A Thing of Beauty (Poem: John Keats)



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A thing of beauty is a joy forever: //
Its loveliness increases; // it will never /
  pass into nothingness; // but still will keep /
  a bower quiet for us, / and a sleep /
  full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.//
Therefore, / on every morrow, / are we wreathing /
  a flowery band / to bind us to the earth, /
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth /
  of noble natures, / of the gloomy days, /
  of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways /
                                                        (o'er = over)
  made for our searching: / yes, in spite of all, /
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall /
  from our dark spirits. // Such the sun, the moon, /
  trees old, and young, / sprouting a shady boon //
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms /
 we have imagined for the mighty dead; /
All lovely tales / that we have heard or read: //
An endless fountain of immortal drink, /
  pouring unto us / from the heaven's brink. //
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うつく
美しいものは、永遠の喜びである//
その素晴らしさは増している// それは決してない /
・

無に帰って(何もない状態になって)しまうことは// しかし、かえって保ってくれる/
私たちに静かな木陰を / そして眠りを /
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甘い(やさしい)夢と、健やかで、静かな呼吸に満ちている(眠りを)/
だから / 次の朝が来るたびにいつも / われわれは編んでいる/
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花でできた輪 / 私たちを大地と結びつけてくれる /
落ち込んだ気持ちにも、人間らしくない冷たい 心 (冷酷な乏しさ) にも/
 (どれだけ) 高潔な性格にも / 憂鬱な日々にも /
 まったく不健康で(危険で歩きにくい)、暗すぎる道にも / (=うまくいかない人生)
 (道は) われわれの探索のためにつくられた / そう、これらすべてにもかかわらず/
なにかしら美しい形や物が、帳(暗くするための幕=悲しい気持ち)を取り除いてくれる/
私たちの暗く (落ち込んだ) t 魂から // そうした (美しいものは) 太陽や月(がそうだ)/
そして、それら同じように、運命の壮大さもそう (美しいの)だ/
うつく ものがたり かずかず わたし き
美 しい物 語の数々を / 私 たちが聞いたり読んだりした //
(それらの物語は) 不滅の飲み物がわきだす無限の 泉 である /
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Vocabulary and Phrases

bower 木陰
morrow 明日(の朝)
wreathing 花輪を作ること
(in) spite of にもかかわらず
despondence 落胆
dearth 不足

pall とばり、覆い boon 恩恵 grandeur 雄大さ doom 運命 immortal 不滅/常生 brink 縁、瀬戸際 ※unto to と同義の古語

TIPS 詩について

詩を読む際には、通常の文法や文章のカンマ、ピリオドによる区切りの他に、韻(rhyme)を踏んでいることが重要です。日本語でも、漢語でも、その他諸言語においても、詩=歌の歌詞には、韻を踏むことがほとんどです。今回の"A Thing of Beauty"でも、通常の文法的区切りではなく、音も重視した区切りになっていますので、ぜひリズミカルに読んでみてください。

なお、この詩は 4000 行を超える長大な詩で、今回は有名なその冒頭部分を使用しています。

裏面の問題は音読を毎回 40 分以上反復してから挑戦しましょう

A thing of is a joy for ever:	Question 1: What does beauty do for people?
Its increases; it will never	
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep	
A quiet for us, and a sleep	
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.	
Therefore, on every morrow, are we	
A flowery band to us to the earth,	
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman	Question 2: What does beauty overcome?
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,	
Of all the unhealthy and ways	
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,	
Some shape of beauty moves away the	
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,	
Trees old and young, a shady boon	
And such too is the of the dooms	Question 3: What examples of beauty does Keats give?
We have imagined for the mighty dead;	
All lovely tales that we have heard or read:	
An endless fountain of drink,	
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.	
Summarize: (what is the argument of the poem?)	
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John Keats, English Poet (1795-1821)

*Background knowledge:

John Keats, English Poet (1795-1821). His poetry is sensuous and vivid. His famous works include "Endymion", "La Belle Dame sans Merci", "Ode on a Grecian Urn", "To Autumn", and many more.

*Q&A Sample Answer

Q1:

Beauty heals, and gives rest, and binds us to the world. It inspires.

Q2:

Despondence, ill-natured men, and unhealthy, dark places.

Q3:

Sun, moon, trees, heroes.

Summary:

(short)

Beauty is good. It heals us, and keeps us going in the midst of all the bad people and ugly things in the world. The sun, moon, trees, and heroes of the past give us life.

(50-80 words)

A thing of beauty is a joy forever and will only increase in goodness rather than die. It is rest for us and health in spite of bad men and gloomy days and disease. Beauty still brings us light. The sun does, so does the moon and trees, and the heroic tales of the dead. It is immortal drink from heaven.