and present
- My true account, lest He returning chide;
- "Doth God exact day-labor, light denied?" I fondly ask. But Patience, to prevent
- That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need
- Either man's work or His own gifts. Who best
- Bear His mild yoke, they serve Him best.
- His state is kingly: thousands at His bidding speed,
- And post o'er land and ocean without rest;
- They also serve who only stand and wait."

When I consider how my light is spent, ere half my days in this dark world and wide, please look at the beautiful poem here and that one talent which is death to hide lodged with me useless, though my sole more bent to serve therewith my maker and present my true account lest he returning chide. "Doth god exact day-labour, light denied?" I fondly ask. But patience personification to prevent that murmur soon replies,"God doth not need either mans work or his own gifts. Who best bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state is kingly: thousands at his bidding speed, and post o'er land and ocean without rest; they also serve who only stand and wait."

The Italian sonnet is an English version of the traditional Petrarchan version the octaves rhym or scheme or rhyme scheme is present preserved, but the sestet scheme is c d d - c e e. For example Thomas Wyatt's who so list to hunt I know where is an hind and John Donne's if poisonous minerals and if that tree. So, these are the examples of Italian sonnet, but the English version of that Wyatt and surrey developed the English or Shakespearean sonnet 14 lines into one stanza of three quadrants and a concluding couplet the this scheme had also been used by more recent poets. Such as Wilfred Owen's anthem for doomed youth we have haiku originated in Japan consists of three lines with a first and last lines having 5 morass and the middle line having 7 morass mora is a sound unit much like a syllable. But not very identical to it since the morass do not

translate into English it has been adapted to where syllables are used as morass haiku started out as a popular activity during the ninth and twelfth centuries.

We are talking about the medieval period in Japan and they were called Tanka then t a n k e sorry t a n k a it was a progressive poem where one person would write the first three lines with five seven five structure and the next person would add to it the chain would continue in this fashion some old examples of haiku poems are the first verse of Tanka from the ninth century.

So, they maintained continue the tradition which was used in the ninth and twelfth century they continue with that the first was called a Hokku that is h o k k u, and set the mood for the rest of the versus sometimes there were hundreds of versus an authors of the Hokku and they were admired for their skill in the nineteenth century the Hokku took on a life of it is own and begin to be return and read as an individual poem the word haiku is derived from Hokku there were 4 master haiku poets from Japan those of few who are in interested in Japanese culture want to research may aware of that. But those who are not or at a beginners level the 4 grades are Matsuo Basho Kobayashi Issa Masaoka Shiki and Yosa Buson their work is a still the model for traditional haiku as we understand it today these poets remember were like equivalent of the wandering poets experiencing life observing nature and spent years dedicating to dedicated to their craft.

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Yosa Buson (1716-1784), a haiku master poet and painter:

- A summer river being crossed
how pleasing
with sandals in my hands!
- Light of the moon
Moves west, flowers' shadows
Creep eastward.
- In the moonlight,
The color and scent of the wisteria
Seems far away.

Here is the slide please look at it poem by Yosa Buson a haiku master poet painter written in the eighteenth century please look at the poem here example of a haiku poem a summer river being crossed, how pleasing with sandals in my hands light of the moon moves west flowers shadows creep eastward in the moonlight the colour and scent of the wisteria seems far away translation may not give the rhyme meter, but lines in three I mean poem in three lines.

Coming to ballad a popular narrative song which has which is generally passed down orally even in India we have this tradition in folk or in ballad of kings and queens in the English tradition it usually follows a form of rhymed quadrants alternating 4 stress, and three stress lines traditional ballads are anonymous and recount tragic or sometimes even comic or heroic stories with emphasis on a central dramatic event works like Barbara Allen John Henry. Now beginning in the Nica poet in the Renesa period poets adapted the conventions of the folk ballad for their own original compositions most predominantly la belle dam sans merci by john Keats also Thomas Hardy's another great novelist who was also a poet during wind and rain and then Edgar Allan Poes Annabel lee. So, those are the examples of ballads.

Epic as I was telling you one of the most difficult and now a days I wonder if epics are

being written or epic poems have been written or not, but there are great epics and nothing can ever exceed or supersede Iliad and odyssey I stand corrected though. So, Iliad and odyssey I thought it is a good time a good moment to talk about Iliad and odyssey to at some length because you need to be familiar with the major ideas themes plot devices and also characters from these epics to begin with they were written by homer, but that is again sort of questionable idea. Now it is a problematic idea whether homer there was a homer to begin with the Greeks knew nothing about homer and now modern days scholars are questioning the existence whether there was a person like homer or not the scholars maintain that homer near never really lived, but was an invention to explain Iliad and odyssey after their origin had been forgotten and it is also felt that these epics are not the work of one poet.

