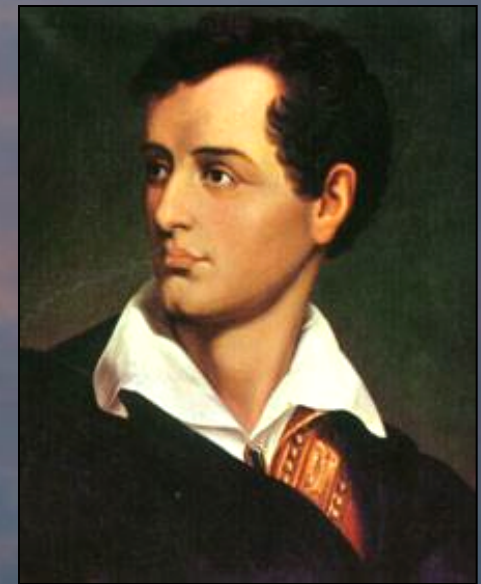


A dramatic sky with blue, orange, and white clouds, framed by a gold border. The word "Romanticism" is centered in the image.

# Romanticism

# The Romantic Movement

- e Began in the 1790s and peaked in the 1820s.
- e Mostly in Northern Europe, especially in Britain and Germany.
- e A reaction against classicism.
- e The “Romantic Hero:”
  - Greatest example was Lord Byron
  - Tremendously popular among the European reading public.
  - Youth imitated his haughtiness and rebelliousness.



# A Growing Distrust of Reason

Enlightenment

*Society is good, curbing violent impulses!*



Romanticism

*Civilization corrupts!*

- e The essence of human experience is subjective and emotional.
- e Human knowledge is a puny thing compared to other great historical forces.
- e “Individual rights” are dangerous efforts at selfishness → the community is more important.

1. Emotions!

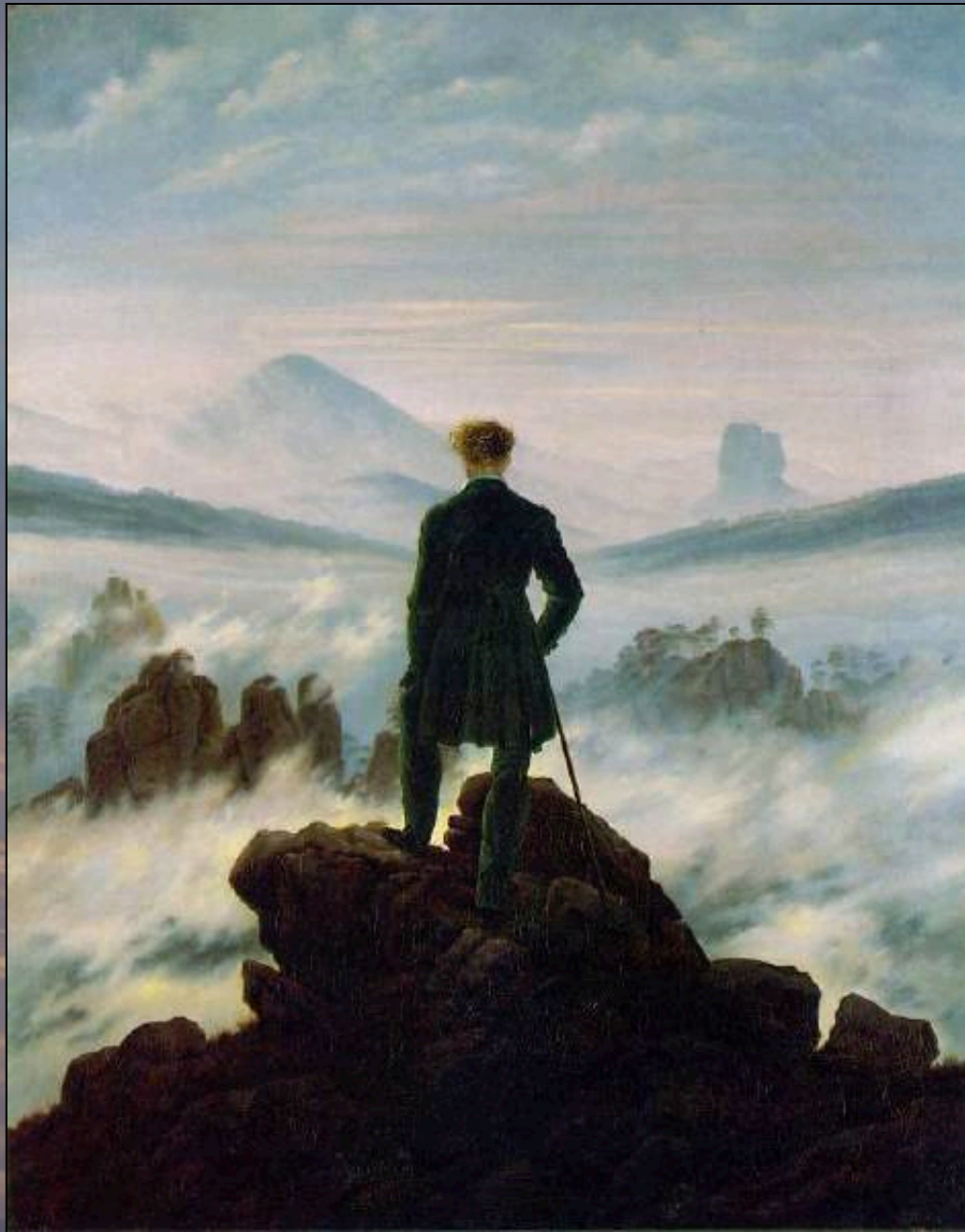
Passion!

