

Spirit of Life through Passion in Lord Byron's Poems

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ABSTRACT

Someone who lives in the world cannot escape with enthusiasm. Everyone has passion. the spirit can encourage someone to evaluate what the meaning and value of life is. In this case, it depends on the individual who awakens the spirit to get a better and deeper life value. Emotion becomes the driving force of one's life spirit. Byron was an English poet in the Romantic period, he was born in an abnormal condition at his feet so that his life was very sensitive, his poetry expressed feelings through the power of his emotions and was influenced by his past experiences that were full of suffering throughout his life, he always escaped from it to get a life better with the spirit of his life through a strong desire, to get what he wants and overcome the problems of his life. That is expressed in the three poems in this article.

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INTRODUCTION

The spirit of life can not be separated from one's passion of good deeds. According to Robert Browning the meaning of passion is an intense emotion or mental agitation (Shaw, 1972: 812). Passion is apart of complelling feeling or emotion, such as love, desire, hate, fear, joy and delight. Many of our emotions are aroused because of the interaction and relationship with other (Heindenreich: 1970 105). In such a condition, one's passion cannot be risen if there is no stimulation from the object and subject.

The spirit of life related with passion, that often occur in human life, stimulates me to write article, Spirit of Life through Passion. As the result of one's deficiency, someone will have the strong of passion to get what he wants. We should not be apathetic in facing pure life. It is useful to have the strong of passion, with good deeds, we can avoid ourselves from the wrong acts. Byron is a romantic poet. One of the characteristics of Romanticism is "emotion". Romanticism asserted the value of the primacy of faith, intuition, and emotion (Briggs, 1961:

Xv). Three Byron's poems prove his own spirit of life gained through his emotional feeling. Byron's emotional feeling is much influenced by his own experience. In order to understand his works, we must remember his heridity background and his own lameness. Although he feels that life is full of troubles he is never depressed to express himself with intensity and energy.

The discussion of this article will be focussed on the existence of Byron's spirit of life through passion in his three poems that are "She Walks in Beauty" (1814), "The Dream" (1816), and "So We'll Go No More A-Roving" (1817).

RESEARCH METHOD

For preparing the discussion in this article, a fundamental approach is used for analyzing the meaning of the poem and message of three poems in Appendix page. It is a method which is required in analyzing poetry (Reask, 1966:43). To understanding poetry, we have to consider the poet's life experience based on his biography. Poetry designates a type of lyric verse, which deals with intimates experiences of the poet's life.

The conclusion is made by concerning the general statements. The general statements is about the meaning of the spirit of life through passion. This statement is applied for discussing of the similar problem in Byron's short poems. This article is written through the result of library research.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

A. The Meaning of Three Poems

1. "She Walks in Beauty" (1814)

The poem has three six-lines stanzas composed in the basic metrical pattern of iambic pentameter. The stanzaic rhyme scheme is ababab. Each part develops one aspect of thought, each involving the speaker's desire to possess his lady's love in fullest way possible. Byron wants to describe the beauty of his lady. The picture of his love is full of figurative language. We can point out the simile he uses for comparing the woman to the beauty of the night. From the simile we move to hyperboles. It can be proved that his lady is seen as perfect. In this part, at the first stanza, Byron appreciates the lady concerning her beauty.

In the second stanza, he expresses as adoration to the beauty of the lady. He asks himself to think about the picture of his love. He still has questions whether he is able to find happiness and enjoy the beauty of woman or not. In this part, he describes that he still has a passion to admire the lady. The poet explains that though he could not gain his lady's love, it is enough for him to admire her. He exhausted in requestes. He cannot sigh any more, and it is closed of the line **"A heart whose love is innocent"(line: 18).**

On the whole, it can be concluded that someone's life spirit can appear through the power of love. The poet feels that with "love" he still wants to live. Though he must face the reality, that he cannot do anything. He cannot sigh any more about his love but he still has passion. With passion he represents his desire to live longer, to keep his deep feeling about his love.