But of generations of poets who gradually brought them into the present form by combining earlier poems adding new material and reworking the whole, but then there are scholars who are not entirely convinced and traditionally homer was the author the writer the poet and there are lots of linguistics and literary characteristics of these epics that are always subjected to various tests. And we are not looking at the social customs cultural objects references to all these things and there is always a debate going on. So, there is question called Homeric question it has not been solved and we do not know whether it would be solved in the coming few years or not.

However we need to know that one of the these are 2 of the greatest epics ever written their impersonal in tone we hardly get to understand anything about the author the only information we have concerning homer is given to us by writers who lived centuries after his time it is believed that homer was a poet who lived in one of the cities of Ionia most probably which is the which is located in Smyrna. So, nobody is quite certain where he lived some say or when he lived some believe that it was twelfth century BC other will believe as late as the seventh century Herodotus the first Greek historian places in him the ninth century BC the word Iliad means the tail of Ilos that is the tail of troy. But homer makes no attempt to tell the whole story of troy in his poem his theme is the wrath of Achilles a single event in the tenth year of the siege that is the most important theme of Iliad in presenting this theme homer takes the details of the war and the life histories of the heroes for granted and plunges in to the midst of the most critical episode of the

epic the insult given by Agamemnon to Achilles and the quarrel which arose because of it.

But this is also Achilles and the quarrel which arose this is also the most critical episode in the career of the hero the hero of Iliad that is Achilles years before we are told Achilles had been offered his choice of 2 lives either he could remain in Greece and live to old age without glory or he could go to Troy win renown on the bloody field of battle and die young Achilles chose to go to the war and his knowledge of his approaching death makes Agamemnon's insult unbearable there is a point when Agamemnon takes away his price of war the captured girl Briseis and he takes away the glory for which Achilles has sacrificed the life that he might have led.

Now, when Achilles refuses to fight in the battle the weight of the Campion falls on the other warriors chieftains and Homer extends his theme to describing their deeds of valour in the interval between Achilles's defection and the attempt made by Patroclus Achilles's friend to save the ships the Iliad. Then is the story of the wrath of Achilles told it is the toll against the background of the story of the siege of Troy the 2 tails support height in one another and the poem is written in character and incident then it would be Homer had developed his theme more.

Narrowly the 2 chief sources of interest throughout the poem are warfare and debate coming to Odysseus there is hero is Odysseus he is an ideal man though closer to a he is in no way Achilles he does not have his Achilles's raging passions or his youth or beauty. But Odysseus Odysseus is serious grave and a calmer version of hero throughout his wanderings when he is away from his home his family remains the centre of his thought and affection though he is he lives with Calypso for eight years it is not out of choice he does. So, unwillingly longing to see where it, but the smoke rising from his native island do the those are the lines that he utters.

He also reveals his feelings for Penelope when he says the when he blesses Nausicaa another character while he is away from home may the god grant you all your heart's desire a husband and a home and a mind at a one with his may they give a good gift. And now he also adds there is nothing better and nobler than when men and wife are of one

heart and mind in a house the Iliad and odyssey are epics describing the exploits of the heroes Achilles and Iliad Odysseus in odyssey, but no attempt is made in the poems to tell everything about these heroes one specific action in the lives is taken as the theme of subject in the Iliad the wrath Achilles and it is result in the odyssey the home coming of Odysseus after the fall of troy the Iliad and odyssey are epics because in each poem the action is serious dignified and of considerable magnitude and this is the definition of epic we are talking about poetic forms. So, no where do we get definition of epic more strongly than by reading Iliad and odyssey serious dignified magnitude.

Action it has a definite beginning equally definite and the various events it portrays follows one another in orderly fashion one leading to the next. So, cause and effect that is what Aristotle wants us to do in his theory or definition of tragedy it has an organic unity remember both the Iliad and odyssey are impersonal and they have an organic unity there is a theme that runs through it in despite Diakrisis they often believe that Iliad and odyssey are they run parallel they have the same general characteristics. But a few significant differences also the material of the Iliad is more centred on warfare and debate they lot of drama tragedy is the outcome odyssey is more charming it arises from adventure and social life it is less passionate than the Iliad, and it also has sort of happy ending at least for odysseys because many of odysseys adventures are placed in lands unknown to the Homeric Greeks magic becomes prominent in histories.