Irrationality!

# Characteristics of Romanticism

## The Engaged & Enraged Artist:

- The artist apart from society.
- The artist as social critic/revolutionary.
- The artist as genius.



*Wandering  
Above the  
Sea of Fog*

Caspar David  
Friedrich,  
1818

# *Lady Macbeth* - Henry Fuseli,





2. The  
"Rugged"  
Individual



# Characteristics of Romanticism

## The Individual/ The Dreamer:

- Individuals have unique, endless potential.
- Self-realization comes through art
  - Artists are the true philosophers.

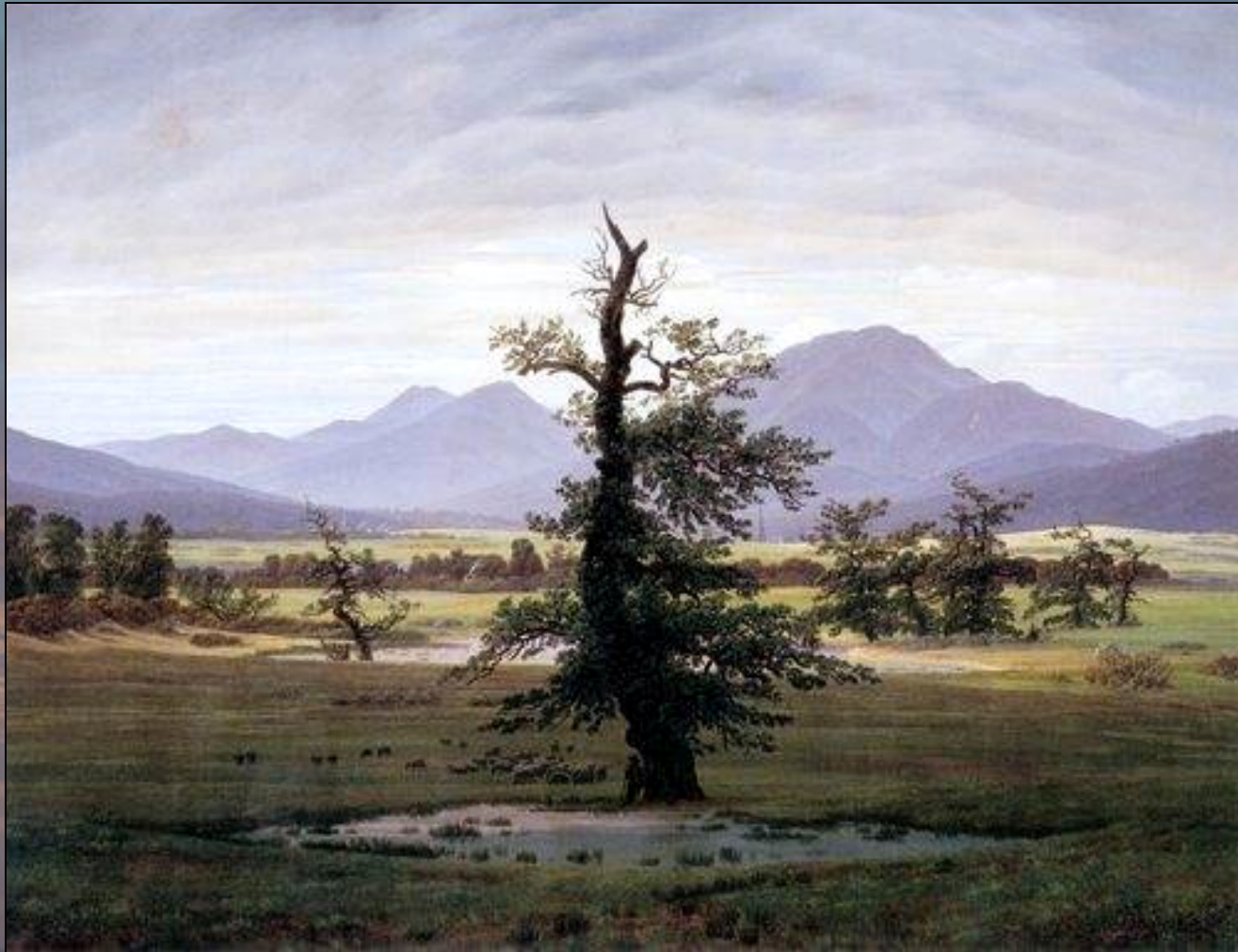
# *The Dreamer*

Gaspar David Friedrich, 1835



# *Solitary Tree*

Caspar David Friedrich, 1823





# 3. The Power & Fury of Nature

# Characteristics of Romanticism

## Glorification of Nature:

- Peaceful, restorative qualities [an escape from industrialization and the dehumanization it creates].
- Awesome, powerful, horrifying aspects of nature.
  - Indifferent to the fate of humans.
  - Overwhelming power of nature.

