

"The Groundhog" by Richard Eberhart

In June, amid the golden fields,
I saw a groundhog lying dead.
Dead lay he; my senses shook,
And mind outshot our naked frailty.

There lowly in the vigorous summer
His form began its senseless change,
And made my senses waver dim
Seeing nature ferocious in him.

Inspecting close maggots' might alliter.
And seething cauldron of his being,
Half with loathing, half with a strange love,
I poked him with an angry stick.

The fever arose, became a flame
And Vigour circumscribed the skies,
Immense energy in the sun,
And through my frame a sunless trembling.

My stick had done nor good nor harm.
Then stood I silent in the day alliter.
Watching the object, as before;
And kept my reverence for knowledge of?

Trying for control, to be still,
To quell the passion of the blood;
Until I had bent down on my knees
Praying for joy in the sight of decay.

And so I left; and I returned
In Autumn strict of eye to see
The sap gone out of the groundhog,
But the bony sodden hulk remained

But the year had lost its meaning,
And in intellectual chains
I lost both love and loathing, alliter.
Mured up in the wall of wisdom. alliter.

Another summer took the fields again
Massive and burning, full of life,
But when I chanced upon the spot
There was only a little hair left,

And bones bleaching in the sunlight
Beautiful as architecture; smile
I watched them like a geometer, smile
And cut a walking stick from a birch.

It has been three years, now.
There is no sign of the groundhog.
I stood there in the whirling summer,
My hand capped a withered heart, alliter.

And thought of China and of Greece,
Of Alexander in his tent;
Of Montaigne in his tower,
Of Saint Theresa in her wild lament.

person

Symbol: not war

Summer

Symb. abundance wealth

* quatrains x 12-stanzas
* Progression of time = of awareness

* metamorphosis of dead + of speaker = symbol. Observer to philosopher

note = his energy in contrast to corpse

time lapse/fall = symbolism for upcom. winter

dust-to-dust > earth reclaimed body

symbolic of life/death cycle

ending ponders --- global = religion = nature = death > process universal ideas like death to all great ones = all end up like groundhog - does it matter all?

rect./parallel. (-) sorrow nature (elements)

synonym

metaph.

contrast love/hate

repetition (1/2 w/)

god

(+) inside-dark (-)

repetit.

derived religious

relig.

contrasts

oxymoron/parad.

metaph.

symbolic

metaphor

> expl.

time 1-yr.

contrasts

contrast

alliter.

time 3 yrs.

V relig.