For example there is an episode of Ino's veil which supports Odysseus and the flesh of the cattle of the sun which bellows on the spits. So, those are some of the dazzling plots dazzling sub plots in odyssey much attention is given in odyssey to social life therefore, women are important as compared to Iliad. So, there is Nausicaa and homer presents a picture of the freedom security and happiness of a young girl in the age of war lords and there is lot of focus on Penelope Odysseus odysseys wife where homer depicts a faithful wife, but a woman of character intelligence morals refinement in arete by talking about discussing the woman arête he indicates high respect paid to woman and the large influence they wielded take a look the slide here; here is the beautiful video from discovery adventures of odyssey please take a look at that.

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Odyssey

- <https://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ulysses-Hero-of-Homer-s-Odyssey//1>

Continuing with the epics the Homeric poets or poems gave us a picture of Greek life the Greeks are called Achaeans some times they are called Argives and Danaans or Danans the Hellinians are the inhabitants of a small district in Thessaly. So, therefore, the other day when we were talking about Childe Harold's pilgrimage. I referred to what is Greece Thessaly part of it the way the social life is revealed to us the world is based on agriculture and cattle raising Athens has no special distinction and Sparta is comparatively insignificant, in these epics the states are ruled by kings of whom Agamemnon the king of Mycenae is the greatest the kings are military commanders judges priests, but they are not absolute their power are limited by public opinion.

So, we are talking about the early stages of democracy which was of course, you know the Greeks paid a lot of importance to the concept of democracy here is another slide.

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(Helen:)

- Hektor, of all my lord's brothers dearest by far to my spirit: my husband is Alexandros, like an immortal, who brought me here to Troy; and I should have died before I came with him; and here now is the twentieth year upon me since I came from the place where I was, forsaking the land of my fathers. In this time I have never heard a harsh saying from you, nor an insult. No, but when another, one of my lord's brothers or sisters, a fair-robed wife of some brother, would say a harsh word to me in the palace, or my lord's mother—but his father was gentle always, a father indeed--then you would speak and put them off and restrain them by your own gentleness of heart and your gentle words. Therefore I mourn for you in sorrow of heart and mourn myself also and my ill luck. There was no other in all the wide Troad who was kind to me, and my friend; all others shrank when they saw me.

Which I want you to look at from Helen's point of view she Helen of Troy the face that launched a thousand ships and this is what she says of Hector when he is killed at the hands of Iliad please look at the slide and the beautiful imagery similes thus the grand seriousness.

Hektor, of all my lords brothers dearest by far to my spirit; my husband is Alexandros, like an immortal, who brought me here to Troy; and I should have died before I came with him; and here now is the twentieth year upon me since I came from the place where I was, forsaking the land of my father's. In this time I have never heard a harsh saying from you nor an insult. No, but another one of my lord's brothers or sisters, a fair robed wife of some brother would say harsh word to me in the palace or my lord's mother, but his father was gentle always a father indeed then you would speak and put them off and restrain them by your own gentleness of heart and your gentle words. Therefore, I mourn for you in sorrow of heart and mourn myself also and my ill luck. There was no other in the whole wide Troad who was kind to me, and my friend; all others shrank when they saw me.

So, we have discussed the major poetic forms epic of course, through Iliad and odyssey sonnet ballad haiku ode elegy we talked about Pindaric and Horatian odes also and we

talked about some of the modern elegies from here let us go back to as I was talking about English romanticism John Keats we have been referring to Keats very often in this course and of course, he deserves every attention that is paid to him 1795 to 1821 Keats was apprentice to a surgeon apothecary as they call and studied medicine in the London hospitals when he discovered literature he read avidly through Spencer's *Fairy Queen* and then the influence of Spencer's *Fairy Queen*. You can see it is evident in most of his poetry also was blown away by Chapman's translation of Homer soon after passing his medical examinations he gave up medicine and devoted himself to poetry his *Endymion*.

One of his earlier ventures which was published in 1818 was savagely attacked by reviewers and therefore, in Shelley's *Adonais* there is a reference to the bows and arrows and the hurts that were caused to Keats and which sort of drove him to his early death. The attacks were these attacks it is believed were largely motivated by Keats' political ideology because he was friends with the liberal Leigh Hunt, it was believed that these attacks were in bad taste and were quite personal and the derision of the reviewers drove him to his early death is a part of Keats's Keatsian lore his legend.

During the next year by eighteen nineteen nearly all his best poems were written *la belle dame sans merci* most of his sonnets the great odes to the autumn ode to Psyche ode on indolence ode to a nightingale ode on a Grecian urn ode to a melancholy these appeared in his last volume *Lamia Isabella and the Eve of Saint Agnes* are the poems Keats contracted tuberculosis after nursing a brother who died of tuberculosis. So, the disease ran in his family he decided to take a trip to the warmer climes of Italy, but it failed to save him he died in Rome where he is buried in the Protestant cemetery he composed his own epitaph here lies one whose name was writ in water. And of course, we all know *Adonais* by Shelley which is a great elegy and a great tribute the worship of beauty was key to understand Keats says works that is an recurring theme his first ambitious work *Endymion* begins with the statement that a thing of beauty is a joy forever and the ode on *Grecian Urn* closes with the assertion that beauty is truth truth beauty here is *la belle dame sans merci* please look at it.

