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Appreciation Poetry

A *poem* can tell a story, often in the voice of a narrator or a character. Such poems, narrative poems, do not need to rhyme.

Abou Ben Adhem

Leigh Hunt

Abou Ben Adhem—may his tribe increase!—
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw, within the moonlight in his room,
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,
An angel, writing in a book of gold.
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the Presence in the room he said,
"What writest thou?" The vision raised its head,
And, with a look made all of sweet accord,
Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."
"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"
Replied the angel.—Abou spoke more low,
But cheerily still; and said, "I pray thee, then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow-men."

The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night
It came again, with a great wakening light,
And showed the names whom love of God had blessed:
And, lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

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Questions

1. Who wrote the poem 'Abou Ben Adhem'?

2. Select three abstract nouns used in the poem "Abou Ben Adhem".

3. What did Abou see in the room when he awoke from a deep sleep?

4. What did Abou ask the angel?

5. What was the angel reply? How did Abou felt hearing this?

6. Explain the meaning of the phrase '*deep dream of peace*'.

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7. Why is the moonlit room compared to a lily in bloom? What figure of speech is this?

8. Give a description of the angel?

9. Why do you think Abou Ben Adhem's name top the list?

10. What is the moral or central idea of the poem 'Abou Ben Adhem'?"

Find out three interesting things about the poet J.H. Leigh Hunt.