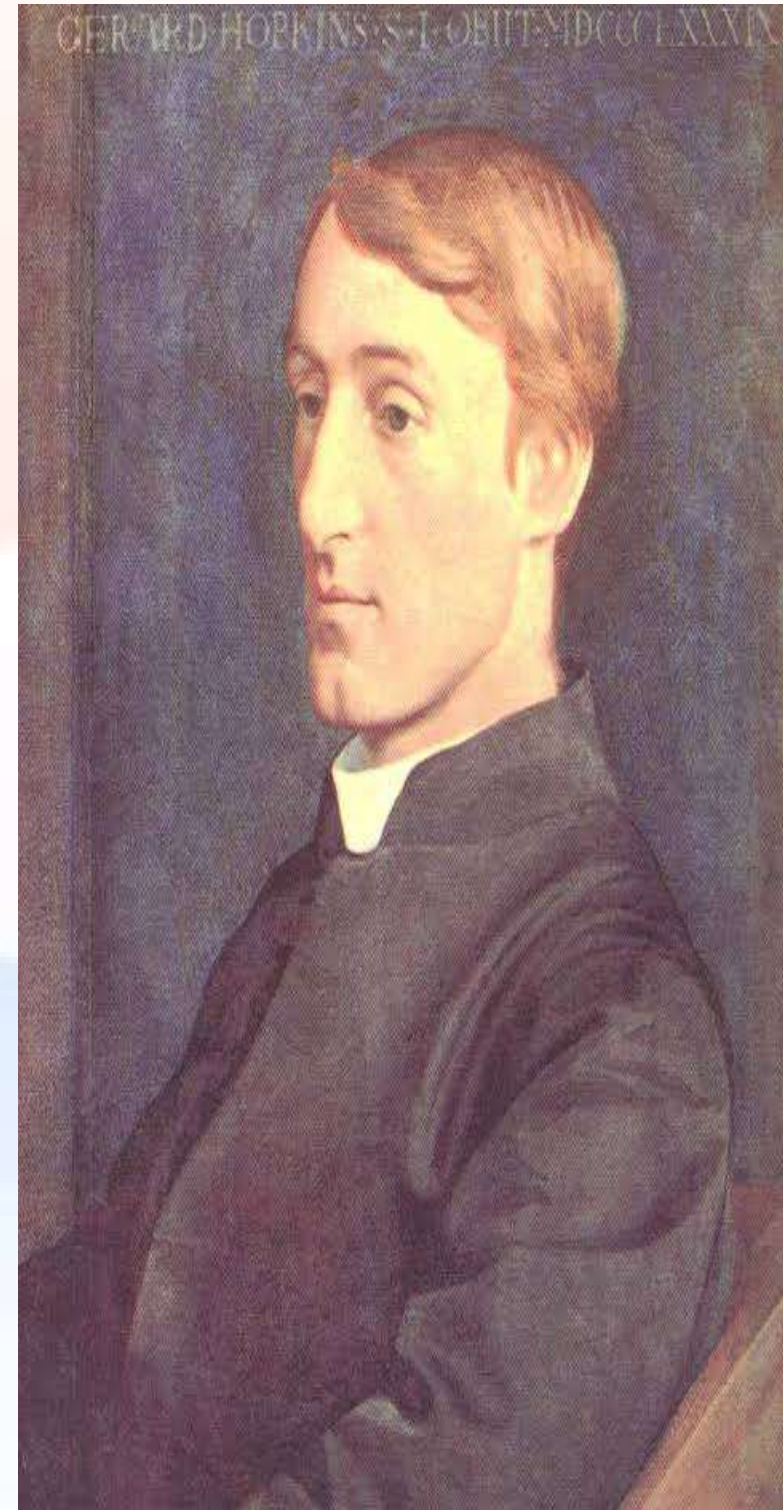


# **As Kingfisher Catches Fire**

**Gerard Manley Hopkins**

# Gerard Manley Hopkins

- Gerard Manley Hopkins is considered to be one of the greatest poets of the Victorian era.
- Born in 1844, Hopkins was the eldest of the nine children of Manley Hopkins.
- Because of his manipulation of language his best poems were not accepted for publication while he was alive. After his death his poems were published by his best friend Robert Bridges.
- His notable works are 'Spring and Fall', 'Pied Beauty', 'God's Grandeur' and 'Carrion Comfort'. He is the inventor of 'sprung rhythm', which was first seen in his most ambitious poem, 'The Wreck of the Deutschland'.
- A man of many talents and odd style, Hopkins died in 1889 of typhoid fever.



