

Evening Hawk

BY ROBERT PENN WARREN

↑ repres. Grim Reaper
end of life - it doesn't care about human life or error or time

m. represent Time
flies by

imagery
descript.
long
lines

From plane of light to plane, wings dipping through
Geometries and orchids that the sunset builds,
Out of the peak's black angularity of shadow, riding
The last tumultuous avalanche of
Light above pines and the guttural gorge,
The hawk comes.

darkness
repres. death
impending/suicide

short
line
abrupt

His wing
Scythes down another day, his motion
Is that of the honed steel-edge, we hear
The crashless fall of stalks of Time.

like death
ref. Grim Reaper = sharp = m. theme of death of day/life

1st pov.

oxymoron

enjambment

The head of each stalk is heavy with the gold of our error.

grain stalks repres. Time

symb. human greed/misplaced purpose

pay
attention

Look! Look! he is climbing the last light
Who knows neither Time nor error, and under
Whose eye, unforgiving, the world, unforgiven, swings
Into shadow.

indiffer.

Long now, the last thrush is still, the last bat
Now cruises in his sharp hieroglyphics. His wisdom
Is ancient, too, and immense. The star
Is steady, like Plato, over the mountain.

Greek allusion - philosoph. = wise
death inevitable in
legend lives on = wisdom

If there were no wind we might, we think, hear
The earth grind on its axis, or history
Drip in darkness like a leaking pipe in the cellar.

due to ignorance
of time, we don't learn from
the past; problems never fixed

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Evening hawk brings darkness & end of day
Themes - death, waste of time, human greed, wisdom thr. flight;
contrasts bet. light + dark / life & death;
entire poem is a metaphor for time passing quickly
which people are unaware