

## **AN INTRODUCTION INTO POETRY**

### **"The Eagle"**

By Alfred, Lord Tennyson

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;

Close to the sun in lonely lands,

Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;

He watches from his mountain walls,

And like a thunderbolt he falls.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson is a Victorian poet , he is classified as an imagistic poet which means that his poems full of images and symbols. Later, they called him the sea poet because he wrote about sea and nature in most of his poems. He symbolize sea as many things in the poems.

**New words:**

Clasps: catch

Crag: sharp rock

Crooked: curve

Wrinkled: lines on the face

Beneath: under

**He clasps the crag with crooked hands;**

The poet describes the eagle as a strong large bird who is catching the sharp rock with his curved claws. He describes him when he was on the top of the mountain watching the nature around him.

**Close to the sun in lonely lands,**

The eagle stands lonely on the mountain , observing all the nature around him. The poet is glorifying the eagle by putting the eagle close to the sun.

**Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.**

The eagle is surrounded by blue sky. The blue sky forms a "ring" or circle around the eagle. The eagle stands on the mountain between two elements of the nature "the sky and the sea". He was in the middle of the azures world.

### **The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;**

The sea is a symbol of anger, strength and cruelty but here, the sea is weak and in old age . the poet intends to do this to glorify the eagle when he was on the mountain and the sea was under him.

### **He watches from his mountain walls,**

The eagle was on the mountain observes everything around him. The poet personifies the eagle as a human being when he makes the eagle have a home and owns it.

### **And like a thunderbolt he falls**

The poet describes the eagle observing his victims and falls to catch it like the thunderbolt.

The literal meaning of the poem is describing the strong eagle and how he could catch his victims.

The implied meaning is that the life has two sides light and dark , and we must be careful from the evil things to protect ourselves.

The eagle represents the evil things in our life and he is surrounded by good and beautiful things like sea creatures .

### Figures of speech:

He clasps the crag with crooked hands; (**image**)

Ring'd with the azure world, he stands ( **image**)

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls; (**image**)

Image: when we read it, we create an image and picture in our mind)

The wrinkled sea (**personification**)

The poet personifies the sea as an old man with lines in his face.

Crawls ( **personification**)

the poet personifies the sea as a baby creeping.

His mountain (**personification**)

the poet personifies the eagle as a king sitting on his thrown .

And like a thunderbolt (**simile**)

The poet likens the eagle to the fast of the thunderbolt.

Sound devices:

Clasps, crag , crooked: **Alliteration**, **Assonance**

He , his: **Alliteration**

Lonely , lands: **Alliteration**

Sea , beneath: **Assonance**

**The rhyme scheme:**

aaa bbb each three lines are called (tercet)

**The scansion:**

He clasps / the crag/ with croo/ ked hands;

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Iambic Tetrameter

THE END