Dust of Snow

Robert Frost

Summary

Dust of Snow written by Robert Frost tells that even a simple moment has a large significance. The poet is upset and sitting under the Hemlock tree, suddenly a crow sitting on the branch of the tree shakes the tree, fine particles of snow from the tree falls on the poet. The soft and cold touch of the snow changes the poet’s mood from being sad to happy. He starts feeling refreshed. In this way a single moment proves to be very significant and saves the rest of the day of the poet from being wasted and held in regret. The poet has mentioned crow and Hemlock tree in this poem. Crow signifies his depressive and sorrowful mood and Hemlock tree is a poisonous tree. Both represents sorrow and depression felt by the poet in this materialistic world. On the other hand the dust of snow is a symbol of natural goodness, joy and energy which helps to pass over the depressing moment and enter into a life full of optimism. The poet conveys the message of positivity. It tells us that if we take things positively in life, situations do change for better. The poem teaches us that every small act in life can illuminate our soul and motivate us to do better.

**Literary devices**

1. Alliteration : is the repetition of same consonant sound in the nearby words

Has given my heart

And saved some part

Alliterative words : has heart , save some

1. Assonance : the prominence of a vowel sound

Stanza 1 line 2 – ‘’Shook down on me”- O sound is prominent

1. Enjambment – when the same sentence continues to the next line without the use of any punctuation marks.
2. Metaphor : is used when the poet compared the falling snow flakes from the hemlock tree to dust.

Rhyme scheme - ABAB

Only one imperfect rhyme occurs in this poem between the ‘crow’ of the 1st line and ‘snow’ of the 3rd line – both in 1st stanza

**Question & Answer**

1. How has the poet’s mood changed ?

A dust of snow means the fine particles of snow. The falling of soft snow flakes changed the mood of the poet.

1. What does the crow and a Hemlock tree represent?

The crow and a hemlock tree represent sorrow and evil. They match the poet’s mood.

**Practice Question**

Have there been times when you felt depressed or hopeless? Have you experienced a similar moment that changed your mood that day ?