As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw  
flame;

As tumbled over rim in roundy wells  
Stones ring; like each tucked string tells,  
each hung bell's

Bow swung finds tongue to fling out broad its  
name;

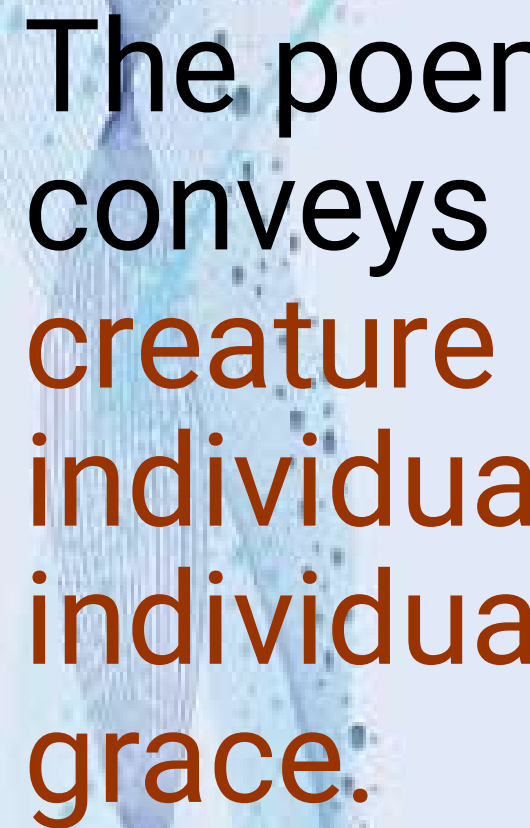
Each mortal thing does one thing and the  
same:

Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;  
Selves – goes itself; myself it speaks and  
spells,

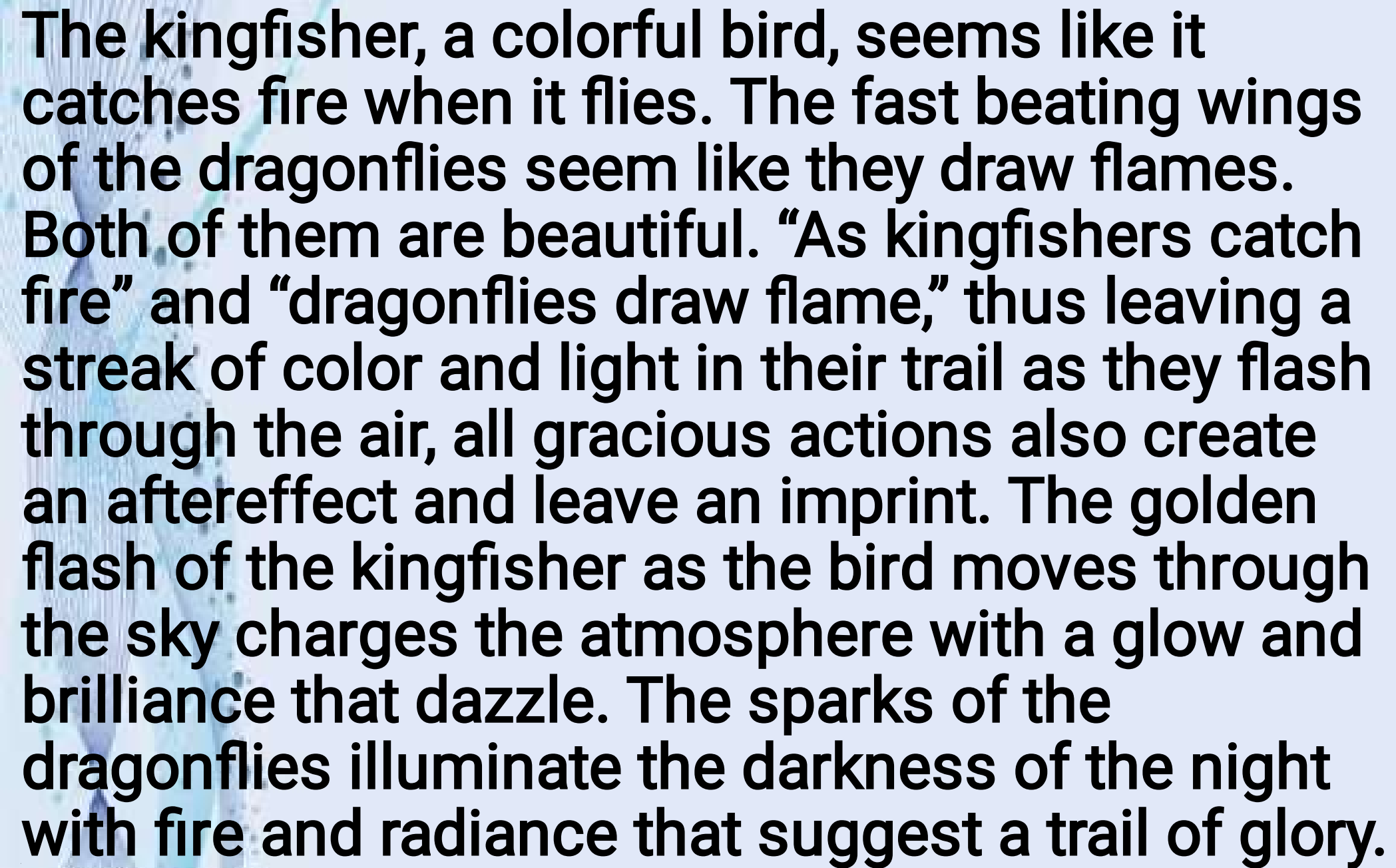
Crying What I dó is me: for that I came.