2. "The Dream" (1816)

"The Dream" is one of Byron's work as an expression of his deep feeling. It is expressed in verse. The idea came to him as a result of the last few years events of his life. The poem is divided into two parts, the first one presents his unhappy love when he was young and the second one is about his unfortunate marriage.

The central part, Byron explain that sleep is the boundary between Death and life. This is the world of dream. Dream can become the place where we were able to run away, escape from the real which is full of heavy burden and sadness.

"The Dream", Byron sees two beings, he himself and a lady he love. He wishes to possess his lady's love, but the lady does not respond his love. He cannot do anything. He is just kept silent in his expectation. He is conscious that he had passed many troubles along his life, and it is the summit of his life. Among the things that is important is the reality that he now realize of the existence of God and His help.

In the second part, Byron remembers of the time of his marriage. The happiness exists. The new spirit comes. But it still does not give him bring future. His thought is again about the bad experience of the past. He tries to find the spirit of life from the universe, as it is in the universe that he finds the magic mysteries.

3. "So We'll Go No more A-Roving" (1817).

In order to avoid confusion and misunderstanding toward the title of the poem, it is better to give the meaning of the words. According to the Dictionary "A-Roving", as a noun means A roll of wool (Mario Pei, 1977: 838).

"A-Roving" in this poem is figuratively used to represent the limited life. Therefore, "So We'll Go No More A-Roving" denotes passing from life to go to the hereafter. It means that in a certain moment we can not enjoy the beautiful world.

The poem also describes the calmness of the writer in facing day. Byron believes in the mortality of human beings in the world. He is conscious that his life will come to the end.

B. The Spirit of Life Through Passion in Three Poems

Searching the spirit of life in Byron's short poems, especially through passion, for the first time, it is important to know the meaning of the words "The spirit of life" and "passion" well. Semantically, both the spirit of life and passion have their own meaning as well as value. It is important, of course, to put several ideas concerning the spirit of life through passion so as to get further and deeper understanding of it. Dictionary research is worthwhile to be applied in such a need.

1. The meaning of the word "the spirit of life"

Life is denoted as individual actions and fortunes, manners of existence, it also means the active part of existence, business and pleasures of the world, (New Oxford Illustrated Dictionary, 1976, : 975-976). Other denotative meaning indicates that life is human activities, relationship and interest (The American Heritage of the English Language, 1971, : 754). Both term have their stresses on human-life than life in general sense. It means that it is on life human being can find the source of vitality, spirit and liveliness. Life is an animating force which supports and inspires human existence. In the condition of normal life, people tend to hope of having long life expectation. That is why there is another definition that life is a period from birth to death, birth to present time or present time to death (The new Oxford Illustrated Dictionary, 1976: 975-976). Through that period of life time human being can apply the whole of his energy, vivacity, animation and spirit that one's life is considered to be "Perfect". That is why several people sometimes say that life is a "condition" or a "fact". The following is the other definition of life, i.e. condition or fact of being living; the state of ceaseless change and functional activity which constitutes the essential difference between living organism and dead or living matter (New Oxford Illustrated Dictionary, 1976 : 975-976). This definition concern with the life in general sense. On the other hand, The Lexicon Webster Dictionary, 1971: 551 gives the same denotation concerning life i.e. 1. Animate existences or vitality 2. A person's condition or circumstances 3. Period during which anything continues to exist (Mario Pei, 1971: 551).

This article, the definition of life either in human life or in general sense will be applied in searching life indication in Byron's short poems. Life is nothing if there is no spirit. Traditionally, spirit is believed to be the vital principle or animating force within living being (The Dictionary of American Heritage of the English Language, 1971: 1245). For a reason, then it is very essential as the principle of a person. The spirit of life will inspire people to come to his "life quality", as it is defined in (The New Oxford Illustrated Dictionary, 1976: 1626), which says: Animating or vital principal, intelligent or immaterial part of man, soul, person viewed as possessing this especially with reference to particular or moral qualities. In fact spirit is believed to be the principle of conscious life and the vital principle in man (The lexicon Webster Dictionary, 1971: 938). It is also believed that spirit

is "person's mental or moral nature or qualities" (the new Oxford Illustrated Dictionary, 1976: 1626). At length, the spirit of life is known as human activities to seek new courage, in order to get better live liveliness.

