

Poetry for the 3rd stage the 2nd Course for Evening Study:

الشعر للمرحلة الثالثة الدراسة المسائية

Victorian poetry

This is the summary of the first lecture that is presented for the 3rd stage, evening study. My dear students these lectures cannot be substitutions for the actual lectures in which you will have detailed explanations. You will have some questions under some points that can be answered after studying the related poems.

INTRODUCTION:

Historically Victorian age (19th century) is the reign in which Queen Victoria ruled England from 1837 to 1901. It is the most glorious era in English history since it witnesses progression in various spheres. Prosperity and progression includes different fields: democracy, education, science, industry, mechanics and so on. In spite of all these wonders, it is the age of pessimism. Poets and thinkers criticize the growth of pain and poverty that accompanied its gloss and glitter. Victorian poetry appears after the romantic poetry and ends with the outset of modern poetry so it can be regarded as a bridge that links between the two. **The main characteristics of Victorian Poetry are:**

1- Realism and Pessimism:

The reason behind gathering the two features within the same title is because of the connection between the two. Victorian poets select to be realistic rather than idealistic. They don't beautify the reality. Victorian era witnessed the industrial revolution which in spite of its advancements in different fields of science and education, it rises the poverty and corruption. Being realistic, Victorian poetry is pessimistic because of reflection pain and dilemma of people without any embellishment of romantic poetry.

Question: Which way do you prefer: the idealistic Romantic way of beatifying the truth or the realistic Victorian way of delineating the scenes?

Question: Do you regard the wish of death in some of Victorian poems as a sign of pessimism, if not explain under which point this wish can be included?

2-Scepticism and Questioning God:

Skepticism is a key characteristics of this poetry. Victorian people do not find solutions in religion. They reach this state of doubtlessness because of the corruption of the church and priest and some theories .

Question: Do you think that avoiding religion as a solution in Matthew Arnold's "Dover Beach" is a sign of skepticism or a way of regaining the lost morality?