The main characteristics of Romantic Poetry

1-Romantic poetry shows a new faith in man with all his feelings, senses and all the sides of his experiences.

2-It rejected rational intellect as the only source of poetry and stressed imagination and intuition as the supreme faculties of the poet.

3-The poet of the Romantics was a man speaking to men, but he was endowed with some special insight into the nature of things.

4-Poetry to the Romantics is an expression of emotions inspired by the feelings of the individual poet. The Romantic poet is gifted with a strong " organic sensibility.

5-Al Romantic literature is subjective. It is an expression of the inner urges of the soul of the artist. It reflects the poet's own thoughts and feelings more than anything else.

6-Nature to the Romantics is regarded as something divine. It is something really living, something that has a soul and purpose; it can even share with the poet his joys and sorrows.

7-A common and recurrent theme in Romantic poetry is man in solitude or man with nature. They believed that the nature of man is best revealed when he is in solitude or in communion with nature.

8-The Romantic poetry is anti- heroic in the sense that the subject of this poetry is common man, not heroes or men of high ranks. It also uses the language of ordinary people.

9-The Romantic is extraordinarily alive to the wonder , mystery and beauty of the universe. He feels the presence of unseen powers in nature. The supernatural has a special charm for him; he is attracted by the stories of fairies, ghosts and witchcraft.

10-Romantic poetry is individualistic; it stresses man's individuality. Man is usually presented alone. Every poet has his own individual personality which is rather different from the others.

11-Another predominant feature of the Romantic poetry is the sense of nostalgia for the past.

12-To a Romantic poet, the period of childhood was very important. The child is nearer to nature than the grown- up man and he gains wisdom from nature. Thus he loses his Natural wisdom. " The child is father of the man", wordsworth says.

13-The Romantic poet sees the world through the eyes of a child. This is why Romantic poetry was described as poetry of wonder.

The main characteristics of the Victorian Poetry

1-It was an age of drastic changes in the British society as a result of industrialization and rich landowners were turning into businessmen.

2-It was an age of adventure, free enterprise and individual initiative.

3-It was age of imperialism. The reasons for imperialism were fundamentally economic:

A-Looking for cheep raw- materials.

B-Finding markets for manufactured goods.

4-Names of great imperialists and politicians appeared in the Victorian age: e.g. Disraeli and Gladstone.

5-It was an age of scientific progress in which great scientists and thinkers lived: e.g. Darwin, Huxley, Karl Marx

6-Faith in the reality of progress was the main characteristic of the early Victorian Age. Doubt, skepticism and questioning became the main characteristic of the later Victorian Age.

7-The Victorian Age was an age of agnosticism and skepticism. It was an age of weal religious belief.

8-These aspects were more or less reflected in the poetry of Tennyson, Browning and Matthew Arnold.

The main characteristics of Modern Poetry

1-Modern poetry is free from traditional restrictions of rhyme and rhythm.

2-It is greatly affected by modern science and technology.

3-The modern poet is pessimistic about the future of modern man and his world.

4-Modern poetry is affected by modern political , social and economic theories.

5-In modern poetry, words are used more symbolically than literally.

6-The language of modern poetry is that of everyday conversation. The modern poet is speaking to his reader in an intimate tone of voice.

7-In modern poetry, man is represented as a lonely exile who is seeking his home.

8-There is no logical argument in a modern poem. Rather , the poem depends on the free association of ideas. The modern poem is " a heap of broken images