2. The meaning of the word "Passion"

The meaning of the word passion is a kind of experience which cannot be separated from life. The dictionaries give the same sense of meaning. The Random House American Everyday Dictionary defines that passion is any strong feeling or emotion and the object of such an enthusiasm or desire (Jess Stein, 1961: 348). William Morris as an editor of The American Heritage Of The English Language, expresses the following definition concerning passion;

1. Any powerful emotion or appetite, and 2. Boundless enthusiasm, or the object of such enthusiasm, (Morris, 1971, 958)

From the above definition we can draw the common expression on the spirit of life through passion, as a person's condition to seek a source of vital principle in life to get better liveliness. It is represented through any strong emotion or feeling.

The above explanation gives an information that the spirit of life through passion emerges as the result of the environment. One's passion cannot be risen if there is no many inspiration in such a condition. Heindenreich in describing the influence of the family upon personality of an individual "(Heindenreich, 1970: 46). It is from the family that one's basic personalities are established and developed. Really, one who lives in the world cannot be separated by both the influence of heredity and environment. All of human being have highly sensitive to its environments. It is caused by our experience of life are obtained through our visual and auditory. Each person must continually be "in contact" with his environment and must select stimulating upon him based on his needs.

On the whole, naturally different people have different way of life and ways of thinking. It depends on their own personalities, their knowledge, their feeling and their past experiences.

Byron never learns to govern his emotion, so he is to be enslaved by his passion, but he tries to be conscious of his condition. Related to the above cases, the power of Byron life spirit can be seen clearly through his poem that will be explained in the following discussion.

3. The message on the spirit of life in the poems.

Based on several explanations about the meaning of the spirit of life through passion in the previous discussion, the following discussion will be the proofs of the existence of the message on the spirit of life in the three poems, written by Lord Byron.

Sometimes one does not like literature, especially poetry. It is caused by one's difficulties to analyze and to understand the meaning of the poem. It seems that poetry for him is puzzle. In fact poetry is interesting to study and to be enthusiastic with a certain poem we will willingly read it. We will soon feel that this poem is a precious work and we can catch its beauty.

Beside offering amusement and pleasure, poetry is an expression of the poet's deep feeling. By reading the poem someone can know the poet's deep feeling. By reading the poem someone can know the poet's feeling. Wordsworth gives definition of poetry as "(Singleton and Millet, 1966: 19). It means that the poet creates the poems, with his intention of particularly genius which is reflected in the work through the unique ways, uses a series of the beauty of words to express his idea.

The poet can create his works only he is in a certain situation in which he finds the possibility to create a work and his heart is very thrilled by the certain object. In such a situation of his literary creations, he is not to be separated with the very object. The feeling

of the poet can be caught through his poem, whether it is in a good or bad mood. There are many kinds of object which can be exploited as the source of creating poems. The creativity process is the process by which a certain literary work comes into its existence.

The existence of the sea as a part of the universe and its relation to human life is the object of Coleridge's "The Ancient Mariner". The romantic poet such as Keats has another appreciation on nature represented by the nightingale. John Dryden recorded the historical fact in England, concerning the quarrel between James and Charles using the Biblical allusion in his "the pulley", shows us that the writer wants to remind us on the love of God as the source of our life. The last poem is quite different from the imagery object by the same writer, entitled "love". All of these facts show us that finding object is nothing but a must for the poet to be the first step of his "creativity" process in creating poems.

As a poet, full of suffering along his life, Byron wants to escape from his poor condition to gain better life. He needs the spirit of life. This spirit of life, then, becomes the object of his poems.

In writing poem, Byron expresses his feeling he gained through his emotion. It is influenced by the background of his past life. He has to have strong passion to overcome his problems of his life by expressing it in poems. As Storey says that "Byron describes himself as an observer of the passion and his attempts to define poetry frequently refer to the passion and to extreme states of feeling" (Paterson, 1977). It means that there is only passion which satisfies Byron's need to unite himself with the world. Byron needs the strong of passion to stir his action to live in peaceful condition in the world.