# *An Avalanche in the Alps*

Philip James de Loutherbourg, 1803



*Sunset After a Storm On the  
Coast of Sicily – Andreas*



# *The Deluge*

Francis Danby, 1840





# *Tree of Crows*

Caspar David Friedrich, 1822



# *The Wreck of the Hope (aka The Sea of Ice)*



# *Shipwreck* – Joseph Turner,




*The Raft of the Medusa*  
Théodore Géricault, 1819



# *The Eruption of Vesuvius - John*





4. Science  
Can Be  
Dangerous!

*Isaac Newton – William Blake,*



# *Dr. Frankenstein's Adam & Eve??*







5. The "New"  
Technology  
Is Dehumanizing

*Rain, Steam, and Speed*  
Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1844



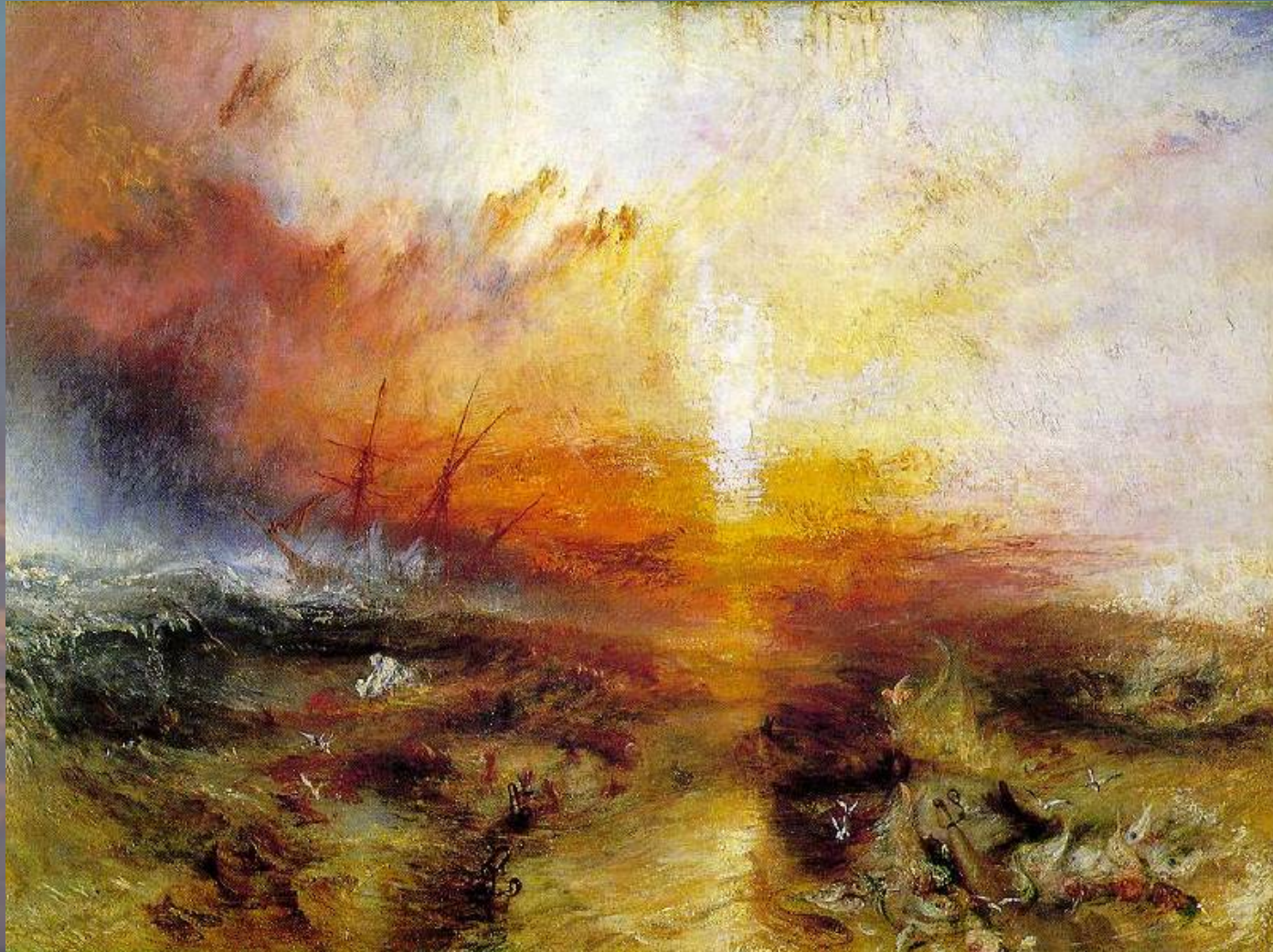
*Rain,  
Steam,  
& Speed*

(details)



# *The Slave Ship*

Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1842





*The  
Slave  
Ship*

(details)

6. Romanticizing

Country Life

# *Flatford Mill* – John Constable,





# *The Corn Field*

John  
Constable,  
1826



# *The Hay Wain* - John Constable,





7. The Gothic:  
"Romanticizing"  
the Middle Ages

# Characteristics of Romanticism

## Revival of Past Styles:

- Gothic & Romanesque revival.
- “Neo-Gothic” architectural style.
- Medieval ruins were a favorite theme for art and poetry.

