

Summary

Shelley's poetry goes through a journey of growth; a gradual growth reflecting the peaceful gradual reform he sought throughout his life; mainly through three stages of development until it reaches its complete poetic form. The function of poetry for him is the same, but his poetic form develops parallel to his thought and work. Starting from *Queen Mab* (1813) to *Triumph of Life* (1820), Shelley has written poems recorded this development. His own experience of adversity, unexpectedly, drives him to liberate humans from their own, thus he can be seen as a kind of artistic saviour.

A New Criticism approach to his work makes it alive and contemporary anytime and anywhere. As a faithful patriot, he thinks that "enlightened" people should encourage the public to liberate the nation from slavery and enslavement. And he is always for passive resistance, "And this, not because active resistance is not justifiable when all other means shall have failed, but because in this instance temperance and courage would produce greater advantages than the most decisive victory."(III, 240-3) Shelley denounces Englishmen being killed by English officers; for both are sons of one country. Nevertheless, people should be motivated to free themselves by any means from all forms of unacceptable tyranny.

There are many like Shelley until now who dream of better social conditions, which disinterestedly fight for the freedom of those who have never sought independence before. These visionary idealists like Shelley, called reformers, are awaiting the right time to exhort people to retain their rights and regain their freedom, and it is never in vain.