

ROMANTICISM

1785-1830



ROMANTIC CONCEPTS

✧ **INTUITION**

✧ **IMAGINATION**

✧ **FEELING & EMOTION**

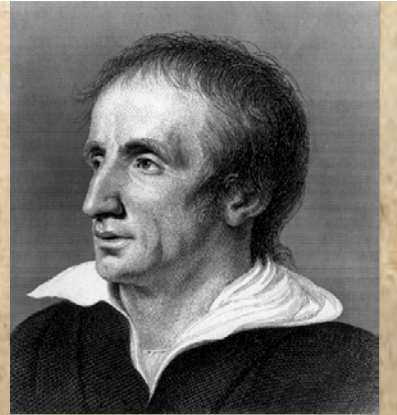
✧ **THE SUBLIME**

✧ **IMPORTANCE OF NATURE**

JOHANN WOLFGANG GOETHE,
*THE SORROWS OF YOUNG
WERTHER* (1774)

“ALL EXTRAORDINARY MEN, WHO
HAVE ACCOMPLISHED GREAT AND
ASTONISHING ACTIONS, HAVE EVER
BEEN DECRIED BY THE WORLD AS
DRUNKEN OR INSANE.”

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH



SAMUEL TAYLOR
COLERIDGE



WILLIAM BLAKE



GEORGE GORDON,
LORD BYRON



JOHN KEATS



PERCY BYSSHE
SHELLEY



PREFACE TO *LYRICAL BALLADS* (1798)

“THE POET BINDS TOGETHER BY PASSION AND KNOWLEDGE THE VAST EMPIRE OF HUMAN SOCIETY, AS IT IS SPREAD OVER THE WHOLE EARTH, AND OVER ALL TIME. THE OBJECTS OF THE POET’S THOUGHTS ARE EVERYWHERE; THOUGH THE EYES AND SENSES OF MAN ARE, IT IS TRUE, HIS FAVOURITE GUIDES, YET HE WILL FOLLOW WHERESOEVER HE CAN FIND AN ATMOSPHERE OF SENSATION IN WHICH TO MOVE HIS WINGS. POETRY IS THE FIRST AND LAST OF ALL KNOWLEDGE – IT IS AS IMMORTAL AS THE HEART OF MAN.”

– WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

THE AUTONOMOUS IMAGINATION

❖ SOLITARY GENIUS

“BEWARE ! BEWARE !
HIS FLASHING EYES, HIS FLOATING HAIR!
WEAVE A CIRCLE ROUND HIM THRICE,
AND CLOSE YOUR EYES WITH HOLY DREAD,
FOR HE ON HONEY-DEW HATH FED,
AND DRUNK THE MILK OF PARADISE.” – “KUBLA KHAN”

❖ CREATIVE POWER

“THEREFORE AM I STILL
A LOVER OF THE MEADOWS AND THE WOODS
AND MOUNTAINS; AND OF ALL THAT WE BEHOLD
FROM THIS GREEN EARTH; OF ALL THE MIGHTY WORLD
OF EYE, AND EAR, – BOTH WHAT THEY HALF CREATE,
AND WHAT PERCEIVE” – “TINTERN ABBEY”

NATURE

❖ ORGANIC UNITY

“WHEN FIRST
I CAME AMONG THESE HILLS...
NATURE THEN...
TO ME WAS ALL IN ALL.”

– “TINTERN ABBEY”

❖ TRANSCENDENCE

“AND I HAVE FELT
A PRESENCE THAT DISTURBS ME WITH THE JOY
OF ELEVATED THOUGHTS; A SENSE SUBLIME
OF SOMETHING FAR MORE DEEPLY INTERFUSED...
A MOTION AND A SPIRIT, THAT IMPELS
ALL THINKING THINGS, ALL OBJECTS OF ALL THOUGHT,
AND ROLLS THROUGH ALL THINGS.” – “TINTERN ABBEY”

❖ ANTI-COMMERCE

“THE WORLD IS TOO MUCH WITH US, LATE AND SOON.
GETTING AND SPENDING WE LAY WASTE OUR POWERS.”
– “THE WORLD IS TOO MUCH WITH US”

THE BYRONIC HERO

BYRON, *THE GIAOUR*

AND FIRE UNQUENCHED, UNQUENCHABLE,
AROUND, WITHIN, THY HEART SHALL DWELL;
NOR EAR CAN HEAR NOR TONGUE CAN TELL
THE TORTURES OF THAT INWARD HELL!
BUT FIRST, ON EARTH AS VAMPIRE SENT,
THY CORSE SHALL FROM ITS TOMB BE RENT:
THEN GHASTLY HAUNT THY NATIVE PLACE,
AND SUCK THE BLOOD OF ALL THY RACE...