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La belle Dame

O what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,

- Alone and palely loitering?
- The sedge has withered from the lake,
- And no birds sing.

O what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,

- So haggard and so woe-begone?

The squirrel's granary is full,

- And the harvest's done.

I see a lily on thy brow,

- With anguish moist and fever-dew,

And on thy cheeks a fading rose

- Fast withereth too.

I met a lady in the meads,

- Full beautiful—a faery's child,
- Her hair was long, her foot was light,
- And her eyes were wild.

O what can ail thee knight at arms alone and palely loitering the sedge has weathered withered from the lake and no birds sing o what can ail thee knight at arms. So, haggard and. So, woe Begone the squirrels granary is full and the harvests done I see a lily on thy brow with anguish moist and fever; dew and on thy cheeks a fading rose fast withereth too I met a lady in the meads full beautiful a fairy's child her hair was long her foot was light and her eyes were wild remember these lines.

So, John Keats a poet for all seasons and an extremely important poet from the point of your exams we will move on to talk about William Blake who lived between seventeen fifty seven and eighteen twenty seven as different from Keats and Shelley as possible though compared to Keats he is closer to Shelley because he did have some spiritual and political concerns he is not just a poet, but also a painter and engraver he was a shopkeepers son largely self educated, but his talent was recognised when he was Apprentist to an engraver.

The most famous of the engravings by which he earned his living were his book illustration especially those for Blake's Dante's divine comedy and also the book of Job from the Bible Blake's next poetry was published in a very unusual manner in literary and art history he personally manufactured every copy the verses were not typeset, but

were with the engravings that illustrated them cut into copper plates he the pages themselves he illuminated in water colours he was a little valued by his contemporaries, but now his illustrations have become praised collector's items.

The rhapsodies of his later prophetic books are. So, much secrete language that the poems are still very bewildering there I use the word despite a century of interpretations commentary and scholarship on them. So, prophetic books and you should have some familiarity with Blake's prophetic books his vision was social and political. He believed in mans dignity and natural right to liberty he famously said a tyrant is the worst disease and the cause of all others the most familiar of Blake's lyrics appeared in songs of innocence that was in 1789 and songs of experience that was in 1794.

Please remember the dates and the titles songs of innocence songs of experience he also wrote poems such as the lamb and the little black boy the tiger and the chimney sweeper these are all filled with adult wisdom and poetic. The idea of poetic intuition come across very strongly here all these poems along with poetical sketches which was published in seventeen eighty three and the marriage of heaven and hell his magnum opus which was published in seventeen ninety they reflect they present show Blake at this poetic best.

The marriage of heaven and hell which was published in seventeen ninety is a product of the radical Blake written and edged between 1790 to 93 it satirizes oppressive authority in church and state it also satirizes the works of Emanuel Swedenborg; the sweetish philosopher whose ideas were ones and inspiration for Blake.

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Marriage of Heaven & Hell (1790)

Those who restrain Desire, do so because theirs is weak enough to be restrained; and the restrainer or Reason usurps its place and governs the unwilling.

And being restrained, it by degrees becomes passive, till it is only the shadow of Desire.

The history of this is written in *Paradise Lost*, and the Governor or Reason is call'd Messiah.

And the original Archangel, or possessor of the command of the Heavenly Host, is call'd the Devil or Satan, and his children are call'd Sin and Death.

But in the Book of Job, Milton's Messiah is called Satan.

For this history has been adopted by both parties.

It indeed appear'd to Reason as if Desire was cast out; but the Devil's account is, that the Messiah fell, and formed a Heaven of what he stole from the Abyss.

So, here is a slide, please look at an example of marriage of heaven and hell seventeenth century poem and please take a look at his style those who restrain desire do. So, because theirs is weak enough to be restrained and the restrainer or reason usurps its place and governs the unwilling and being restrained it by degrees becomes passive till it is only the shadow of desire. The history of this is written in *Paradise Lost* and the governor or reason is called messiah. And the original Archangel, or possessor of the command of the Heavenly Host, is called the Devil or Satan, and his children are called Sin and Death.

But in the book *Job* Milton's messiah is called Satan for this history has been adopted by both parties it indeed appeared to reason as if desire was cast out, but the devil's account is that the messiah fell and formed a heaven of what he stole from the abyss.

So Thank you very much we will continue with more on our poets in our next class.