I say móre: the just man justices;  
Keeps grace: thát keeps all his goings  
graces;  
Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is

—  
Chríst — for Christ plays in ten thousand  
places,  
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his  
To the Father through the features of  
men's faces.

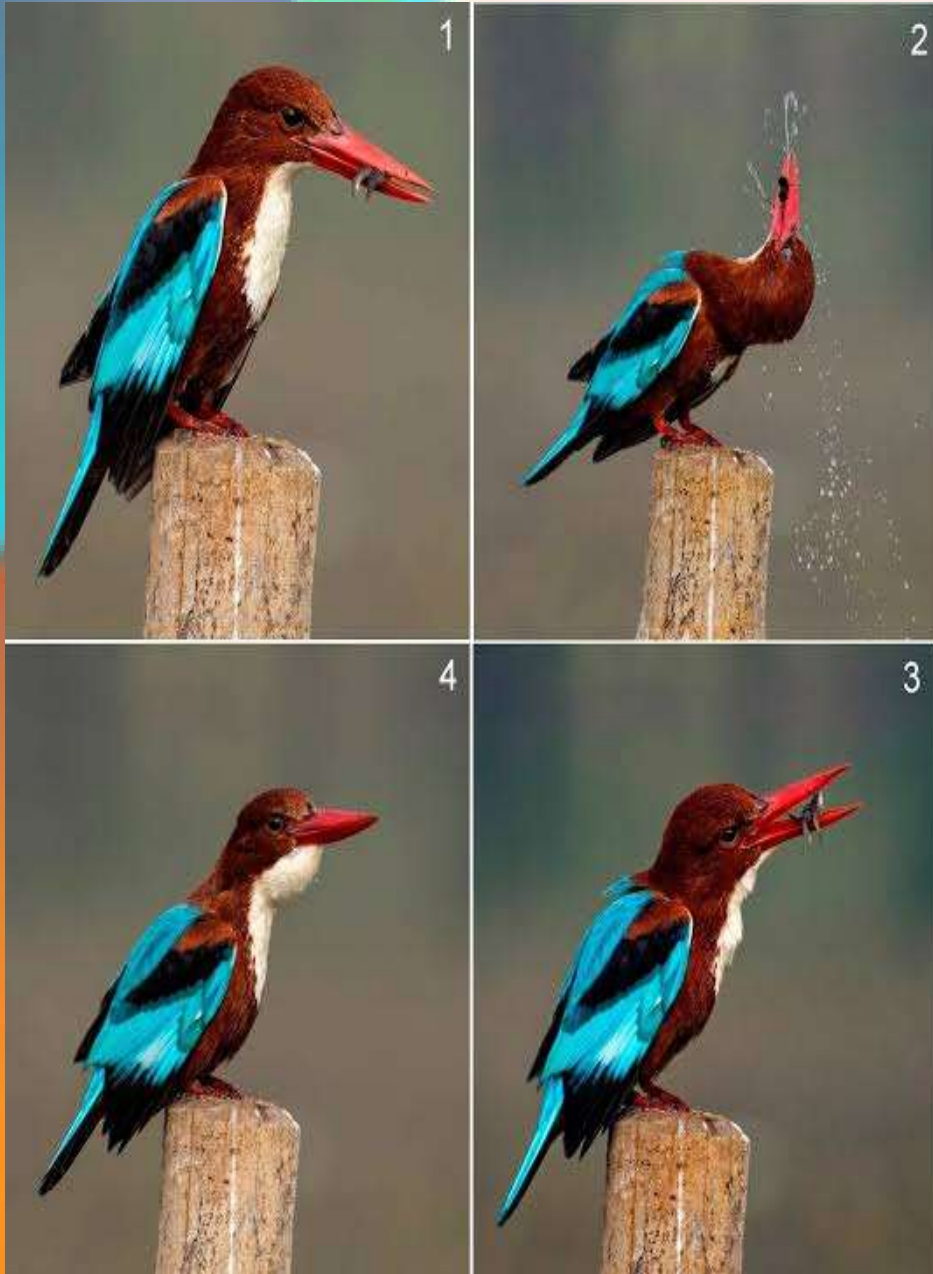


The poem "As Kingfishers catch fire"  
conveys Hopkins's view that every  
creature in the world has its own  
individuality and in expressing that  
individuality, it proclaims God's  
grace.



The kingfisher, a colorful bird, seems like it catches fire when it flies. The fast beating wings of the dragonflies seem like they draw flames. Both of them are beautiful. “As kingfishers catch fire” and “dragonflies draw flame,” thus leaving a streak of color and light in their trail as they flash through the air, all gracious actions also create an aftereffect and leave an imprint. The golden flash of the kingfisher as the bird moves through the sky charges the atmosphere with a glow and brilliance that dazzle. The sparks of the dragonflies illuminate the darkness of the night with fire and radiance that suggest a trail of glory.

As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame;



**Stones when thrown into a well, it tinkle with a sound peculiar to their own. A musical instrument with strings produces a unique sound when plucked. The bells have a sound, which is produced when the pendulum rings against the metal, universally recognized as their own. All of the above mentioned; both the living and the non living have one thing in common. They show what dwells within them. They speak and spell exactly what they are and what they are here to do. Similarly Hopkins says that each person is created to be a source of grace to others by the way he moves, speaks, and acts toward others—by the way he reflects Christ's actions, by the way he embodies Christ's words, and by the way he transfigures the world by his coming and going:**



**The same concept applies to humans as well. A just man is the incarceration of justice. He is graceful and this grace is seen in whatever he does. what He does on earth exactly what God intended for him to do on earth. The poet wants his reader to be a source of grace to others, a channel of charity, a spark of life, and a voice of truth and happiness. When man honors the moral law and obeys the Commandments, he lives a life of justice.**

As tumbled over rim in roundy wells  
Stones ring; like each tucked string tells,  
each hung bell's





Bow swung finds tongue to fling out  
broad its name;



**Thus all good deeds and just actions emit grace—God’s presence in the world bringing light into the darkness, God’s voice bringing music to the ears, and God’s word transfiguring the world. Grace charges an atmosphere and renews the face of the earth. When each person—whatever his station or vocation in life—“Acts in God’s eye what in God’s eye he is,” a source of grace to others, then the world revels with joy, “For Christ plays in ten thousand places” through His creatures imitating Him as they fill each other’s lives with beauty and music, mirth and warmth, and love and goodness. In this hidden, mysterious way God is everywhere. Grace is youthful, energetic, and ebullient, lifting the spirits and rejoicing the heart.**

Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is —  
Christ — for Christ plays in ten thousand  
places,



Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his  
To the Father through the features of  
men's faces.





