

Dr. BRR GOVT DEGREE COLLEGE JADCHERLA

Department of English



A PROJECT REPORT

ON

A WALK BY MOONLIGHT

- HENRY DEROZIO (1809-1831)

Submitted By

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DECLARATION

We are hereby declare that the study project: **A WALK BY MOONLIGHT** is a record of work done by us under the supervision of R.ANITHA, faculty of English, Government Degree College, Jadcherla, Mahabubnagar District and that the project has not been previously done by any others in this college and any other college/University.

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Date : 27/06/2022

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Study project on **A WALK BY MOONLIGHT** is a bonafide Project work done by B.A I students listed below,

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A WALK BY MOONLIGHT

HENRY DEROZIO (1809-1831)



Henry Louis Vivian Derozio, (born April 18, 1809, [Calcutta](#), India—died Dec. 26, 1831, Calcutta), poet and assistant headmaster of Hindu College, Calcutta, a radical thinker and one of the first Indian educators to [disseminate](#) Western learning and science among the young men of [Bengal](#).

The son of an Indian father and an English mother, Derozio was influenced by the English [Romantic](#) poets. He began publishing patriotic verses when he was 17, which brought him to the attention of the [intellectual](#) elite of Calcutta. In 1826 he was appointed instructor at Hindu College, where his reportedly brilliant teaching influenced his students and won him their loyalty. In 1828 his students organized the Academic Association, a debating society that drew both Britons and Indians to discussions of religion and philosophy.

In the spirit of English rationalism, Derozio criticized the social practices and religious beliefs of orthodox Hinduism. Accused of irreverence by his students' orthodox Hindu parents, he was forced to resign by the directors of Hindu College in 1831.

Long after Derozio's death (of cholera), his influence lived on among his former students, who came to be known as Young Bengal and many of whom became prominent in social reform, law, and journalism.

A WALK BY MOONLIGHT

Summary

About the Author:

Henry Derozio (1809-1831) was one of the first Indian educators to promote western learning in India. He also led a group called 'young Bengal' which championed social reform. At the age of 17, he was appointed teacher of literature and history at Hindu college, Kolkatta. Derozio held progressive view in women's emancipation, and encouraged free debate among students and teacher. He died of cholera at the age of 22.

Introduction:

In the poem, 'A Walk by Moonlight', Derozio tells the experience on his mind and heart. The effect is deep and mind blowing, and the experience completely changes his view. He expresses about his walk back home on a moony night with his friends whom he 'loved' and esteemed and who were like-minded. The poet was returning home one night with three of his friends after

visiting another friend. The night was a 'lovely night' for the 'moon stood silent in the sky' and the 'clouds divided' 'in homage to her worth'. She robed the dancing leaves with 'silver weaves'.

Explanation:

The poet feels that such a night was one of those 'happy spots' of memory of his past which never burns or disappears away but shines on softly. The poet slowly moves from the physical description of night to what the scene prepares to him. The 'song among the winds' made the poet focus his thoughts. The night created mystic around them. They not only 'saw' with their eyes but 'felt' with all their senses the beautiful moon set alight the night. In this mood, the secret of life was finely tuned and it suggested in their hearts amazement and 'holy mirth'. The scene brought about a mood which in turn made the poet's mind ready and conscious. Such a mind, the poet thinks, is a 'light' to itself. It perceives better and everything looks beautiful. In such a state one captures the 'spiritualness' or the solidity of 'all that cannot die' going beyond the 'earthiness' of the world of impermanent matter. The poet then views nature – night wind, stars, the moon – not as non-living but as full of life. Such a state has his 'inward eye' open to glories that seem to appear only in dreams. The happiness of heaven is experienced here on earth by the poet. The peak of perception that the poet arrives at is when he feels his human heart 'quietly inescapable' to everything and forming 'of all a part' which in other words is unity and connection with the whole of nature. The flowers, the stars and the sky are then not 'cold and lifeless as they seem'.

Conclusion:

The poet flows smoothly enhancing the theme of the physical beauty of a moonlit night and its soothing and psychological effect on the mind and soul of the poet.