AS CURSING THEE, THOU CURSING THEM,
THY FLOWERS ARE WITHERED ON THE STEM.
BUT ONE THAT FOR THY CRIME MUST FALL,
THE YOUNGEST, MOST BELOVED OF ALL,
SHALL BLESS THEE WITH A *FATHER'S* NAME -
THAT WORD SHALL WRAP THY HEART IN FLAME!

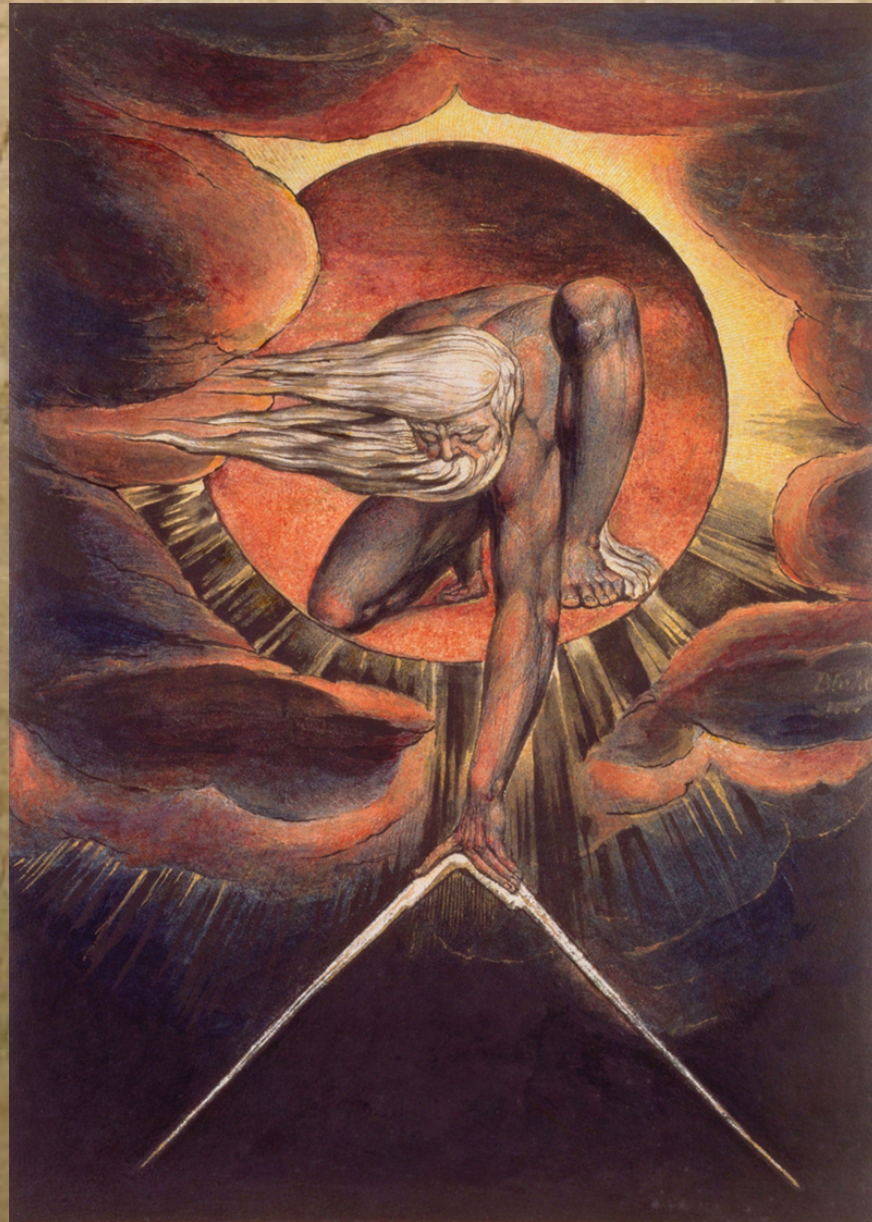
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION



ROBERT SOUTHEY ON THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

“FEW PERSONS BUT THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED IN IT CAN CONCEIVE OR COMPREHEND WHAT THE MEMORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION WAS, NOR WHAT A VISIONARY WORLD SEEMED TO OPEN UPON THOSE WHO WERE JUST ENTERING IT. OLD THINGS SEEMED PASSING AWAY, AND NOTHING WAS DREAMT OF BUT THE REGENERATION OF THE HUMAN RACE.”