# *Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop's Ground*



# *Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows*



# *Hadleigh Castle - John Constable,*



# *Eldena Ruin*

Caspar David Friedrich, 1825



*Winter Landscape with Church*  
Caspar David Friedrich, 1811





# *British Houses of Parliament* 1840-1865



8. The Exotic,  
the Occult,  
and the Macabre!

# Characteristics of Romanticism The Supernatural:

- Ghosts, fairies, witches, demons.
- The shadows of the mind—dreams & madness.
- The romantics rejected materialism in pursuit of spiritual self-awareness.
- They yearned for the unknown and the unknowable.

*Cloister Cemetery in the Snow*  
Caspar David Friedrich, 1817-1819



# *Abbey in an Oak Forest*

Caspar David Friedrich, 1809-1810



*Mad Woman  
With a  
Mania  
of Envy*

Theodore  
Gericault,  
1822-1823



# *Pity* - William Blake, 1795





*The Great  
Red  
Dragon and  
the Woman  
Clothed  
with the Sun*

William Blake,  
1808-1810



# *Stonehenge* - John Constable, 1836



# *Nightmare (The Incubus)*

Henry Fuseli, 1781



# *Manfred and the Witch of the Alps* John Martin - 1837





# *Witches Sabbath*

Francisco  
Goya,  
1798

# *Procession of Flagellants on Good Friday*



*Saturn  
Devours  
His Son*

Francisco  
Goya,  
1819-1823



# 9. Nationalism

*Greece on the  
Ruins of  
Missolonghi*

Eugène  
Delacroix, 1827





*Liberty Leading the People*  
Eugène Delacroix, 1830





## Detail of the Musket Bearer

Delacroix,  
himself

# *The Rise of the Carthaginian Empire*



*His Majesty's Ship, "Victory"*  
(*Trafalgar*) - John Constable, 1806





*An Officer of the  
Imperial Horse  
Guard*

Théodore  
Géricault, 1814

*Napoleon  
at the  
St. Bernard  
Pass*

David,  
1803



*The Shooting of May 3, 1808*  
Francisco Goya, 1815



*Pandemonium* - John Martin,  
1841







10. Interest in  
Exotic  
Foreign Lands

# Characteristics of Romanticism

## Exoticism:

- The sexy “other.”
- A sense of escape from reality.
- A psychological/moral justification of imperialism?

# *Grand Canal, Venice*

Joseph Mallord William Turner, 1835



# *Massacre of Chios* - Eugène Delacroix,



# *The Fanatics of Tangiers*

Eugène Delacroix, 1837-1838



# *The Sultan of Morocco and His Entourage*



# *Women of Algiers in Their Apartment* Eugène Delacroix, 1834



# *The Turkish Bath*

Jean Auguste Ingres, 1852-1863





# *The Bullfight* - Francisco Goya



# *Charge of the Mamelukes, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1808*



*The Royal Pavillion at Brighton*  
John Nash, 1815-1823





# 11. Return to Christian Mysteries

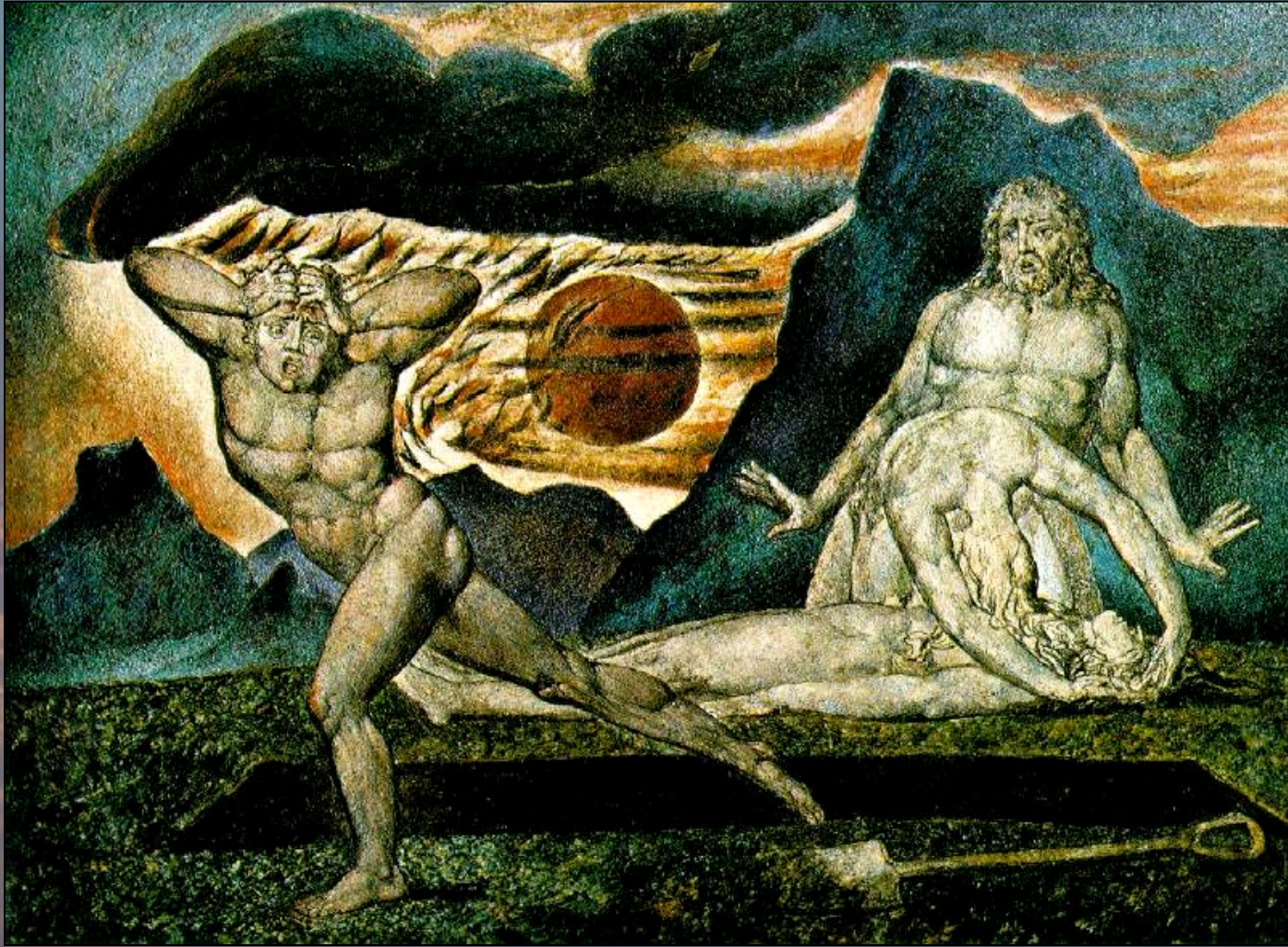
*God as the Architect* - William Blake, 1794