In order to understand Byron's works, i.e. his three short poems, we have to know well his three interlocking causes such as his family, his own condition of lameness of foot, his love, his religious life and his death.

On the whole, he was not a happy child. He got a bad experience in his family. There was no understanding between his mother and his father to make their marriage happy. Byron's childhood was passed in a variety of challenges. Mrs. Byron's temper made Byron's more and more oppressive. Her violence and her foolishness to spend her money made the relationship between mother and son be in bad condition. As the result of his poor condition he urged himself to face the world with new hopes to gain better life through the strong of passion. The reflection is found in his poem.

Byron is a genius who expresses himself in the poem. He expresses his life included "the love" as in "She walks in Beauty". His idea appears written in his lines, with the message of his imaginative love to Mrs. Wilmot. This poem consists of three stanzas. Each stanza is full of his desire in expressing his feeling. The speaker is Byron himself, he says that he admires the woman's beauty very much. He encounters a beautiful woman in a party named Mrs. Wilmot. She wears a black dress. On returning home, Byron's desire is aroused to admire her. Here, the object of his creation is "Love". For Byron, love is the centre of his life. Love can make his spirit of life awake. Quennel says "Few women could put him at ease" (Quennel, 1959: 12).

There are many different feelings of love. It depends upon the perception of the individual toward the love as the object. Sometimes a person develops a love for himself, love of God, love for his beloved which is enough for him just through an admiration, as Byron finishes his lines, ("She Walks in Beauty, Stanza.1).

Byron makes the allusion on love through nature. He uses simile for comparing the beauty of a lady he saw in the party as "the night full of starry night". He also asks himself to think of the picture of love. He still has question whether he has ability to find happiness and enjoy the beauty of woman or not.

In the following lines, he closes the stanza as the following lines : “ A heart whose love is innocent” (Stanza.3). This line shows that the poet tries to answer his own unstable feeling. In fact, in his feeling, he still has a passion to admire the lady. On the other hand he could not gain his love, as the fact. It is enough for him just admiring the lady.

In the previous part, it has been explained that Byron's life is full of challenges. One of them is about “love “. He often gets the failure on love. Byron's face is handsome. It caused a woman fall in love with him but none gives him happiness and peacefulness of life. (Reask, 1974:24). This problems makes him to have love-affair with many women. He often meditates upon his love. On the other hands, he knows a good way to overcome his problems. He expresses his feeling in verse. The unhappy love he experienced when he was young and unfortunate marriage leads him on the crisis of spirit. “The dream” is as a picture of his disappointed feeling about love. There is not doubt that “The Dream” is called an autobiographical poem. It is composed in July 1816 containing a short of poetic resume of Byron emotional life. When composed his poem, he had just been separated with the woman he loves Mrs. Mary Chaworth. He suffered from disappointed passion, because none did love him.

In his writing poem, Byron's ideas comes smoothly. He compares his imagination with “The lava of earthquake”(Quennel, 1959: 46). Further, he says that “the dream” is his sleeping passions. Byron explains that sleep is boundary between death and life. Dream can become the place where we were able to run away, escape from the real life which is full of heavy burden and sadness, **“And tears, and tortures, and the touch of joy; They leave a weight upon our waking thoughts”**, (“The Dream”, Stanza. 1, L.6-7). He dreams of beautiful and eternal happiness **“Look like herald of eternity”** (“ the Dream” Stanza. 1, L.11). Life for him is like a tyrant which creates **“pleasure and pain”** (“ the Dream” Stanza, 1, L.14) The dream drag him to another world, as far as the dream like. In “dream” he can escape from the burden of life, **“The dread of vanished shadows—Are they so? Is not the past all shadow?—What are they? Creations of the mind?—The mind can make** (“The Dream”, Stanza. 1, L.17-19).