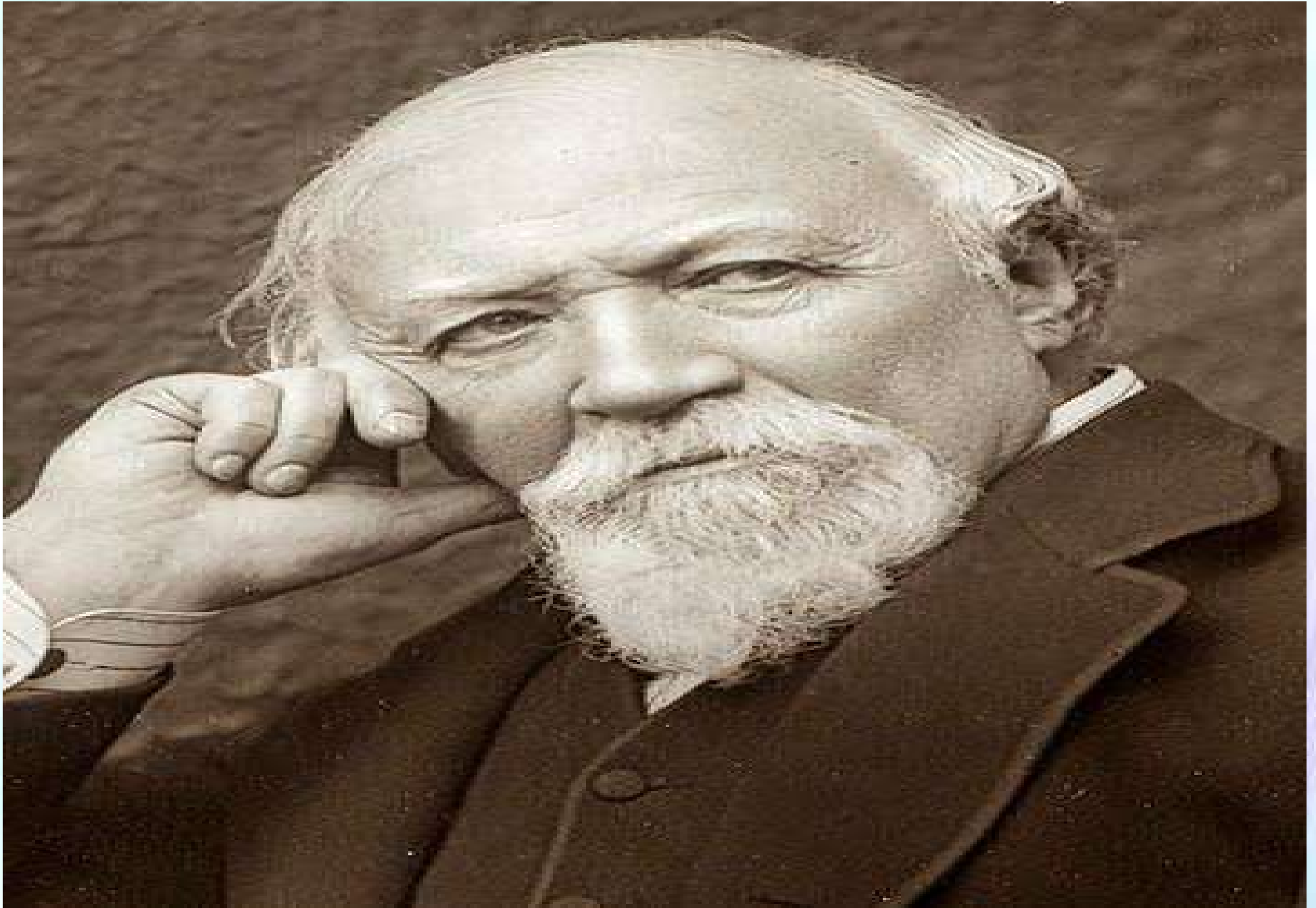
**Thank you**



**Unit V - Non detailed:**

**Andrea del Sarto - Robert  
Browning**

# Robert Browning



# Robert Browning

- \* Browning was an English poet and playwright whose dramatic monologues made him one of the foremost Victorian poets.
- \* His poems are noted for irony, characterisation, dark humour, social commentary, historical settings and challenging vocabulary and syntax.

