

* (1925) T.S. Eliot
Modernism

MISTAH KURTZ -- HE DEAD.

A penny for the Old Guy

epigraph (w/2-references)

slaves talk #1

pronoun 1st person

I est. binary opposites

#2 buy fireworks Day (1d to buy fireworks to burn straw men (reps. Fawkes) capital letters = proper noun)

We are the hollow men
We are the stuffed men

unified

Leaning together
Headpiece filled with straw. Alas!

sigh/sad

Our dried voices, when

We whisper together
Are quiet and meaningless

smile

As wind in dry grass

Or rats' feet over broken glass

In our dry cellar

Shape without form, shade without colour,

Paralysed force, gesture without motion;

synonym.

Those who have crossed

journey cap.

With direct eyes, to death's other Kingdom

Heaven

Remember us--if at all--not as lost

allusion to Inferno - souls lost/excluded from Heaven + Hell

Violent souls, but only

As the hollow men

The stuffed men.

opposed to we "

possible for the dead? II vision of position as one of H-men

Eyes I dare not meet in dreams

In death's dream kingdom

not Heaven / not Hell (not cap.)

These do not appear:

There, the eyes are

Sunlight on a broken column

metaphor

There, is a tree swinging

And voices are

In the wind's singing

personification

More distant and more solemn

Than a fading star.

metaphor

Let me be no nearer

In death's dream kingdom - He dark (not cap)

Let me also wear

Such deliberate disguises

Rat's coat, crowskin, crossed staves

shameful / scarecrow

In a field

Behaving as the wind behaves

personification

refers to another place/world of death full of despair/sorrow

* episodic
* free verse but HAS rhyming lines (broken) (start rhym.)
* NOT iambic pentam.
- a dummy
- lacks a soul; but has a body
Both linked ↑

* repetition most important lit. device = emphasize structure, words + ideas

* circular/repetitive + absurd like children singing "pear"

* antithetical = contrasts
* anaphora - repetit. of words or phrases @ start of line

* identical utterances (rept.)
* enjambment (sent.)
* deictic marks = we, those, (Parts I + IV) us, me, this, there

indicate space, time + person in text

* irony - consider self's stuffed, but are empty; alive but dead to meaning; "life in death"

* Hollow men - represent man's (slaves?) tragic existence / full of despair & disillusionment; archetype = Negative Way

No nearer--

Not that final meeting
In the twilight kingdom - Hell (not cap.)

III > descr. place / setting

This is the dead land
This is cactus land
Here the stone images - hard
Are raised, here they receive
The supplication of a dead man's hand
Under the twinkle of a fading star.

desert / dry

define = to pray to God

artist / sculptor / disembodied
like voice + eyes

Is it like this
In death's other kingdom - Heaven / Hell
Waking alone
At the hour when we are
Trembling with tenderness
Lips that would kiss
Form prayers to broken stone.

not *
Heaven / Hell

distant
or dying

false
idol

further develops

IV - mentions the place where
hollow men are
"valley of shadow
of death"

- broken stone
- stone images
- broken jaw
- broken column
- in Part 2 =
- useless / fractured like the men like reality
- everything around men is broken = fragment - spiritual condition

The eyes are not here
There are no eyes here

synonym.

In this valley of dying stars - personification / like hollow men
In this hollow valley
This broken jaw of our lost kingdoms > metaphor / person. f.

they're blind

In this last of meeting places - eventually will leave each other

We grope together and avoid speech
Gathered on this beach of the tumid river

silent

define: swollen

Greek myth, the river (Acheron) where souls must cross to reach afterlife

Sightless, unless - hope
The eyes reappear

As the perpetual star - smile

Multifoliate rose
Of death's twilight kingdom - expl.

The hope only
Of empty men.

soul-less
(a futile hope)

represent ret. to rich life
of youth / freshness / alive

* grope = to search blindly w/ hands / or sexual connot. // dbl. entendre

man's inability to speak; eat; to nourish

blind too

Complex / Creative

* setting = desert + nether world

* Speaker = dramatic monologue of sorts; fractured voice (s) connects to content

* Kurtz - as "hollow @ the core"
- hollow men = we dead people! servants / slaves

Part 5 = rhythm dramatically changes
 est. hopelessness for us all
 define = cactus thorny/sour phallic symbol in arid desert → infertile
 "Unity" we "child's rhyme/H. men gather + dance in a ritual"

musical breaks prev. stanzas
 Here we go round the prickly pear
 Prickly pear prickly pear
 Here we go round the prickly pear
 At five o'clock in the morning.

mulberry rounded song
 only clear refer. to time
 5am = time of resurrection/rebirth
 (hope) new day dawning

Between stanzas = structured liturgical tone like church verses - repetitive too
 defin. eucharistic rites for worship

Between the idea a
 And the reality b
 Between the motion c
 And the act d
 Falls the shadow
 For Thine is the Kingdom - Heaven

Between the conception
 And the creation
 Between the emotion
 And the response
 Falls the Shadow
 Life is very long

Between the desire
 And the spasm
 Between the potency
 and the existence
 Between the essence
 And the descent
 Falls the Shadow
 For Thine is the Kingdom

For Thine is
 Life is
 For Thine is the
 God

never ending → circular

represents analysis

cap. = Death

expl. complaint (too long)

alpha/begin.

omega/END

cap. Heaven

Anti = Lord's Prayer

oppositions: continuation thr.
 (i.e. idea/reality/motion/act/conception/
 breaks up bridge bet. idea & reality (creation)
 - emotion/response/desire/spasm
 potency/existence/essence/descent)
 "the shadow" falls in the middle of
 pairs (abstract) "the" = prospect interrupt.
 creation on all levels
 - most commonly repeated
 words = eyes/voices/stars/Kingdom
 - negation = (not) expression of
 sorrow + guilt

Scarecrow imagery - hollow/stuffed
 no soul // ↓ hay
 immobile
 - inanimate
 - in sun
 - corpse-like
 * eyes + voices = soul-lacking quiet
 = appallingly disembodied/independent

last stanza is repetitive + hopeless sums up theme of poem

This is the way the world ends
 This is the way the world ends
 This is the way the world ends
 (Not with a bang but a whimper.)

- recalls opening rhyme chorus
 universal voice/ritualistic chant
 w/ childlike sound

twilight → refer. to death/end of yrs./day

* fading star - doesn't exist or very distant - dying?

* Note = poem

* Most devastating irony = the extension of game ritual in liturgical form

- incoming Apocalypse completed w/ ironic excuse w/ a negation at the beginning "not"
 - humanity end not in grand way, but pathetic humiliating manner full of sorrow

180 diff. words but has 420 total!

lots of repetition