

PRÁCTICA 9. LORD BYRON

When we two parted

When we two parted
In silence and tears,
Half broken-hearted
To sever for years,
Pale grew thy cheek and cold,
Colder thy kiss;
Truly that hour foretold
Sorrow to this.

The dew of the morning
Sank chill on my brow -
It felt like the warning
Of what I feel now.
Thy vows are all broken,
And light is thy fame:
I hear thy name spoken,
And share in its shame.

They name thee before me,
A knell in mine ear;
A shudder come o'er me -
Why wert thou so dear?
They know not I knew thee,
Who knew thee too well: -
Long, long shall I rue thee,
Too deeply to tell.

In secret we met -
In silence I grieve,
That thy heart could forget,
Thy spirit deceive.
If I should meet thee
After long years,
How should I greet thee? -
With silence and tears.

9.1. Answer the following questions about this poem:

1. What are the characters appearing in this poem?
2. What is the mood of the I voice?
3. When is the action of the poem taking place? How many tenses are involved in the poem?

4. What do we know about the addressee? Do you think this information is accurate?
5. What has happened between the I voice and the addressee?
6. Do you think the lady is dead (physically) or dead to the I voice (emotionally)?
7. What do you think is going to happen in the future between them, if, as the I voice says, they meet again?
8. How do you think this poem reflects lovers' feelings today? DO you think this is a poem for all times?
9. Consider the repetition of "silence and tears" at the beginning and at the end of the poem. Do you think the poem has a cyclical structure or is there any actual evolution in it?
10. Consider this stanza Lord Byron wrote as the ending of the poem:

Fanny was a married woman, Lady Frances Webster. Lord Byron decided to leave this final stanza out of the poem to keep the identity of Lady Webster secret.

Then, fare thee well, Fanny,
Now doubly undone,
To prove false unto many
As faithless to One,
Thou art past all recalling
Even would I recall,
For the woman once falling
Forever must fall.

- Do you think this last stanza supports or challenges your ideas about the poem?
- Is the poem better off without this final stanza?
- Do you think the final stanza is necessary, and that it rounds off the poem?
- In what ways do the feelings of the I voice change in this final stanza with regard to the feelings expressed in the poem?
- Does your opinion towards the I voice change when reading the final stanza?
- Do you find the I voice's attitude typical of his period? Does this attitude still exist today?