# Andrea Delsarto

- \* "Andrea del Sarto" written by Robert Browning was published in the collection, "Men and Women".
- \* It is written in the form of a dramatic monologue told from the perspective of the Italian Renaissance painter, Andrea del Sarto.

# Andrea Delsarto



# Lucrezia



# Summary

The poem begins with the speaker, the artist **Andrea del Sarto**, asking his wife, **Lucrezia**, to come and sit with him for a moment without fighting. He wants two of them to have a quiet moment together before he jumps into a reflection of his life. The speaker begins by describing the passage of time and the lack of control he feels he had over his life.

# Raphael





# Michel Agnolo



The poem deals with Andrea Delsarto's skill level comparing to the work of other artists. He knows that he has more skill than others such as **Michelangelo** or **Raphael**, but his art does not have the soul the other's are able to tap into. Somehow they have been able to enter heaven and leave with inspiration that he never receives. The artist is disappointed by that fact as no one seems to value his own art the way he thinks they should.

# King Francis I



# Palace of King Francis I



At points he tries to put most of the blame for his life onto his wife. He thinks that she is the one that has been holding him back. He points out the fact that the other artists don't have the same impediment. He thinks about the time that he spent in **France** working for the king. There, he was applauded by the court but then forced back to Italy by his wife who was tired of the way things were.

