

T.S. Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*, Chapter 17 ("On Poesy or Art"), 1817

In every work of art there is a reconcilment of the external with the internal; the conscious is so impressed on the unconscious as to appear in it; as compared mere letters inscribed on a tomb with figures themselves constituting the tomb. He who combines the two is the man of genius.

Keats - Letters on the notion of imagination

Letter to Benjamin Bailey, 8 October 1817

[A] long Poem is a test of Invention which I take to be the Polar Star of Poetry, as Fancy is the sails, and Imagination the Rudder.

Letter to Benjamin Bailey, 22 November 1817

[. . .] But I am running my head into a Subject which I am certain I could not do justice to under five years study and 3 vols *octavo*—and moreover long to be talking about the Imagination—[. . .] I am certain of nothing but of the holiness of the Heart's affections and the truth of Imagination—What the imagination seizes as Beauty must be truth—whether it existed before or not—for I have the same Idea of all our Passions as of Love they are all in their sublime, creative of essential Beauty—In a Word, you may know my favorite Speculation by my first Book and the little song I sent in my last—which is a representation from the fancy of the probable mode of operating in these Matters—The Imagination may be compared to Adam's dream—he awoke and found it truth.