

- * Vivid imagery
- * 3-stanzas (6-lines per = Sestets)
- * expands from callous observer to philos.

The Death of a Toad by Richard Wilbur

A toad the power mower caught, ^{→ accident}
 Chewed and clipped of a leg, with a ^{relig.} hobbling hop has got alliter.
 To the garden verge, and sanctuaried him
 Under the cineraria* leaves, in the shade
 Of the ashen and heartshaped leaves, in a dim,
 Low, and a final glade. _{death}

The rare original heartsblood goes,
 Spends in the earthen hide, in the folds and wizenings, flows
 In the gutters of the banked and staring eyes. He lies
 As still as if he would return to stone, simile
 And soundlessly attending, dies
 Toward some deep monotone,

^{↓ to Heaven} Toward misted and ebullient seas ^{softened tone / new pity}
 And cooling shores, toward lost Amphibia's emperies*. ^{related to man} ^{opulent reward = Heaven}
 Day dwindles, drowning and at length is gone
 In the wide and antique eyes, which still appear _{but do not (dead)}
 To watch, across the castrate lawn,
 The haggard daylight steer. _{foolishly cut}

* bleak landscape

adds to sense of loss

already felt = mourning > speaker reminds us all to care for lesser creatures

- * Toad mirrors humankind; demise from its own nature
- * Nature is mere victim of humans/machinery
- * Human spirit hopes for afterlife
- * Toad as emblematic of all nature "earth hidden"
 "antique" "original" "rare"
- * Technology mowing nature down = symbolism (Industrial Revolution); smallness of toad can be symbolic

- * stanza #1: observation ^{recorded}
- * stanza #2: symbolism noted by speaker leads to
- * stanza #3: reflection on life lost toad seen as valued/precious life

* cineraria - ornamental plant; place for heaping ashes of the cremated

* emperies = empires