# Fiesole



# Madonna

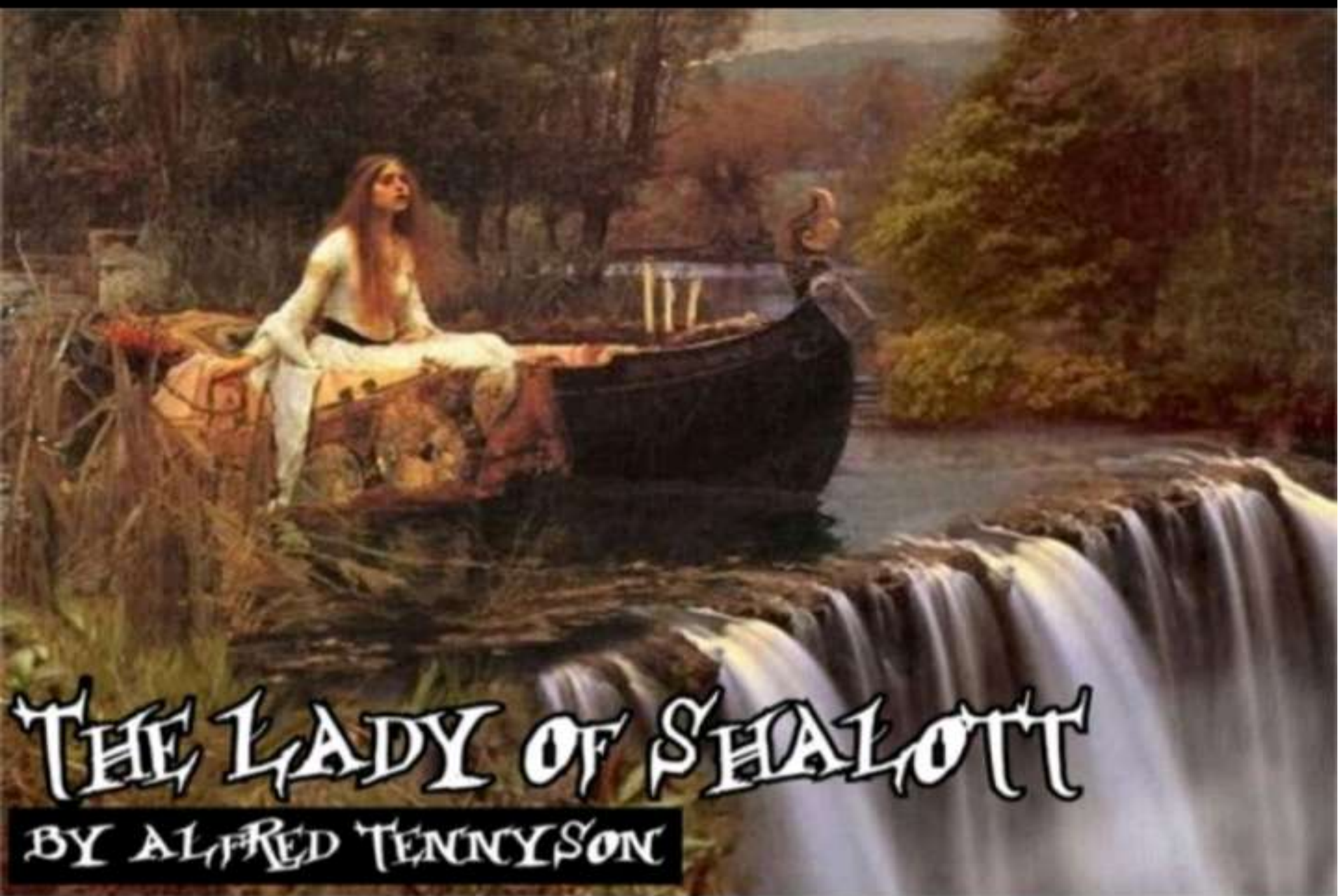


By the end of the poem he concludes that although his life has not been what he wanted he knows that he cannot change it. He is happy to have spent this time with his wife and says as much to her. This nice moment is interrupted by the arrival of Lucrezia's cousin. This "cousin" is demanding money from del Sarto to help pay off gambling debts. He gives in to the request and tells his wife, solemnly and sadly, that she can go.



