

POEM IN OCTOBER

- Dylan Thomas

* free verse poem

It was my thirtieth year to heaven
Woke to my hearing from harbour and neighbouring wood
And the mussel pooled and the heron
Priested shore
The morning beckon
With water praying and call of seagull and rook
And the knock of sailing boats on the webbed wall
Myself to set foot
That second
In the still sleeping town and set forth.
My birthday began with the water-
Birds and the birds of the winged trees flying my name
Above the farms and the white horses
And I rose
In a rainy autumn
And walked abroad in shower of all my days
High tide and the heron dived when I took the road
Over the border
And the gates
Of the town closed as the town awoke.
A springful of larks in a rolling
Cloud and the roadside bushes brimming with whistling
Blackbirds and the sun of October
Summery
On the hill's shoulder,
Here were fond climates and sweet singers suddenly

→ 1 year closer to heaven (immortality, acknowledgement of God)
30th birthday

neighbouring

→ almost like heron is bowing in prayer

water bird land bird

→ fishing nets drying on a wall

* lots of emphasis on sounds
goes for a walk

metonymy & personification

→ needs to start walking
→ very early morning

→ connection to earth, significant day (contemplate past & future).

land birds

→ calling him
(relationship with nature)

figurative: being elevated above the mundane
literal: walking up a hill

metaphor
recalling his life's memories.

rainy: reality of present

changing of season

birds

nature is fruitful & abundant

happy memories of the past

→ weather below him is different

* lots of reference to water