

"Death of the Bird" by Alec Derwent Hope

For every bird there is this last migration;
Once more the cooling year kindles her heart;
With a warm passage to the summer station
Love pricks the course in lights across the chart.

* Movement of ideas demarcated by sentences ending w/ quatrains & periods

* triptych = 3-groups of stanzas w/ simil. focus

* elegiac quatrains (of iambic pentameter w/ altern. rhyme)

* tone = quiet + restrained to indifference @ end

* feminine rhyme = 1st + 3rd lines (last 2-syllables rhyme + accent falls on the penultimate syllable)

* (in iambic pent., this makes for an 11th-syll. line) = a musical quality diffic. to do in Engl. = techn. virtuosity imparts quality of spontaneity + sadness of truth conveyed *

* interplay bet. masculin. -ne rhymes + femin. = mimic female bird + male poet/speaker

Year after year a speck on the map, divided
By a whole hemisphere, summons her to come;
Season after season, sure and safely guided,
Going away she is also coming home.

And being home, memory becomes a passion
With which she feeds her brood and straws her nest,
Aware of ghosts that haunt the heart's possession
And exiled love mourning within the breast.

The sands are green with a mirage of valleys;
The palm tree casts a shadow not its own;
Down the long architrave of temple or palace
Blows a cool air from moorland scarps of stone.

And day by day the whisper of love grows stronger;
That delicate voice, more urgent with despair,
Custom and fear constraining her no longer,
Drives her at last on the waste leagues of air.

A vanishing speck in those inane dominions,
Single and frail, (uncertain of her place,)
Alone in the bright host of her companions,
Lost in the blue unfriendliness of space.

She feels it close now, the appointed season;
The invisible thread is broken as she flies;
Suddenly, without warning, without reason,
The guiding spark of instinct winks and dies.

Try as she will, the trackless world delivers
No way, the wilderness of light no sign;
Immense, complex contours of hills and rivers
Mock her small wisdom with their vast design.

The darkness rises from the eastern valleys,
And the winds buffet her with their hungry breath,
And the great earth, with neither grief nor malice,
Receives the tiny burden of her death.

* futile quest for transcendence = dark sense of abandonment in an unforgiving universe/world the natural order is chillingly impersonal, but evokes the mystery of life

not a symbol? for a spiritual allegory for transcendence yes!

repetition of "love" "home" "heart" = denot. value of life

cool air reminds bird to migrate

foreshadow: disoriented "uncertain"

metaphor: pull to migration; death these words mimic the suddenness of death

literal + figurative?

female/bird is metonymy for "feelings"

insignificant

seasonal migration memories drives the bird

lost parents or love? children

slant rhyme

babies leave/fly away

slant rhyme

main beams

personific.

metaphor

(-) met.

slant rhyme

personific.

* projection of human emotions on nature

mocked by the universe's vast design

personif.

personif.

personif.

slant rhyme

* read @ wife's funeral > synonym. Bird for woman?

expl. not capital./suggest pagan gods)

→ ode - for/honor?

"To a Dead Bird" by Martha Gilbert Dickinson Bianchi

1st pov.
Flying - I beheld her at heaven's gate entreat.
Wounded by the hunter and fallen at my feet
Her ruffled feathers, glazing eyes,
Were as the lost illusion men despise.

soaring high/glorious/bound - (quatrain only)

- simple form + rhyme scheme (AABB)

- elegiac couplets

- sort of a clue poem

who?

very nature of life + death > uncertainty

* not speaker

* religion? seeking Heaven? - so close

- speaker = hunting dog