A soft-focus background of a tropical beach. In the foreground, there are several palm trees, some with fronds that appear to be glowing or have a purple hue. The background shows a sandy beach, more palm trees, and a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall color palette is warm and tropical, with soft blues, greens, and oranges.

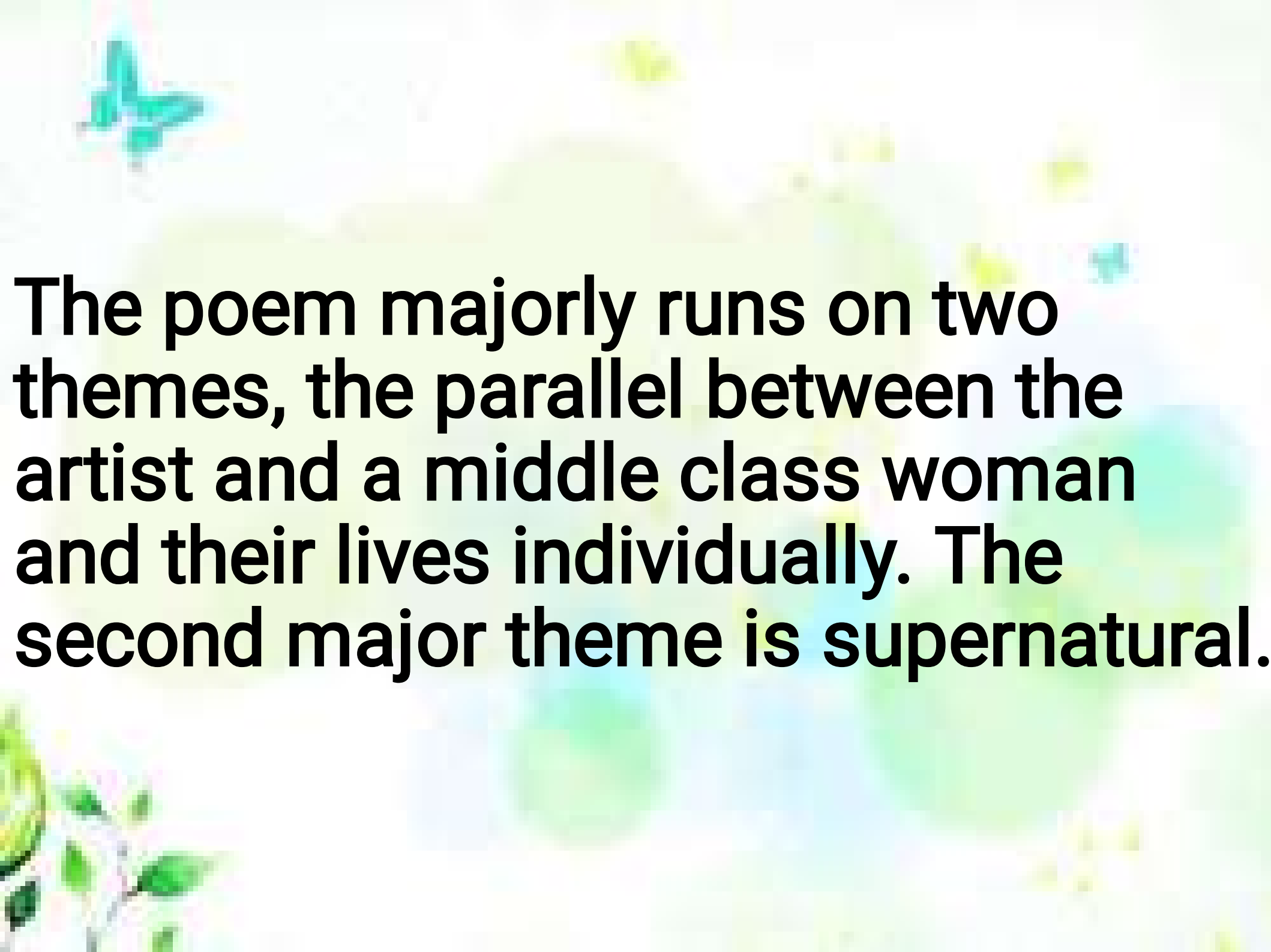
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# THE LADY OF SHALOTT