In “The Dream”, Byron expresses two personalities, he himself and the woman he loves. The atmosphere where they are in love is a very romantic one, **“Green and of mild declivity, the last, As'twere the cape of a long ridge of such“**, (“The Dream”, Stanza, 2, L.29-30). He imagines there is a couple of a young man and a young woman who are enjoying life. It represents Byron himself and Mrs. Mary Chaworth. Both of them represents the boy and the maid respectively. Byron cannot say that the woman is young because, **“The maid was on the eve of womanhood; The boy had fewer summers, but his heart: Had far outgrown his years, and to his eye”** (“ The Dream”, Stanza. 2. L. 45-47). The boy just loves her. The maid is not willing to speak to him. The maid is everything for him. His breath is only for her. In short, she was his “life”, **“ The ocean to the river of his thoughts, Which terminated all; upon a tone, A touch of hers, his blood would ebb and flow”**, (“The Dream”, Stanza 2. L. 57-59). There is only one tone that is “love”. He admires her very much **“And his cheek chance tempestuously-his heart”** (“The Dream”, Stanza. 2, L. 60). The maid does not respond his love. She considers him as “Brotherless” (The Dream, stanza 2, L.65). the boy, in his jealous thinks that the maid loves another person. What the boy can do is just keeping silent in his expectation. **“Keep pace with her expectantly, and flew”** (The Dream, stanza 2, L. 74).

The recollection is now using the setting of an ancient house. This an expression to compare his true love and the antiquity of the building. **“The boy stays there in his loneliness. “ The Boy of whom I spake;—he was alone, And pale, and pacing to and fro: anon. He sate him down, and seized a pen, and traced. Words which I**

could not guess of; then he leaned “ (“The Dream”, Stanza. 3. L. 79-82). This lines shows that Byron wants to overcome his loneliness by writing a live letter. He always uses his thought though he does not know whether the love he has is acceptable or not. The boy is in his self consciousness. He knows that she will not welcome his love. What the boy can do is just tearing out the paper and make himself calm, **“For quickly comes such knowledge—that his heart. Was darkened with her shadow, and she saw“** (“The dream “Stanza 3, L. 92-93). In fact the maid does not understand what are found in the boy's heart as a whole. The meeting is a sad event, as **“A table of unutterable thought”** (the dream, Stanza 3, L.97). it means that this meeting cannot make him happy because there is no way to communicate to his beloved. His way of holding her hand is accompanied by a “Cold feeling”. It seems that it is better for him to say good bye or adieu. In the end, they are separated one from the other, with building as the only witness, **“ For they did part with mutual smiles; he passed. From out the massy gate of that old Hall, And mounting on his steed he went his way; And ne'er repassed that hoary threshold more “.** (“The Dream”. Stanza. 3, L. 101-104).

The next step of Byron's life, still represent the boyhood. The boy is conscious now that he has changed from the former period. **The boy is now mature, “ With strange and dusky aspects; he was not. Himself like what he had been; on the sea.”** (“The Dream”, Stanza. 4. L.109-110). He is now a “wonderer” who image many things concerning life and love. He is conscious that he had passed many troubles in his life and it is “summit” as his life. He builds up his life on the bad experiences he had, **“ Of ruined walls that had survived the names. Of those who reared them; by his sleeping side “** (“The Dream”, Stanza. 4. L. 117-118)”. Among the important things among his expression is the idea of religious thought. He now realizes on the existence of God and His help, **“So cloudless, clear, and purely beautiful. That God alone was to be seen in heaven”.** (“The Dream”, Stanza.4. L. 124-125).

In the next lines, the poet's expression concerning the lady. The hope of happiness does not come into reality, **“She dwelt, begirt with growing Infancy. Daughters and sons of Beauty,—but behold!. Upon her face there was a tint of grief, “** (“The dream”, Stanza 5. L. 130-132.). The unstable life have very great influence on his mind. Byron asks himself; when will the sadness come to the end; there is also a question on the reason of the sadness, **“ What could her grief be?—she had all she loved. And he who had so loved her was not there. To trouble with bad hopes, or evil wish,”** (“The Dream”, Stanza. 5. L. 136-138). The hope of happiness does not come into reality. It is the answer of the question why he becomes unhappy. She had not loved him, **“What could her grief be?—she had loved him not. Nor given him cause to deem himself beloved. Nor could he be a part of that which preyed. Upon her mind—a spectre of the past.”** (“The Dream “, Stanza, 5. L. 140-143).

