

Lord Byron: *Don Juan*, part 2

- I. Canto One now turns to Don Juan's education
 - A. Mother is very concerned that he receive proper education for nobleman of Spain
 - B. Is concerned that he not be exposed to anything racy or suggestive
 - C. But Juan is reading classics, with lusty Greek and Roman gods and goddesses
 - D. His edition edits out racy parts, but includes them all in an appendix (easier to find)
- II. Other temptations
 - A. Donna Inez is careful only to have servants who are either old or ugly
 - B. However, Donna Inez has a close friend, Donna Julia, who is exotically beautiful (a hint of Moorish blood)
 - 1. Donna Julia is 23 and her husband is 50 (Don Juan is 16 at this point)
 - 2. Byron includes several satiric references to the number 50 ("I've told you fifty times," etc.)
 - 3. As a family friend Julia is around Juan often, but caresses that were innocent when he was a child are not so now
 - 4. She begins to fall in love with him, though she tries to resist it
 - 5. Many satiric allusions to Romantic love poetry
 - 6. Juan, too, is quite drawn to Donna Julia
 - 7. Both struggle against their passion, in vain (references to the hot climate of Spain)
 - 8. Their love is consummated on the sixth of June (precision in dating and timing this event)
 - C. Fast forward to a night in November
 - 1. Don Juan is in Donna Julia's chamber, when her husband arrives, suspecting something
 - 2. Don Alfonso and his servants (including his lawyer) search the room in vain
 - 3. Don Juan is hiding *in* the bed, not under it
 - 4. Donna Julia weeps and protests her innocence (a good act)
 - 5. All is apparently well, until Don Alfonso stumbles over a pair of shoes—men's shoes
 - 6. Don Alfonso runs out to get his sword, Don Juan runs from the room, a lively fight ensues, but he escapes
 - D. The narrator tells us, "Here ends this canto," and proceeds to go on for 34 more stanzas
 - 1. Donna Julia enters a convent
 - 2. Don Juan is exiled by ship
 - 3. This sets up the adventures that follow