



**«Childe Harold's Pilgrimage»**

Childe Harold's Pilgrimage is a lengthy narrative poem in four parts written by Lord Byron. It was published between 1812 and 1818. The poem describes the travels and reflections of a young man who, disappointed in a life of pleasure and revelry, looks for distraction in foreign lands. It is an expression of the melancholy and disappointment felt by a generation weary of the wars of the post-Revolutionary and Napoleonic eras. The title comes from the term *childe*, a medieval title



The poem contains elements thought to be autobiographical, as Byron generated some of the storyline from experience gained during his travels through Portugal, the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea between 1809 and 1811.

The "lanthe" was the term he used for Lady Charlotte Harley, about 11 years old when *Childe Harold* was first published. Charlotte Bacon née Harley was the second daughter of 5th Earl of Oxford and Lady Oxford, Jane Elizabeth Scott.

Throughout the poem Byron, in character of Childe Harold, regretted his wasted early youth and his life choices. In «*Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*» he re-designs himself going on the pilgrimage, during which he lamented (cry about sth) various historical events including the Iberian Peninsular War among others.



Charlotte Harley as lanthe, to whom Byron dedicated *Childe Harold*.

Despite Byron's initial hesitation at having the first two cantos of the poem published because he felt it revealed too much of himself, it was published, at the urging of friends, by John Murray in 1812, and brought both the poem and its author to immediate and unexpected public attention. Byron later wrote, "I awoke one morning and found myself famous". The first two cantos in John Murray's edition were illustrated by Richard Westall, well-known painter and illustrator who was then commissioned to paint portraits of Byron. Published in March, 1812, the first run of 500 quarto copies sold out in three days. There were ten editions of the work within three years. Byron deemed the work "my best" in 1817.



# Byronic hero

The work provided the first example of the Byronic hero. The Byronic hero consists of many different personal characteristics. The hero must have a rather high level of intelligence and perception as well as be able to easily adapt to new situations. Aside from the obvious charm and attractiveness that this creates, he struggles with mood swings. Generally, the hero has a disrespect for certain figures of authority, thus creating the image of the Byronic hero as an exile or an outcast (he is alone). The hero also has a tendency to be arrogant and cynical, indulging in self-destructive behavior. Characters with the qualities of the Byronic hero have appeared in novels, films and

## Childe Harold's Pilgrimage.

A ROMAUNT.

BY

LORD BYRON.

L'univers est une espèce de livre, dont on n'a lu que la première page quand on s'a vu que son pays, j'en ai souffert un assez grand nombre, que j'ai trouvé également mauvais. Cet examen ne m'a point été infructueux. Je laissais ma patrie. Toutes les impertinences des peuples divers, parmi lesquels j'ai vécu, m'ont réconcilié avec elle. Quand je n'aurais tiré d'autre bénéfice de mes voyages que celui-ci, je n'en regretterais ni les frais, ni les fatigues.

LE COSMOPOLITE.

LONDON:

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WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, EDINBURGH; AND JOHN CUMMING, DUBLIN.

By Thomas Davison, White-Friars.

1812.