The next step of his dream is on time of his marriage. There exist the happiness. The new spirit of life comes, but without bright future. His thought is again about the bad experience of the past, **“The tablet of unutterable thoughts. Was traced—and then it faded as it came,”** (“The Dream”, Stanza. 6. L. 154-155). The couple live in the same place as it is explained in the former stanza. The setting concerns with the antiquity. They still build. It can be seen in lines, **“The day, the hour, the sunshine, and the shade, All things pertaining to that place and hour, And her who was his destiny, came back. And thrust themselves between him and the light; What business had they there at such a time? “** (“The Dream”, Stanza. 6. L. 162-166).

In this step there is a changing on the lady from because of the “sickness” of the soul. She has changed from her “own mind” while the eyes do not show her own spirit. She

becomes so powerful in the house, as if she is "The queen of a fantastic realm". She has lost her feeling and kindness. The power of love has gone away from her, the wisdom has changed into "far deeper madness". The poet still confused whether this is the truth or the wrong image. He says then that this is nothing but the reality of life, **"And brings life near in utter nakedness, Making the cold reality too real!"** ("The Dream", Stanza. 7, L. 182-183).

This is the last step of Byron's biography, and this is the last changing. The man is alone. Everything around him have gone away from him. He has nothing now. Though the things around him still exist, but they are now "Unfriendly" to him. What he finds now hatred and convention. He is in the condition that, **"With Hatred and Contention; Pain was mixed. In all which was served up to him, until. Like to the Pontic monarch of old days. He fed on poisons, and they had no power,"** ("The dream", Stanza. 8. L. 189-192). This lines shows that Byron tries to find the spirit of life from the universe, as in the universe he finds the "magic mysteries", he can enter the "book of night".

Furthermore, Byron's life spirit seems to rise as he write short poems **"So, We'll Go no More a Roving"** in stanza (1), prove that Byron has intense spirit of life and still have the power of passion to do more work on a-roving. It means that he wants to live longer. Although the atmosphere helps him but he cannot feel it again.

In stanza (2) He is conscious that world is full of challenges. One thing that cannot avoid is death. He can face all the sorrowful life, he can overcome his life problems, but not his death. It is stated in the line **"The sword outwears its sheath"** (Stanza. 2, L. 5).

For closing his lines in stanza (3), it shows us that situation helps us very much, the light of the moon makes people still have possibility and occasion to enjoy life and to wait for coming day. But the reality that man has no power to do anything, makes the fate of man different.

CONCLUSION

One who lives in the world cannot be separated with passion. Each person has passion. Passion can urge someone to evaluate what the meaning and value of life are. In this case, it depends upon individual that stirs passion to get a better and deeper value on life. Passion becomes the driving force on someone's life spirit. The existence of passion is an evidence that one still has the spirit of life.

By regarding the importance of the above problems, the discussion of "The spirit of life through passion in Byron's three poems; "She walks in Beauty", "The Dream" and So, We'll Go No More A-Roving", Lord Byron expression through the strong of passion.

Byron's life spirit is to increase and decrease. He sometimes has a high spirit of life and sometimes he is at the point of despair. He often feels unsatisfied about his own is not perfect and immortal.

All these problems appear as the result of his sorrowful background. Byron becomes a sensitive man. He never feels happy in his life while he was in his youth until his maturity. His life is full of challenges. They make him conscious to overcome his problems. His failure of love and his despair do not make him apathetic in facing his life. It leads Byron to remember God the Almighty.

In order to gain a better goal, the spirit of life which appear through passion, calmness is the most important attitude to be considered. It is dangerous to be in a hurry in doing something.

Three poems of Byron in this article, have the same message on the spirit of life through passion. Life has the problems of sufferings, hate, anger and loneliness, those problem will come to the end on death, which depends on God's decision. So when one

experience the process of living, he needs the spirit of life, instead of having vain feeling. Byron shows his spirit of life through his strong passion.

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