



4. 'Now I hold Creation in my foot' – explain the centrality of this assertion in the poem. What makes the hawk's assertion of its invincibility so categorical?

Answer: As posed in the poem, the Hawk appears to be absolute and indomitable. It ascribes itself the summit of the jungle. The highest of all the social ladder, it sits on the highest point from where it can see it all beneath and small. The Hawk exaggerates that it took the whole of the Creation to design it. It sits on a bark that is rough and it at the highest point of the tree. The perspective of the Hawk is bounded by its vision. The little of the wood that it sees from its seat it takes it to be the whole of the world and presumes itself as its God. The little bird's petty egocentricity is amusing as when it flies it believes itself to be the one rotating the planet and moving the whole of the life. So now that the roles are reversed, the Hawk exclaims, "Now I hold Creation in my foot." The Hawk declaring its assertion as invincibly categorical. It is the Hawk who is in the control of the whole creation, even the Sun abides by it. Nothing that its eyes do not permit can flourish or even exist.

5. Why is the poem entitled 'Hawk Roosting'?

Answer: The poem is about the speaker, the Hawk, who is looking down from where it is roosting, the highest point in the woods. It is a dramatic monologue in a non-human voice. The Hawk boasts of its superiority and is self-assertive. It is symbolic of we humans who tend do not think beyond what has been defined to us by the society our beyond our perspective. Our ignorance is our bliss as in the case of the Hawk. The Hawk, who narrates its story of how it perceives the world, is personified incarnating it as the most superior of all the beings. The Hawk believes itself to be the centre of the cosmos. The whole poem is from the perspective of the Hawk, the bird of prey. The poem is from Hughes' second book, *Lupercal*, published in 1960. Once in an interview he explained, "Actually what I had in mind was that in this hawk Nature is thinking. Simply Nature. It's not so simple because maybe Nature is no longer so simple." in many of Huges poems animals serve as a metaphor. He takes their help to describe his perspective on life. Ted is known for evoking violent imagery and his description of the ultimate battle of survival. In *Hawk Roosting*, the Hawk goes on blathering about its inherited supremacy and its ignorance is its bliss, which it celebrates.

6. Bring out the parallel suggested between the predatory instincts of the bird and human behaviour.

Answer: Ted Hughes has always known to have cited examples of animals or birds or even fishes in his poems to draw a parallelism between the animal world and human behaviour. We humans are social animals; however, the animal instinct is still seated within us. Hughes explores this proclivity of humans, when the predatory instinct takes over. In the poem the Hawk hungers for the power and authority, similarly humans lust for power and exercise their supremacy. The Hawks perspective is blinded or limited by its vision and even with humans, their ignorance is their bliss. There is a constant battle, the survival of the fittest. It is a jungle raj. The Hawk talks of its inherited power from the roost it resides in. It blathers its pride and self-assertion. The way any other human does. It matters

little of whether there is an element of truth in it or not, but whether the Hawk or a human, they proclaim their supremacy over the rest of the world. They believe themselves to be the rulers of the Creation and mock God, thankless beings who weave their own fall.

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