

HALCYON CLASSICS



Lord Byron
DON JUAN

Don Juan

- Don Juan, Byron's greatest work, was written in the prime of his creative power, in the years 1818—1823. It gives the broad critical pictures of the European life at the end of the 18th century. Byron's Don Juan is a young Spanish nobleman.



- The poem opens with scenes from the hero's childhood which passes in an aristocratic family. Little Juan is described as "curly-headed, good-for-nothing. And mischief-making monkey from his birth".



МАТЬ ДОНЪ ЖУАНА (Donna Inez).
Рис. Д. Льюисъ (I. E. Lewis), грав. Ф. Льюисъ (F. C. Lewis).

- Juan, the youth, falls in love with Donna Julia, the beautiful wife of the old and responsible Don Alfonso. The young woman returns Juan's feelings, but his mother finds out about the love-affair and sends his son abroad "to mend his former morals".





The ship is caught in a storm and sinks several days after its departure. Juan escapes in a boat with thirty other passengers. The unfortunate are tossed about the boundless sea for days and days and, one by one, die of hunger and thirst.



- Juan alone survives and swims to the shore of an island where a famous smuggler and pirate **Lambro** lives. Juan is found by the only daughter of Lambro — **Haidee**.





- She takes care of him. The young people fall in love. Suddenly **L**ambro returns to the island. The lovers are discovered and forcibly separated. Juan is sold into slavery to Turkey and Haide**ee** dies of a broken heart. Juan is bought in a slave market by a Turkish sultana.



СМЕРТЬ ГАЙДЕ.
(The death of Haydée).

Рис. Гербертс, (I Herbert). грав. Робинзонъ (H. Robinson).

Esther Before Ahasuerus
Franz Caucig



Esther just found out there's no Wi-Fi in this palace.

- He is sent to the **harem** in the guise of a woman. He lives through many adventures there. At last he escapes from Turkey and gets to the Russian camp near **Isma'il**, a Turkish fortress sieged by Suvorov's armies. Byron gives realistic pictures of the storming of **Isma'il** under the command of great Suvorov.



- On Isma'il's surrender Juan is sent to St. Petersburg with the news of the victory and is received at the court of Empress Catherine.







- Soon he leaves Russia, travels through Europe, and finally lands in England. After staying in the country for some time, Juan understands that the policy of England does not follow the principles of true freedom.



- But many lines of the poem, on the other hand, show the author's love for his native country, for its people, nature and art.
- In the last part of the poem Juan, accompanied by a group of guests, visits the country seat of Lord Amundeville to take part in a foxhunt.

- Byron addresses the free and happy people of the future living in the golden age of liberty, peace and happiness. The poet expresses his hatred of tyrants and thrones that must be overthrown in order to free mankind. Thrones in the golden age are objects of curiosity in museums.

- There are practically two heroes in the poem. One is the literary hero — Don Juan who lives and gains his knowledge of life within the framework of the plot. The other is the poet himself. “Almost all *Don Juan*”, — Byron wrote in one of his letters, — “is real life, either my own, or from people I knew”.



- As Juan's adventures cover a considerable part of Europe it gives his author an opportunity to describe different countries, to comment on politics and relations between men and to give a satirical portrait of his contemporary society.
- The poem is marked not only for its criticism and realistic portrayal, but for its revolutionary ideas as well.



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