

To A Skylark

To A Skylark is an ode to the heavenly delight and joy which the bird skylark embodies. The poet follows the flight of the Skylark soaring high and singing a melody of 'unpremeditated art'. Shelly is stunned by the music produced by the bird and entranced by its movement as it flies into the clouds and out of sight. The bird symbolises pure, ecstatic happiness that is blissfully divine.

The bird's joyous singing is like high-born maiden singing in love to soothe her 'love-laden heart'. Or like a glow-worm 'scattering un beholden its aerial hue'. The bird's song is like the scent of the deflowered flowers, which makes bees faint with its fragrance. The Skylark's music is so divine that it, according to the poet, surpasses all things which are 'joyous', 'clear' and 'fresh.'

Shelly understand that for such a divine melody which the skylark sings, it must be beyond the ideas of life and death. For mortals are never over their limitations of emotions as their best songs are those 'that tell of the saddest thought.' He concludes it by pleading to the bird to teach him half of the treasure that she possesses so that he could write poetry that the world would read as joyfully as he is listening to the song of the bird.

The poem is a twenty-one stanza ode that is consistent in its rhyme scheme from the very first to the last stanza. The piece rhymes, ABABB, with varying end sounds, from beginning to end.