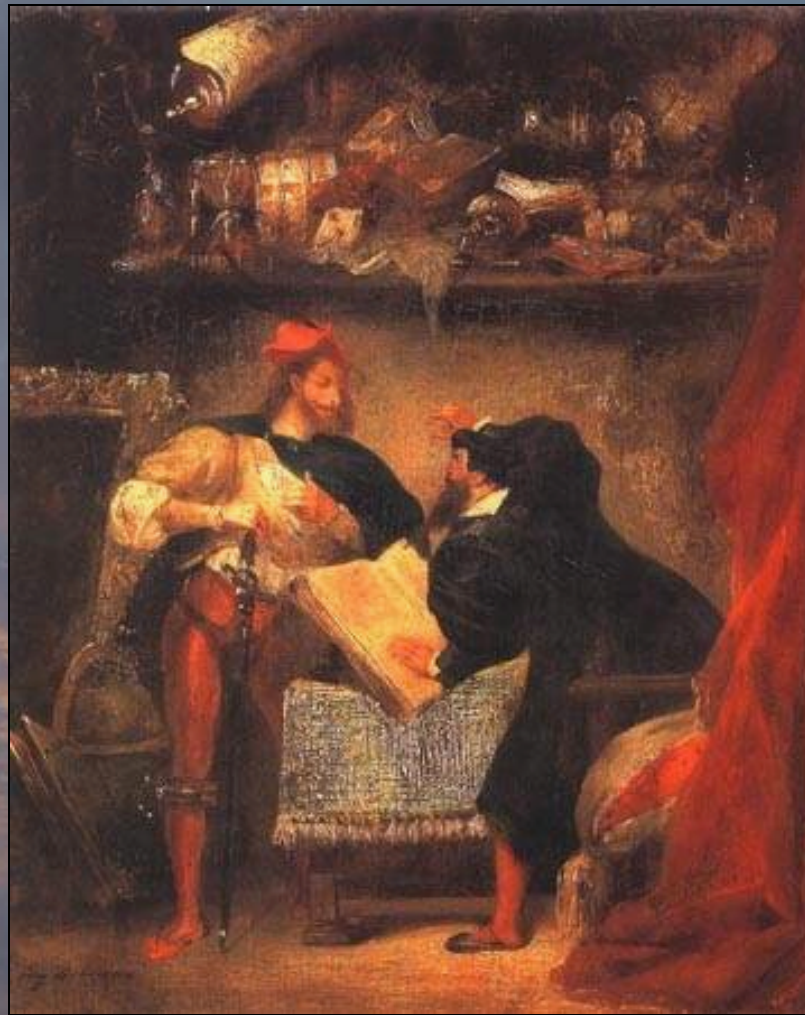
*Elohim Creating Abraham*  
William Blake, 1805



# *Body of Abel Found by Adam and Eve*



*Faust and Mephistopheles*  
Eugène Delacroix, 1826-1827





# *The Seventh Plague of Egypt* John Martin, 1823



*The Cathedral*

Gaspar David  
Friedrich,  
1818





*The Cathedral*  
*(details)*

Gaspar David  
Friedrich,  
1818

# The Great Age of the Novel

## e Gothic Novel:

*Jane Eyre* - Charlotte Bronte (1847)

*Wuthering Heights* - Emily Bronte (1847)

## e Historical Novel:

*Ivanhoe* - Sir Walter Scott (1819)

*Les Miserables* - Victor Hugo (1862)

*The Three Musketeers* - Alexander Dumas  
(1844)

