

Reading Byron's The Giaour

operates in a flash-forward manner; in other words, we have passages describing emotions and events that we have yet to witness

Lines 1-6> meditation on the tomb of a great Greek hero who had fought against the Persian invasion asks: "When shall such hero live again?" (Poet-speaker)

Lines 7-67> a description of an idyllic lover's grotto; an ideal natural scene; but already occupied by a "pirate" lover and eventually desecrated (Poet-speaker)

Lines 68-102 description of a dead man // to a "dead" Greece (Poet-speaker)

Lines 103-141 long section on the enslavement of Greece -- by its own people rather than by the Turks> a slightly different perspective from that of Childe Harold's Pilgrimage (Poet-speaker)

Lines 142-167 description of a modern and corrupted Greece polluted by both modern corruption and debasement, as well as old superstitions and beliefs (Poet-speaker)

Lines 168-179 description of the Moslem-Greek fisherman's careful piloting of his boat (Poet-speaker? the Giaour?)

Lines 180-287 first description of the Giaour (Greek Moslem speaker; the fisherman?)

Lines 288-351 meditation upon Hassan's childhood home; described long after a death we have not yet had described (Greek Moslem speaker)

Lines 352-387 description of Leila's "burial" (Greek Moslem Fisherman)

Lines 388-421 meditative description of the butterfly and its allure (Poet-Speaker): consider its metaphorical value to the text

Lines 422-438 meditative description of the obsessed and guilty mind: consider the Scorpion metaphor's value to the text

Lines 439-471 speculation about Leila? Hassan? the Giaour? (Moslem Greek speaker? Poet-Speaker?)

Lines 472-518 description of Leila (Moslem Greek speaker)

Lines 519-537 description of Hassan leaving to "woo" another bride (Moslem Greek speaker? Poet-speaker?)

Lines 538-548 description of a Greek evening and a traveler seeking rest (Poet-Speaker)

Lines 549-674 description of the battle between Hassan and his men and the Giaour and his men (Poet-speaker)

Lines 675-688 the Giaour's first(?) speech

Lines 689-722 description of Hassan's loving mother awaiting her son and being greeted instead by the messenger of his death (Poet-Speaker)

Lines 723-746 description of Hassan's death (Moslem-Greek speaker)

Lines 747-786 the fiery speech of one of Hassan's men pledging that he will not only kill the Giaour but consign him to the fate of a vampire, who will destroy his own daughter

Lines 787-831 begins as a dialogue between a Greek man (the fisherman?) and a Christian monk six years after Hassan's death; the Monk takes over the tale and describes the Giaour's self-imposed exile in a Monastery

Lines 832-916 extended description of the Giaour in exile (Christian Monk speaker)

Lines 917-970 meditative passages on 1) the mind "tamed" by "passion's fire, and woman's art" and 2) painful solitude and self-torture: "a lonely wreck on fortune's shore" (Poet-Speaker? the Giaour?)

Lines 971-conclusion> all in the Giaour's voice; a deathbed confession