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Exploration of Theme



"Contemplation" by Ken Steinkamp; www.kensteinkamp.com

In this new section, we aim to explore themes in popular literature, poetry,

plays, art and music. In doing so, we gain new understandings and learn more through the words of the greats and the potent images of our collective histories. Write in, tell us your interpretations of your favorite works, and feel free to suggest the next piece of culture we research to divine its theme! Contact us! themes@thewriteplaceatthewritetime.org

Robert Lee Frost, named after Confederate general Robert E. Lee, was an individual of great and complex character. He is known for his deep connections with nature portrayed in his poetry. First published in 1892, he was an enlightened writer from the start and one of his early works from the period of 1892-1913, is the subject of this Exploration of Theme.

"Into my Own", the poem that begins his collection entitled, *A Boy's Will*, gives us a glimpse into his young, impassioned mind. The poem is about initiations facing fears, daring and taking chances to develop the self and grow within. It was from this collection of early works that we learn of his romantic inclinations his frustrations, and the wisdom of his observations growing from youth into adulthood:

Into my Own

*"One of my wishes is that those dark trees,
So old and firm they scarcely show the breeze,
Were not, as 'twere, the merest mask of gloom,
But stretched away unto the edge of doom.*

*I should not be withheld but that some day
Into their vastness I should steal away,
Fearless of ever finding open land,
Or highway where the slow wheel pours the sand.*

*I do not see why I should e'er turn back,
Or those should not set forth upon my track
To overtake me, who should miss me here
And long to know if still I held them dear.*

*They would not find me changed from him they knew-
Only more sure of all I thought was true"- Robert Frost, Early Poems of Robert*

Frost, pg. 43

Frost said of this poem's meaning, "The youth is persuaded that he will be rather more than less himself for having forsworn the world."

We'd like to know what you think of this poem and how Frost's work may have touched upon some of your own experiences. Write in to themes@thewriteplaceatthewritetime.org

*References and Recommended Reading: **Early Poems by Robert Frost**, Crown Publishers, Inc., © 1981 and **Robert Frost: The Early Years, 1874-1915** by Lawrence Thompson, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, © 1966*

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