**Kubla Khan**

One of the most beautiful supernatural poems in English literature, Kubla Khan had its origin in Coleridge’s dream, so it is one of the figments of his opium induced dream he had fallen asleep while going through *Purchas His Pilgrimage*. C.M Bowra says , “Of all English romantic masterpieces , they (*The Ancient Mariner, Kubla Kahan*, and *Christabel*) are most unusual and most romantic”.

The founder of Mongol dynasty in China, Kubla Khan, orders building up of a majestic luxury palace in Xanadu. It is rich in the mysteries of nature. In the first two stanzas, river Alph, the large cave, the deep sea, winding rivulets, rich vegetation added to the romantic quality of the poem. The holiness of the river Alph gives religious fervor to the poem. Trees as old as hills make an ever-green foliage in the garden. Ugliness described in the poem as in the expression , ‘a savage place’ only add to the beauty of the garden and the expressions ‘pleasure dome’, ‘deep romantic chasm’, ‘a cedarn cover’, ‘a savage place’, have sexual connotations. The juxtaposition of the contradictory expressions holy and enchanted add to the supernatural quality of the poem. Small streams turn into a violent river; creating deep gorge into the earth with its geyser throwing up massive boulders. The river is a symbol of human creativity and the garden served as the symbol of reason . The river ends in icy ‘*caverns measureless to man*’. It is an image of the subconscious which is violent, uncontrollable and unknowable to the rational mind

In Coleridge’s poetry dream is intermingled with reason, deeper impulse with shaping spirit. In the poem we mark a merger of the inner and outer world.

.The imagery in the famous poem is borrowed in part from Purchas.The edifice of stately pleasure dome and landscape garden belong to the world of softened sense and refined wit. The sacred river frustrated at its fountain head and terminated in a lifeless sea may have signified a sexual life turned sour.

Kubla Khan embodies power and enchanting mystery. With creative faculty Coleridge will build that dome in air. He identifies himself with one who has enjoyed honey and drunk the milk of paradise. The Abyssinian maid is to some extent an amalgam of all the qualities Coleridge sought in women.

Coleridge’s supernatural has all the potentials of real. The sweet melody of the Abyssinian maid would turn the poet into a mighty musician and charge him with a divine inspiration