# The Great Age of the Novel

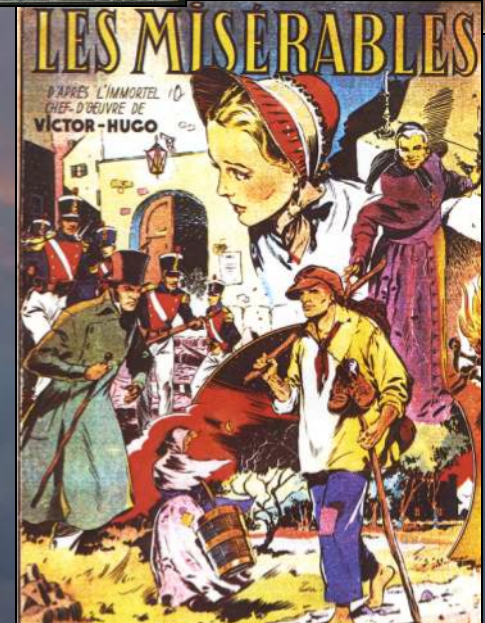
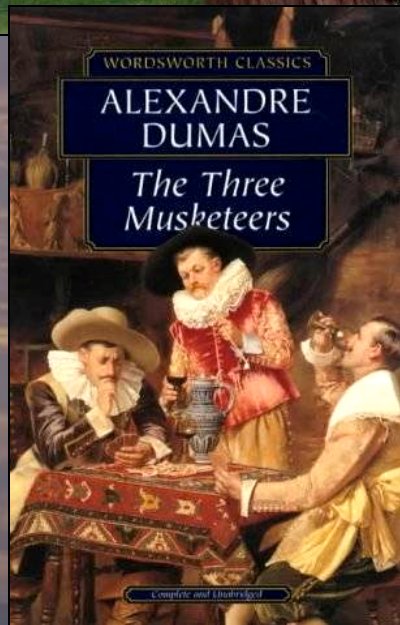
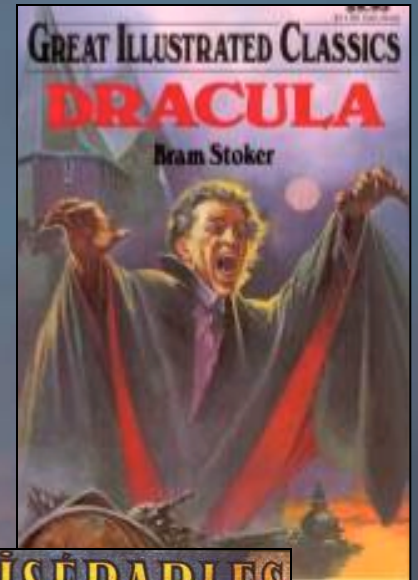
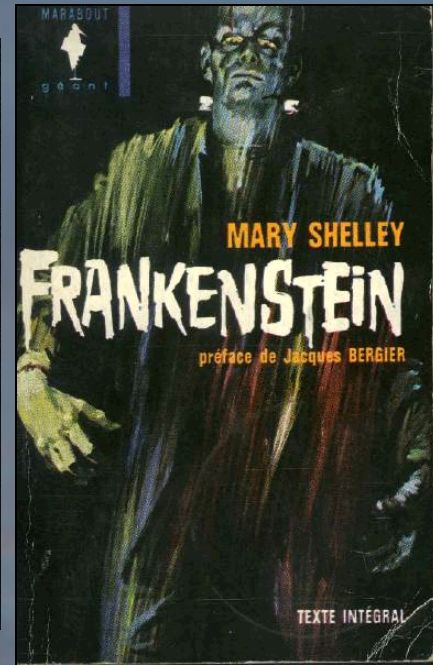
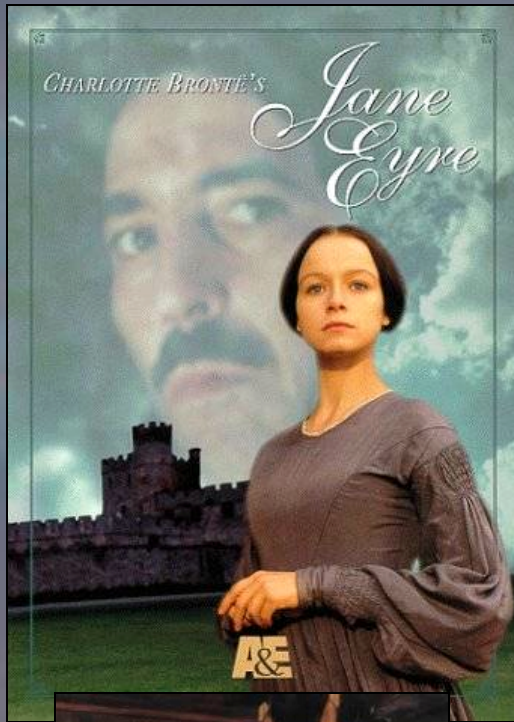
## e Science Fiction Novel:

*Frankenstein* - Mary Shelley (1817)

*Dracula* - Bramm Stoker (1897)

