

## ROBERT FROST

*A Boy's Will.* HOLT.

*North of Boston.* HOLT.

*Mountain Interval.* HOLT.

A masterful handling of the spirit of the New England hills and the psychology of their people makes Mr. Frost, in spite of the fact that his background is exceedingly sectional, one of the most vividly American of poets.

Although from generations of New England ancestors, and associated inseparably both in his life and his work with New England, Robert Frost happened to be born in San Francisco in 1875. At ten years he returned to the hill country. He studied at Dartmouth but did not take a degree. At various periods of his life he has worked at different trades, has several times been a teacher; but he chooses to be known as a farmer. For a time he remained in England, where his poems were first published. At present he lives with his wife and family on a small farm in Vermont. A part of each year he spends at Ann Arbor, where he does not teach but lives on the campus, accessible to those students who wish to consult him. Like Mr. Robinson, Mr. Frost does not care for the hurry and worry of literary New York. He prefers the peace of his Vermont

valley, near which live Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Sarah Cleghorn, and other determined artists and New Englanders. Frost is quiet spoken, with a fine head and iron grey hair. He is gentle, in the main; but occasionally his speech becomes bitterly incisive when he believes himself in contact with sham or pretense, particularly with reference to the art of poetry.

"The living poem is something that is felt first and thought out afterwards. 'It begins', Frost had said somewhere, 'with a lump in the throat; a home-sickness or a love-sickness. It is a reaching-out toward expression; an effort to find fulfilment. A complete poem is one where an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found the words.' In this sentence lies the explanation of Frost's persuasiveness and power. He has given emotion, thought and words such national flavor and freshness that no poet since Whitman has been more American and, in his very localism, more universal." — *Louis Untermeyer in "The New Era in American Poetry"*.

"Mr. Frost writes down *exactly* what he sees. But, being a true poet, he sees it vividly and with a charm which translates itself into a beautiful simplicity of expression. He is an eminently sympathetic poet. He wins first by his gentle understanding, and his strong and unsentimental power of emotion; later, we are conquered by his force, and moved to admiration by his almost unapproachable technique. Still, his imagination is bounded by his life, he is confined within the limits of his experience (or at least what might have been his experience) and bent all one way like the wind-blown trees of New England hill-sides. After all, art is rooted in the soil, and only the very greatest men can be both cosmopolitan and great. Mr. Frost is as New England as Burns is Scotch, Synge Irish, or Mistral Provençal, and it is perhaps not too much to say that he is the equal of these poets, and will so rank to future generations." — *Amy Lowell in "Tendencies in Modern American Poetry"*.

"As an example of good diction to which locality as well as character contributes flavor and quality, nothing can be better than the diction of Robert Frost. Mr. Frost is not merely a new craftsman, he is a new personal force deep-rooted in locality. He belongs somewhere — in rural New England. And from that physical and spiritual environment he draws his strength. We can hardly call his characters fictitious. For they are real. We know that they or their ghosts are all there, 'North of Boston' still. Poems like 'Blueberries' are fragrant with the scent of the New England countryside and full of the dry, delicious humor of the thrifty, quiet, kindly Yankee farmer. 'A Hundred Collars'

is one of the most delightfully ironical poems in the whole of American literature." — *Marguerite Wilkinson in "New Voices"*.

#### REFERENCES:

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