



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Fountain of Imagination in S.T. Coleridge's Kubla Khan ; A Vision in a dream

Swasthica Anbukumar

II MA English Literature

Nirmala College for Women

Coimbatore

Imagination is the only thing where you can wander without limitations. It is a pleasure which can be tasted by every individual. A poor man in China can visit Disney land in America through his imagination. It makes impossible things possible. S.T. Coleridge is the poet who is well known for his imagery. Kubla Khan is one of his famous poem where he poured his imagination of thoughts in words. Coleridge makes his reader to smell the entire fragrance of imagination through his poem. This is the poem of his dream and it has abrupt ending. This poem happens in the place called Xanadu which was ruled by a Mangolian emperor Kubla Khan. He orders his servants to build a massive dome building and the poem continues with lots of beautiful sceneries.

The Romantic Age in the history of British Literature were popularly known for its nature poems. Many genres in poetry and prose bought during this Romantic period. The writes of this period mainly focused on their Individual thoughts and their personal feelings. William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Blake are considered to be the poetry geniuses of this age. Shelly, Keats and Byron are other famous writers who carried that inheritance to twentieth century.

Imagination makes the mind creative and resourceful. The capacity of human mind to imagine something is magical. Sometimes imagination is better than our reality. Aristotle says "Imagination is evidently given a broad range of application to the activities involved in thoughts, dreams, and memories". Coleridge theory about imagination is "Imagination is the capacity to image in a creative, Whole-seeking way, and in doing so

to perceive the Oneness of the universe and end". The Power of imagination can bring an image to our mind in seconds. A person can see things and sceneries in front of his eyes without its presence.

S.T. Coleridge is the English poet, literary critic, philosopher and theologian. He is the founder of Romantic movement in England and a member of a Lake poets. He is well known for his works *The Rime of Ancient Mariner*(1798), *Christabel* (1816), *Biographia Litrearia* (1817), *Kubla Khan* (1816).

Kubla Khan ; A Vision in a Dream was completed in 1797 and got published in the year 1816. The poem was composed one night after he experienced an opium influenced dream after reading a work describing Shangdu also known as Xanadu. Xanadu is the summer capital of Yuan Dynasty. This poem could not be completed according to its original two hundred to three hundred lines plan as the interruption caused him to forget the lines. He left this poem unpublished and because of the prompting of Lord Byron, it was published in 1816.

Most of the critics opposed this poem because of its unnatural elements and abrupt ending. This poem has no continuous meaning. This poem has started somewhere and ended somewhere. But those critics blind folded themselves to see the fragrance of imagination in this poem. The method of Hermeneutics is followed in this poem because Coleridge shows the expression of his inner thoughts. This poem has aesthetic response theory where the reader can have their own experience and understanding. This work not only inform the reader about that place, but produce certain expectations within the mind of the reader.

In the act of reading, this poem becomes a living subject within the reader. Readers can travel along with Coleridge in this poem. They can see all the supernatural elements floating before their eyes. They can see the beautiful dome before the holy river Alph from the words of Coleridge. Flowers in plenty of colours, massive rocks and a romantic song of a damsel are beautifully picturised in this poem. A reader can go a trip to Xanadu by sitting in his home when he reads this poem.No one can experience these images unless they read this kind of imagery poems. Ignorant will be ignorant until he feels the pleasure of imagination.

"Works of imagination should be written in very plain language;

the more purely imaginative they are the more necessary it is to be plain."

- S.T.Coleridge