***SUMMARY***

*The poet met a traveler who came from a remote land. He told the poet that he saw the remains of a statue in the desert.*

*Two huge legs made of stone stood and the remaining part of the statue – the upper body was missing.*

*Another part of the statue, the face lay on the sand nearby. It was damaged and broken into pieces.*

*The face of the statue had expressions of displeasure and a taunting smile. The wrinkles and lines of the face were also there.*

*The poet says that the sculptor who had made the statue had read the expressions on the Egyptian king Ramesses’s face very well as he was able to copy them onto his statue so accurately.*

*These expressions continued to exist even after the king’s death through this lifeless statue.*

*The sculptor’s hands copied the king’s ruthless expressions and mocked at them while the king’s stone heart brought out these expressions on his face.*

*At the base of the statue the words - "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!" were engraved.*

*The king introduced himself as Ozymandias, the most powerful king. He ordered all the powerful kings of the world to look at his huge statue and feel belittled in front of the mightiest king – Ozymandias.*

*The poet says that now nothing else other than this engraving remains. The statue broke down with the passage of time and its broken pieces could be seen lying around.*

*The vast desert stretched all around and it seemed to be endless. The statue of the great king Ozymandias was nowhere to be seen.*

The title ‘Ozymandias’ is the throne name of Egyptian king Ramesses. The poem talks about his foolish desire to immortalize himself by erecting a statue.

The poet meets a person who has been to an ancient place in the deserts, Egypt. He tells the poet about the ruined statue of the great powerful king, Ozymandias. It had been destroyed with the passage of time.

There were only the two legs which stood on a platform and the upper part of the body was nowhere to be seen. The face of the statue lay buried in the sand. He praises the talent of the artist as the minutest expressions and wrinkles had been perfectly copied by him.

The engraving on the platform reflects the pride and arrogance of Ozymandias. As the statue is now destroyed, the engraving is a mockery at the pride and ego of the king.

Today, after the passage of so many centuries, finally there is no trace of the king’s accomplishment in the vast stretch of the desert.

*What is a Sonnet?*

* Sonnet is derived from the Italian word ‘Sonetto”, which means ‘a little song’ or ‘small lyric’.
* It is a significant form of poetry with a set structure.
* It is a  14 line poem.
* There are two major types of sonnets: Petrarchan or Italian  and English or Shakespearean sonnet
* The rhyme scheme for the whole poem is abab cdcd efef gg.

**Themes:**

* Transience of Power: The statue with the boastful Inscription stands in ironic contrast to the decrepit reality of the ancient statue lying in ruins, however underscoring the ultimate transience of political power. The poem critiques such power through its suggestion that both great rulers and their kingdoms will fall to the sands of time. No amount of power can withstand the merciless and unceasing passage of time. History is full of rise and falls of empires.

* The Power of Art:The poem insists that nothing beside the shattered statue and its pedestal remains, there is one thing that actually withstood the centuries: Art. It is perhaps the most enduring tool in preserving humanity’s legacy. The fragments interpret and preserve the king’spersonality even after his death. It’s legacy and its failure only existsbecause of art, therefore suggesting art as immortal.

* Man v/s Nature: The poems imagery suggests a natural world whose might is far greater than that of humankind. The statue is trunkless, shattered, implies humanity’s relative weakness. Nature has steadily overtaken a once great civilization and buried it.

Figures of Speech:

1.Alliteration :

Two vast and trunkless legs    
cold command    
The hand that mock'dthem and the heart that fed.    
boundless and bare    
lone and level sandsstretch

2. Synecdoche

Substitution of a part to stand for the whole, or the whole to stand for a part.    
The hand that mock'dthem and the heart that fed.

 3.[Metaphor](https://literarydevices.net/metaphor/):  There is one [extended metaphor](https://literarydevices.net/extended-metaphor/) used in the poem. The statue ofOzymandias metaphorically represents [power](https://literarydevices.net/power/), legacy, and command. It clarifies the meanings of the [object](https://literarydevices.net/object/) and makes it clear that once the king was mighty and all-powerful.  It also shows that the sand has eroded the actual shape of the statue, representing the destructive power of time.

4.  [Personification](https://literarydevices.net/personification/): Shelley has used personification that means to use human emotions for inanimate objects. He has used personification twice in the poem. The fifth line “And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,” refers to the broken head of the statue. However, the lifeless statueOzymandias is referred to as a real person.The second example is in the sixth line of the poem where “Tell that its sculptor well those passions read” shows as if the statue is commanding the sculptor how to carve or express his emotions.

5. [Irony](https://literarydevices.net/irony/): Irony is a [figure of speech](https://literarydevices.net/figure-of-speech/) used to present the opposite meanings of the words.Ozymandias’s description presents him as a mighty, great and fierce king but in reality, there is nothing but a broken, lifeless statue. All living things eventually meet their creator and no human is immortal , even their mighty stone statues and structures perish.

6. [Imagery](https://literarydevices.net/imagery/): Imagery is used to make the reader feel things through five senses. The poet has used images involving a sense of sights such as two vast and trunk-less legs, shattered face, wrinkled lip and desert. These images help readers visualize the status of the broken statue.

7.Rhyme Scheme:ABABACDCEDEFEF

Land-sand-command,

Stone-frown

Read-fed

Things-kings

Appear-Despair-bare

Decay-Away