## e Novel of Purpose:

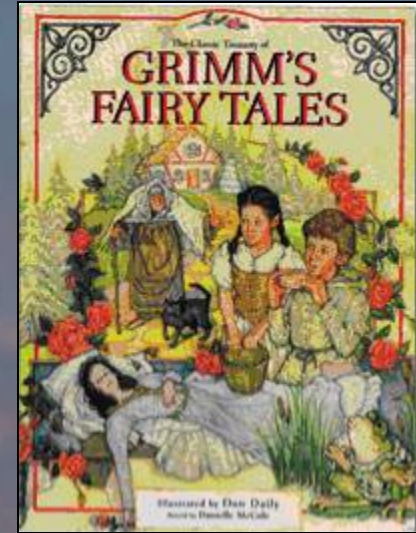
*Hugh Trevar* - Thomas Holcroft (1794)



# Other Romantic Writers

## Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

- *Grimm's Fairy Tales*  
(1812-1816)



Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

- *Faust* (1806-1832)

# The Romantic Poets

- Percy Byssche Shelley
- Lord Byron (George Gordon)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- William Wordsworth
- John Keats
- William Blake



George  
Gordon's  
(Lord Byron)  
Poem

*The  
Prisoner  
of Chillon*

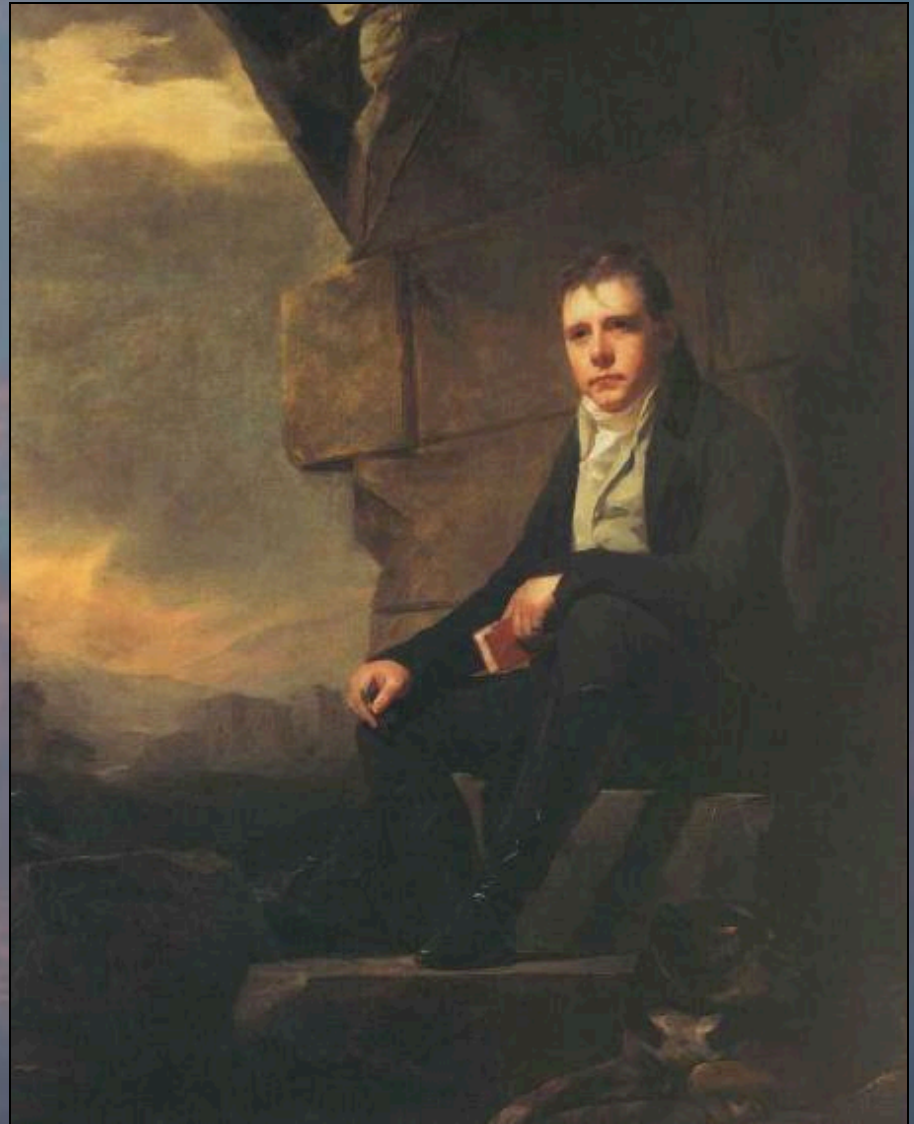
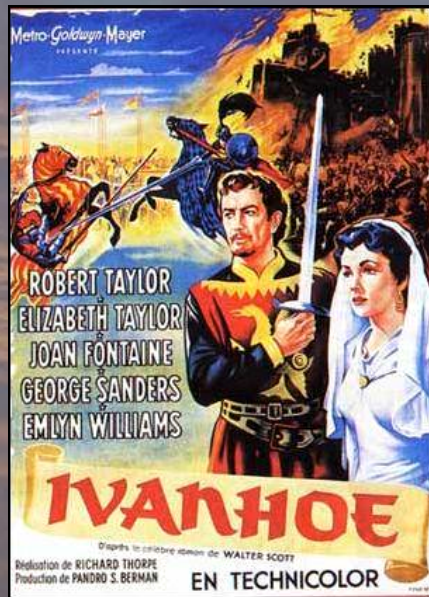




