

## STYLE AND ANALYSIS OF GEORGE GORDON BYRON'S POEM "SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY"

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### ABSTRACT:

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*This article analyses the poem "She Walks in Beauty", which is George Gordon Byron's one of the most famous poem, and examines its style. Additionally, it explores Lord Byron's poetic writing style. Through a detailed analyses of Byron's poem, the research explores meaning of the poem and its information.*

**INTRODUCTION.** George Gordon Byron (1788-1824), is one of the most eminence writer of English Romanticism and world literature. Among his best-known works are the lengthy narratives Don Juan and Childe Harold's Pilgrimage; many of his shorter lyrics in Hebrew Melodies also became popular<sup>27</sup>. Apart from these, he has another famous poem. "She Walks in Beauty" is a lyric poem centering on the extraordinary beauty of a young lady. George Gordon Byron (commonly known as Lord Byron) wrote the poem in 1814 and published it in a collection, Hebrew Melodies, in 1815.<sup>28</sup> The topic of this poem is the woman's extraordinary beauty. It expresses not only her beauty, but also her inner and external charm.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the poem and its style. The study is expected to show its background, meaning and the artistic expressions used in it.

<sup>27</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord\\_Byron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Byron)

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Guides5/SheWalks.html>

## METHODOLOGY AND LITERATURE REVIEW

“She Walks in Beauty” is a short lyrical poem which is written in 1814 by Lord Byron. About background of this poem. On the evening of June 11, 1814, Byron attended a party with his friend, James Wedderburn Webster, at the London home of Lady Sarah Caroline Sitwell. Among the other guests was the beautiful Mrs. Anne Beatrix Wilmot, the wife of Byron’s first cousin, Sir Robert Wilmot. Her exquisite good looks dazzled Byron and inspired him to write “She Walks in Beauty.” (In 1823, Wilmot inherited the estate of his wife’s father, Eusebius Horton. In accordance with the will, Sir Robert assumed the additional surname Horton. Thereafter, he was known as Robert Wilmot-Horton and his wife as Anne Wilmot-Horton.) The theme of the poem is the woman's exceptional beauty, internal as well as external. The first stanza praises her physical beauty. The second and third stanzas praise both her physical and spiritual, or intellectual, beauty.<sup>29</sup>

“SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY.”

She walks in beauty, like the night  
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;  
And all that's best of dark and bright  
Meet in her aspect and her eyes:  
Thus mellow'd to that tender light  
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.  
One shade the more, one ray the less,  
Had half impair'd the nameless grace  
Which waves in every raven tress,  
Or softly lighlens o'er her face;  
Where thoughts serenely sweet express  
How pure, how dear their dwelling- place.  
And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,  
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,  
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,  
But tell of days in goodness spent,  
A mind at peace with all below,  
A heart whose love is innocent!<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> <https://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Guides5/SheWalks.html>

<sup>30</sup> <https://archive.org/details/selectedpoemslo00dolegoog/page/n129/mode/2up>

The poem has a unique structure. The rhyme scheme of the first stanza is ababab; the second stanza, cdcddc; and the third stanza, efefef. All the end rhymes are masculine. The meter is predominantly iambic tetrameter, a pattern in which a line has four pairs of unstressed and stressed syllables—eight syllables in all. The first two lines demonstrate the pattern followed throughout the poem except for line 6, which has nine syllables:

1	2	3	4
She WALKS	in BEAU	ty, LIKE	the NIGHT
1	2	3	4
Of CLOUD	less CLIMES	and STAR	ry SKIES

Use of Alliteration. Alliteration occurs frequently to enhance the appeal of the poem to the ear. The most obvious examples of this figure of speech include the following: Line 2: loudless climes; starry skies. Line 6: day denies. Line 8: Had half. Line 9: Which waves. Line 11: serenely sweet. Line 14: So soft, so. Line 18: Heart Whose.

Other Figures of Speech. Examples of other figures of speech are the following: Lines 1, 2: Simile comparing the movement of the beautiful woman to the movement of the skies. Line 6: Metonymy, in which heaven is substituted for God or for the upper atmosphere. Lines 8-10: Metaphor comparing grace, a quality, to a perceivable phenomenon. Lines 11-12: Metaphor and personification comparing thoughts to people; metaphor and personification comparing the mind to a home (dwelling-place). Lines 13-16: Metaphor and personification comparing the woman's cheek and brow to persons who tell of days in goodness spent.

Imagery: Light and Darkness.

Byron presents an ethereal portrait of the young woman in the first two stanzas by contrasting white with black and light with shadow in the same way that nature presents a portrait of the firmament—and the landscape below—on a cloudless starlit evening. He tells the reader in line 3 that she combines “the best of dark and bright” (bright here serving as a noun rather than an adjective) and notes that darkness and light temper each other when they meet in her raven hair. Byron's words thus turn opposites into compeers working together to celebrate beauty.<sup>31</sup>

The tone of the poem is calm, gentle, delightful, and full of wonder. Byron idealizes female beauty not only external, but also spiritually. In addition, he has a harmonious

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<sup>31</sup> <https://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Guides5/SheWalks.html>

depiction of nature and human, characteristic of the Romantic style. The poem is dominated by a feeling of admiration and respect, not love. The lyrical hero of the poem perceives beauty in a natural way, without excessive embellishment.

### **CONCLUSION**

This study examined the writing style and analysis of George Gordon Byron's poem. This poem gives an elegant and natural depiction of beauty. Byron's romance provides aesthetic expression through a harmonious depiction of human and nature. The poem expresses its uniqueness through its poetic form, artistic means, and poetic voice. *She Walks in Beauty* is the most elegant and famous example of Lord Byron's poetry. Through its harmonious structure, lyrical rhythm, and masterful use of poetic devices, the poem elevates the concept of beauty beyond mere physical appearance, blending the external and internal attributes of a woman into a perfect balance. Lord Byron's use of light and darkness as complementary forces suggests that true beauty arises from contrast and harmony rather than perfection alone. This subtle interplay of opposites not only enhances the visual imagery of the poem but also conveys a deeper philosophical reflection on the nature of beauty itself.

Furthermore, the poem embodies the Romantic era's fascination with idealized aesthetics, nature, and human emotion while avoiding the overt sentimentalism common in love poetry of that time. Unlike many of many of Lord Byron's other works, *She Walks in Beauty* lacks a narrative of love or desire, focusing instead on admiration and awe, making it a unique and timeless tribute to grace and virtue.

This poem remains relevant today, reminding readers that true beauty lies not just in outward appearances but in the balance of kindness, serenity, and inner lights. Its enduring appeal lies in its simplicity, elegance, and ability to evoke profound emotions through carefully created language.

### **References:**

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2. <https://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Guides5/SheWalks.html>.
3. <https://archive.org/details/selectedpoemslo00dolegoog/page/n129/mode/2up>.
4. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord\\_Byron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Byron).