

國立中央大學八十八學年度碩士班研究生入學試題卷

所別: 英美語文研究所 不分組 科目: 英文寫作 共 / 頁 第 / 頁

Read the following biographical sketch of Laura and Petrarch:

On 6 April 1327, a Good Friday, the great Italian poet Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch, 1304-1374) first saw Laura at the Church of Santa Chiara, fell in love with her, and began to write the famous love sonnets inspired by his love of her. In 1330, he entered the service of the powerful Colonna family and, in 1337, bought a small property near Vaucluse, which became a center for his literary work. In 1340, he was invited to Rome to be crowned poet laureate. He is considered to be Italy's greatest lyric poet. Through his attempt to collect books, coins, and manuscripts and his devotion to study and self-education, he instigated a revival of learning, especially related to the classics. For this reason he is also held to be the founder of humanism and inaugurator of the Renaissance in Italy.

Very little is known about Laura, however. It may be that she was not one woman but a composite object of adoration. The most popular theory is that she was the daughter of Audibert de Noves and became the wife of Hugh de Sade, a middle-ranking nobleman of Avignon in Provence. She died of the plague on 6 April 1348.

In Petrarch's love sonnets, the poet is consumed with overpowering passion for Laura while she tortures him with the coldness of her chastity; he bemoans her cruelty to him while she enjoys her sway over him. Although she is idolized as an unattainable lady of great beauty, she is seldom allowed to speak in the sonnets. Give Laura a voice by writing a monologue in which she speaks to Petrarch when she is dying of the plague. Use your imagination to flesh out the monologue by inventing or adding details. (100%)

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