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Third stage\Poetry

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2025-2026

Analysis and Structure of Kubla Khan

Analysis and Structure

The Setting (Stanza 1): Describes the construction of the, "stately pleasure-dome" by Kubla Khan, emphasizing a "sunny pleasure-dome with caves of ice," juxtaposing heat and cold. The Landscape (Stanza 2): Shifts focus to a wilder, more chaotic, and romantic, landscape, including the, "sacred river" that runs through the "deep romantic chasm".

The Vision (Stanza 3): The speaker recalls a vision of an "Abyssinian maid" singing, and declares that if he could revive her symphony, he could rebuild the dome in the air, creating a "dome in air" through his poetry.

Symbolism:

The Dome: Represents the ordered, artificial, or, civilized world created by,, human ambition.

The River/Chasm: Symbolizes the untamed subconscious, nature, and,, the chaotic source of creative energy.

The Woman Wailing: Represents the haunting,, supernatural, or emotional, power within nature.

Coleridge claimed the poem came to him in an, opium-induced dream and was interrupted, explaining its, fragmentary, yet, brilliant, structure. It is a

quintessential, Romantic, work, emphasizing, exotic, imagery, and, the power of the, unconscious mind.

What is the main theme of the poem Kubla Khan?

The main theme of the Coleridge's poem, "Kubla Khan" is the nature of creativity. Coleridge was eager to examine how creativity and imagination led artists like himself to bring works of art into the world.

Is Kubla Khan a finished poem?

Coleridge claimed that he could not finish "Kubla Khan" because he was interrupted by a person from Porlock. When the person left, Coleridge could not remember the end of the poem so published it as an unfinished poem.

Which literary piece inspired the poem Kubla Khan?

Coleridge was reading the travel book, Purchas his Pilgrimage by Samuel Purchas when he fell into an opium-induced sleep. When Coleridge awoke, he wrote the poem "Kubla Khan" which was inspired by the passage he was reading in Purchas' book.

What is the meaning of the poem Kubla Khan?

"Kubla Khan" is about the nature of creativity. In the poem the speaker sees that Kubla Khan has created a pleasure dome in Xanadu that preserves the beauty of nature while shielding the inhabitants from cold, vastness of the outside world. The speaker wishes to create something as well, but they find themselves unable to finish their task.

Kubla Khan is the finest example of pure poetry removed from any intellectual content. Being essential to the nature of a dream, it enchants by the loveliness of its color, artistic beauty, and sweet harmony. Its vision is wrought out of the most various sources –oriented romance and travel books. Its remote setting and its delicate imaginative realism render it especially romantic. The supernatural atmosphere is evoked chiefly through suggestion and association. The musical effect of the poem is unsurpassed. The main appeal of the poem lies in its sound effects.

Structure and Form

‘Kubla Khan’ is composed three stanzas of varying lengths. The poem’s structure reflects its dreamlike nature, with shifts in focus and rhythm mirroring the fragmented narrative. The rhyme scheme is complex and irregular, reflecting the poem’s dreamlike quality. It begins with an ABAAB pattern in the first stanza,

then shifts to various rhyming couplets and alternating rhymes throughout. This varied rhyme scheme enhances its mysterious, otherworldly atmosphere.

As for the meter, it primarily uses iambic tetrameter, creating a rhythmic, chant-like quality. However, Coleridge frequently varies this pattern, incorporating trochees, anapests, and spondees to emphasize certain words or create specific effects. This metrical flexibility allows the poem to shift between moments of dreamy flow and sudden, dramatic emphasis, mirroring the surreal nature of the vision it describes.