WILLIAM BLAKE

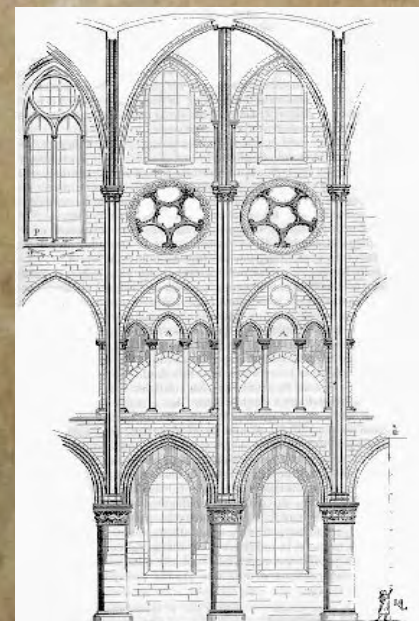
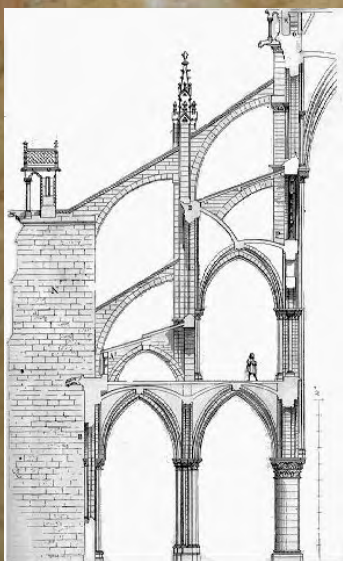
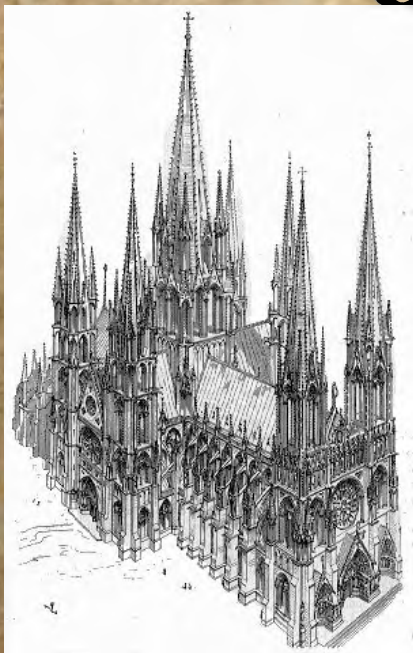


The Gothic

Goths



Gothic Architecture



Gothic Novels before Frankenstein

- ❖ **WALPOLE, THE CASTLE OF OTRANTO (1764)**
- ❖ **CLARA REEVE, THE OLD ENGLISH BARON (1777)**
- ❖ **SOPHIA LEE, THE RECESS (1785)**
- ❖ **ANN RADCLIFFE, THE ROMANCE OF THE FOREST (1791)
THE MYSTERIES OF UDOLPHO (1794)**
- ❖ **WILLIAM GODWIN, CALEB WILLIAMS (1794)**
- ❖ **MATTHEW LEWIS, THE MONK (1795)**
- ❖ **JANE AUSTEN, NORTHANGER ABBEY (1817)**

Elements of Gothic Fiction

- CREEPY, RUINED CASTLES (GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE)
- MYSTERY
- THE SUPERNATURAL
- WOMEN IN DANGER
- ABSENT MOTHERS
- SINISTER FATHERS
- THE UNCANNY

THE UNCANNY



DOUBLES

**ANIMATE/
INANIMATE**

**FAMILIAR/
UNFAMILIAR**

COINCIDENCE

A Romantic-style landscape painting. In the foreground, a dark, rocky path leads towards a waterfall. A small group of people is gathered on the left bank of the waterfall. In the middle ground, a person stands on a high, craggy rock formation, looking out over the landscape. In the background, a large, imposing castle with multiple towers and battlements is built into a steep, forested mountain. The sky is filled with dramatic, swirling clouds, and the overall atmosphere is one of awe and grandeur.

The Sublime

EDMUND BURKE (1757)

“WHATEVER IS FITTED IN ANY SORT TO EXCITE THE IDEAS OF PAIN AND DANGER ... WHATEVER IS IN ANY SORT TERRIBLE, OR IS CONVERSANT ABOUT TERRIBLE OBJECTS, OR OPERATES IN A MANNER ANALOGOUS TO TERROR, IS A SOURCE OF THE *SUBLIME*; THAT IS, IT IS PRODUCTIVE OF THE STRONGEST EMOTION WHICH THE MIND IS CAPABLE OF FEELING.”

“WHEN DANGER OR PAIN PRESS TOO NEARLY, THEY ARE INCAPABLE OF GIVING ANY DELIGHT, AND ARE SIMPLY TERRIBLE; BUT AT CERTAIN DISTANCES, AND WITH CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS, THEY MAY BE, AND THEY ARE, DELIGHTFUL.”

ELEMENTS OF THE BURKEAN SUBLIME:

- VASTNESS
- OBSCURITY
- RUGGEDNESS
- DIFFICULTY
- INFINITY
- POWER
- PRIVATION: EMPTINESS, DARKNESS,
SOLITUDE, SILENCE