

1815

**WRITTEN ON THE DAY THAT MR. LEIGH HUNT
LEFT PRISON**

John Keats

**Keats, John (1795-1821) - Widely regarded as the most talented of the English romantic poets, Keats, whose work was poorly received during his lifetime, could not have foreseen his later recognition. Ironically, he wrote for his own epitaph: "Here lies one whose name was writ in water." Written on the Day that Mr Leigh Hunt Left Prison (1815) - Mr. Hunt, Keats' first publisher, had been in jail for written criticism of the Prince Regent. Opening line: What though, for showing truth to flatter'd state,
...**

THE DAY MR LEIGH HUNT LEFT PRISON

What though, for showing truth to flatter'd state,
Kind Hunt was shut in prison, yet has he,
In his immortal spirit, been as free
As the sky-searching lark, and as elate.
Minion of grandeur! think you he did wait?
Think you he naught but prison walls did see,
Till, so unwilling, thou unturn'dst the key?
Ah, no! far happier, nobler was his fate!
In Spenser's halls he stray'd, and bowers fair,
Culling enchanted flowers; and he flew
With daring Milton through the fields of air:
To regions of his own his genius true
Took happy flights.
Who shall his fame impair
When thou art dead, and all thy wretched crew?

THE END