Mary  
Shelley

*Frankenstei  
n*

Sir  
Walter  
Scott  
*Ivanhoe*





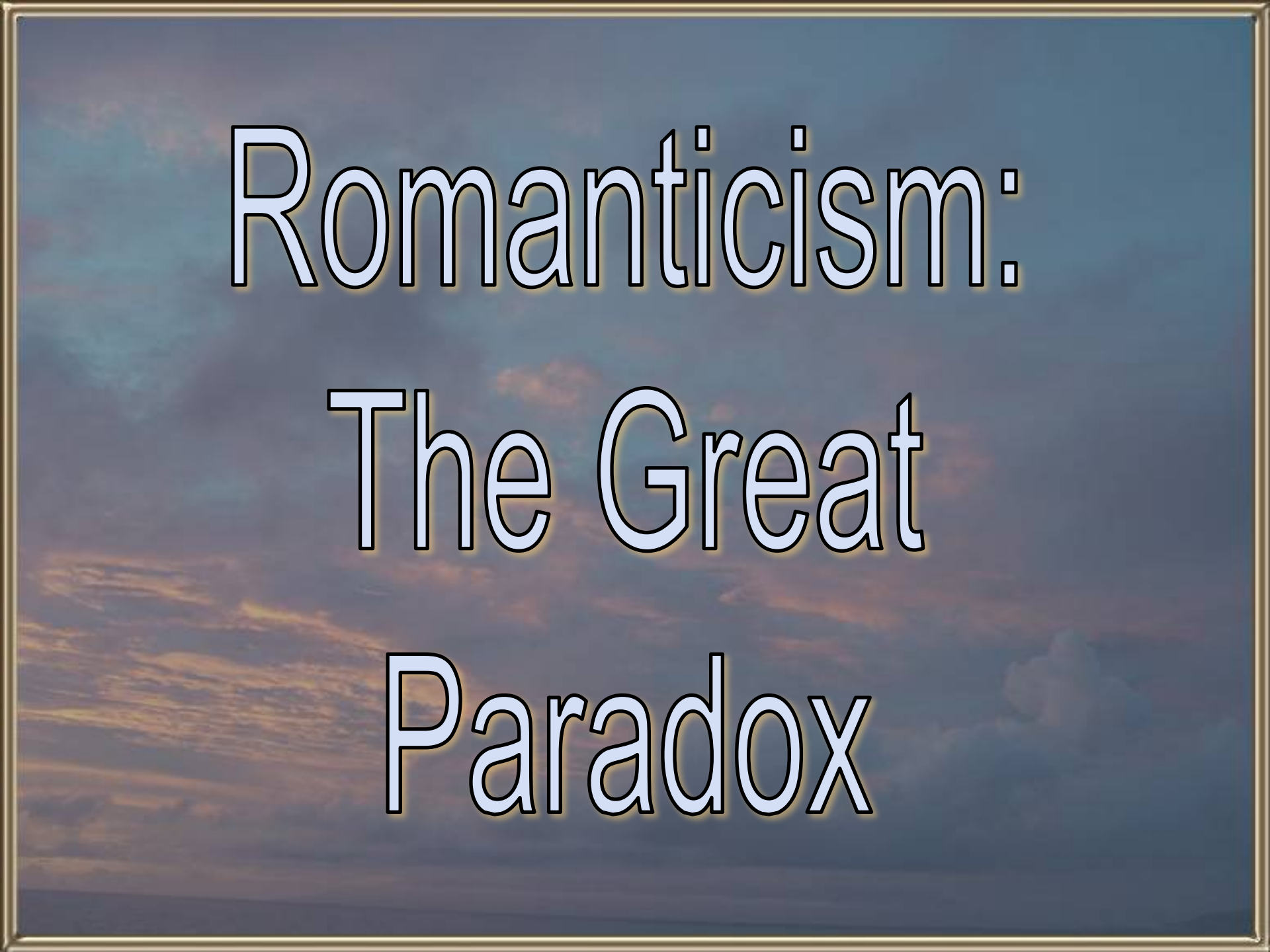
William  
Wordsworth's  
Poem,

*Tintern  
Abbey*

Samuel  
Taylor  
Coleridge's  
Poem,

*The Rime  
of the  
Ancient  
Mariner*





Romanticism:  
The Great  
Paradox

# The Political Implications

- e Romanticism could reinforce the greatest themes of political liberalism or political conservatism.
- e Contributed to growing nationalist movements.
  - The concepts of the *Volk* and the *Volkgeist*.
  - The uniqueness of cultures was emphasized.

# Bibliographic Sources

- *CGFA: A Virtual Art Museum.*

<http://cgfa.sunsite.dk/fineart.htm>

- “Romanticism” on *Artchive.*

[http://artchive.com/artchive/  
romanticism.html](http://artchive.com/artchive/romanticism.html)



# The Spirit of the Age

(1790-1850)

- e A sense of a shared vision among the Romantics.
- e Early support of the French Revolution.
- e Rise of the individual → alienation.
- e Dehumanization of industrialization.
- Radical poetics / politics → an obsession with violent change.