

With works spanning the outbreak of WWI, Yeats' poems may reflect perspectives, however it is his desire to represent the "complete" experience of a man and the intensely otherworldly emotions that captivates readers.

One of Yeats' strongest emotions is the regret of becoming old and ^{to be reminded} ~~being~~ ^{of} these "spiritual" emotions are clearly illustrated in his poems, "The Second Coming", "Sailing to Byzantium" and "The Wild Swans at Coole". The idea of regret pervades throughout his works, particularly the poems he composed later in life.

The poem "THE SECOND COMING" employs a range of different techniques in its portrayal of regret. In this poem, Yeats' regret towards youth and Ireland are illustrated. The repetition in the stanzas "The falcon cannot hear the falconer" represents both the level of control in Ireland and also the inability for the aged (falconer) to communicate with the youth (falcon) at society. The religious symbolism in "Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born" portrays



Yeats's message that he wishes to be born again, and also that he, as an old aged person wants to be born into religion. My views with regards to this poem have largely been shaped by the works of T.S. Eliot and Lewis and their view of Yeats as a poet of human mortality. The paradox "here earthly is based upon the world" conveys the regretfulness of Yeats no longer being young.

The poem, SAILING TO BYZANTIUM also conveys this notion. Again my views have been shaped by the work of Eliot and Lewis. The title has been used to allude to "Byzantium" which is symbolic of spiritual and artistic perfection. This is indicated by the alliteration "the form Given goldsmiths make" this establishes Yeats desire to be reached, another of the intense emotions Yeats portrays. The Alliteration is also used in the stated "Fish flesh or food, would all swim by". This introduces the concept of Yeats regret he is no longer youthful, as the fish are "swimming up stream to reproduce". The central metaphor, "An aged man is but a passing thing, a faded coat upon



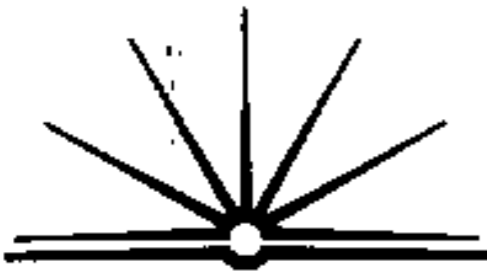
in which " illustrates how Yeats regrets his old age and wants to be faithful once more. Furthermore the metaphor, "There is no country for old men" reveals how Yeats no longer feels appet at Ireland due to his age and deeply regrets this due to his love for Ireland.

The poem THE WILD SWANS AT LOBLE also the notion of Yeats portrayed at the intense human emotions of regret. For this poem my understanding has been shaped by the reading of works relating to the Symbolist perspective, the word image "the woodland paths were dry" is used to represent the lack of sexual activity of Yeats in his final years. Yeats regrets missing opportunities in his earlier years due to his oppression with Maude Gonne. This is also illustrated in his use of Archaic language "Aime at fifty Swans" which is used to highlight that there is an odd number of swans, symbolic of Yeats being without a partner. The repetition, "love by love" further enhances his idea and directly supports Yeats' portrayal of regret within this poem. Finally the rhyming pattern within the



power is symbolic of the sexual activity that Yeats
regrets. However the pattern, which had been constant throughout
the poem, becomes forced and awkward in the final stanza,
and this is symbolic of the slowing down of Yeats's life.

However my understanding of the poem THE WILD SWANS
AP. COOTE has also been influenced by the work of Eliot
and his idea of the theory of Yeats as a poet of human
mortality. The line "the trees are in their autumn beauty,"
was the symbol of autumn, which represents decline to
illustrate how Yeats feels as though he is getting old, in
process he regrets. The repetition of "autumn" in the line "the
mistlehath autumn" is upon us further emphasizes this notion
of regret, with the adjective of mistlehath illustrating the course
amount of his past. The phrase "for how my heart is sore"
illustrates regret on the literal level as he regrets to see the
birds fly away as well as the regret illustrated in Yeats
lack of youthfulness. Finally the symbol of the swans
is employed by Yeats as swans do not show any signs



of copying intricate houses and Yeats regrets this.

It is therefore clear how Yeats explored the intense
human emotion of regret throughout his poems, particularly
~~THE SECOND COMING~~, ~~SAILING TO BYZANTIUM~~ and ~~THE
WILD SWANS AT COOLE~~. Furthermore, through the examination
of the texts reception through different contexts, it can be seen
that the concept of regret is common to these poems.