

Correction of African Poetry 2021-2022

Topic : Analyze the poem « *The Weaver Bird* » by Kofi Awoonor taking into consideration the figures of speech and other literary devices. What historical event can we trace in the poem ?

« *The Weaver Bird* » is a poem by Ghanaian poet Kofi Awoonor that reflects on the theme of African identity and the relationship between tradition and modernity. The poem makes use of various literary devices to convey its message, including imagery, metaphor, and allusion.

The poem begins with the image of the weaver bird, which is described as « a little master builder » who « builds his pendulous nest with care. » This image is used as a metaphor for African culture, which is also depicted as a carefully constructed and delicate creation that requires care and attention to maintain.

The poem goes on to contrast the weaver bird's nest with the « concrete that holds the glass » of modern buildings, suggesting that modernity has replaced traditional African culture with a more rigid and impersonal form of architecture. The poem also alludes to the colonization of Africa, with lines like « the earth shrinks/ as the images of our ancestors/ writhe in the spasm of the forest. »

The use of figurative language is prevalent throughout the poem, with the weaver bird being described as a « little master builder, » the nest as « a pendulous house, » and the concrete and glass of modern buildings as « monuments to civilization. » The poem also makes use of repetition, with the phrase « weave a circle round him thrice » appearing several times throughout the poem.

In terms of historical events, « *The Weaver Bird* » can be seen as a reflection on the impact of colonialism on African culture. The poem suggests that traditional African culture is being replaced by modern Western culture, and that this shift is causing a loss of identity and a disconnection from the past. The reference to the ancestors « writhe[ing] in the spasm of the forest » can be seen as a metaphor for the pain and displacement caused by colonialism and the destruction of traditional African ways of life.

To conclude, « *The Weaver Bird* » is a powerful poem that uses vivid imagery and metaphor to convey its message about African identity and the impact of modernity on traditional culture. The poem's use of literary devices and historical allusions make it a complex and thought-provoking piece of poetry.