

## **Write a note on Longinus' idea of the Sublime.**

Longinus, a Greek literary critic and philosopher who lived in the 3rd century AD, is credited with formulating one of the earliest and most influential theories on the concept of the sublime. His work, often referred to as "On the Sublime" or "Peri Hypsous," explores the nature of elevated or sublime writing and its impact on readers.

Longinus viewed the sublime as an elevated, transcendent quality in literature that arouses awe, admiration, and even a sense of reverence in the audience. Unlike other classical theorists who focused on rhetoric and stylistic devices, Longinus was concerned with the emotional and psychological effects of language. For him, the sublime was not merely a product of skillful composition but an innate quality that could elevate a work beyond the ordinary.

Key elements of Longinus' idea of the sublime include:

**Elevation and Grandeur:** Longinus believed that the sublime was characterized by a sense of elevation and grandeur. This could be achieved through the use of lofty language, powerful imagery, and the portrayal of significant ideas.

**Intensity of Expression:** The sublime, according to Longinus, required a degree of intensity in expression. This could involve the use of strong emotions, vivid descriptions, and forceful language to create a profound impact on the reader.

**Emotional Effect:** Longinus argued that sublime writing should evoke strong emotions in the audience, such as awe, fear, and admiration. He believed that great literature should transport readers beyond the mundane and engage them on a deep emotional level.

**Inspiration and Enthusiasm:** Longinus emphasized the role of inspiration in achieving the sublime. He contended that a writer's passion for their subject matter, combined with a mastery of language, could result in a work that inspired enthusiasm and reverence in the audience.

**Transcendence of the Ordinary:** The sublime, according to Longinus, transcended ordinary language and rhetoric. It went beyond the everyday and mundane, reaching for the extraordinary and the divine.

Longinus' ideas on the sublime have had a lasting influence on literary criticism and aesthetics. His emphasis on the emotional and transcendent qualities of literature has resonated through the centuries, impacting subsequent generations of writers, poets, and critics who sought to create works that inspire awe and elevate the human spirit.