

PRÁCTICA 8. PERCY B. SHELLEY

Mutability

We are as clouds that veil the midnight moon;
How restlessly they speed, and gleam, and quiver,
Streaking the darkness radiantly! -yet soon
Night closes round, and they are lost for ever:

Or like forgotten lyres, whose dissonant strings
Give various response to each varying blast,
To whose frail frame no second motion brings
One mood or modulation like the last.

We rest. -- A dream has power to poison sleep;
We rise. -- One wandering thought pollutes the day;
We feel, conceive or reason, laugh or weep;
Embrace fond woe, or cast our cares away:

It is the same! -- For, be it joy or sorrow,
The path of its departure still is free:
Man's yesterday may ne'er be like his morrow;
Nought may endure but Mutability.

8.1. ANALYSING A TEXT COMMENTARY (Shelley, *Mutability*). Analyse this commentary and answer the questions below:

This is a very known poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley, a poet of the Romantic period.

The **main concern** of this poem is the life and the passing of time. Specially, the key idea of the poem is that the life is a change, all things in the life change and maybe what we have today we won't have tomorrow.

The **I voice** in the poem is the speaker, who addresses the poem to us, to show us his reflections about life.

The speaker structures the poem in **four stanzas** and in each one there are four lines.

From line 1 to line 4, the speaker compares the human being with clouds. In line 2 the speaker refers to the impatience of the clouds, like them we are impatient, we live with impatience each moment and we shine in our actions but with the time the shine and the impatience vanish. The line 3 reflects how the clouds appear and disappear like us.

From line 5 to line 8, the speaker references to the loss of things. In line 5 , the lyres representate something learned, lived in the past and now are losted. From line 9 to the end of the poem, the speaker reflects more intensive about life. The speaker argues that always something can damage a day or a situation. Besides, we can feel happy or sad, we can worry about problems or we can omit them because like the speakers says in line13 “It is the same” because we will only obtain changes. To conclude the poem the speaker emphasizes the idea of the poem, nothing endure in the life, we only have changes.

In my opinion in the poem, the life is reflected like something without value, the life change and the things that the life gives us disappear.

1. Do you think this is a correct commentary?
2. What aspects do you think the author has overlooked?
3. What are the mistakes you find in the commentary?
4. What issues do you think she has commented well?
5. What would you have added to her commentary?
6. In what ways do you think the commentary can be improved?
7. What mark would you give to this commentary?