BY ALFRED TENNYSON

“The Lady of Shalott” is a Victorian ballad by the English poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809–1892).



**The poem majorly runs on two themes, the parallel between the artist and a middle class woman and their lives individually. The second major theme is supernatural.**

**The other major theme of supernaturalism acts as a supporting frame for the movement of the plot in reference to the first major theme. The presence of elements like the magic mirror and the curse confirm the presence of the theme. Both the themes are interconnected and interdependent.**

Flowing down to Camelot.



And the silent isle imbowers



# The Lady of Shalott.





The poem *Lady of Shalott* discusses of a curse which was drawn upon the lady. The curse is not clear as to its origin and nature. The lady is enclosed and captured in the four walls of her house, present on an island in the midst of a river that leads to the castle of Camelot. The house of the lady has a magic mirror which reflects the world outside and the lady weaves the same images. The lady at the end sees the knight and is attracted by him and thus leaves her house and rows a boat and ultimately dies probably because of the curse.

The reaper, reaping late and early,



# Skimming down to Camelot.



A charmed web she weaves alway.



Her weaving, either night or day,



# The Lady of Shalott.



Goes by to towered Camelot;



Of bold Sir Lancelot.





As he rode down to Camelot:



She looked down to Camelot.



The seclusion from the world which is shown in the poem is the representations of the first theme. The Lady of Shalott is compared with a middle class woman who is desired by everyone but stays inside her four walled chamber. On the other hand the seclusion also represents the seclusion which is practiced by certain artists to concentrate on their work. The feminine figure used in the poem confirms this fact as in the Victorian era people considered art feminine. The curse on the lady represents the social barriers on a middle class woman which she is not supposed to cross.

“The curse is come upon me,” cried



The last stanza deals about the curse and death of the lady Shalott. She lets the river carry her, Tennyson emphasizes the disruption of the Lady's being through scenes of chaotic and mournful Nature: the wind is "stormy," the "pale yellow woods were waning," and the "low sky" was raining heavily, the banks of the river straining. The inhabitants of Camelot are frightened and curious as they hear her last song and see her pale shape. The poem ends with Lancelot looking down at her and commenting that she "has a lovely face" and that he hopes God will lend her grace. One might compare the famous death of Hamlet's sister Ophelia and other scenes where a woman dies in a river or ocean.

The pale yellow woods were waning,



Beneath a willow left afloat,



She floated down to Camelot:





Singing in her song she died,



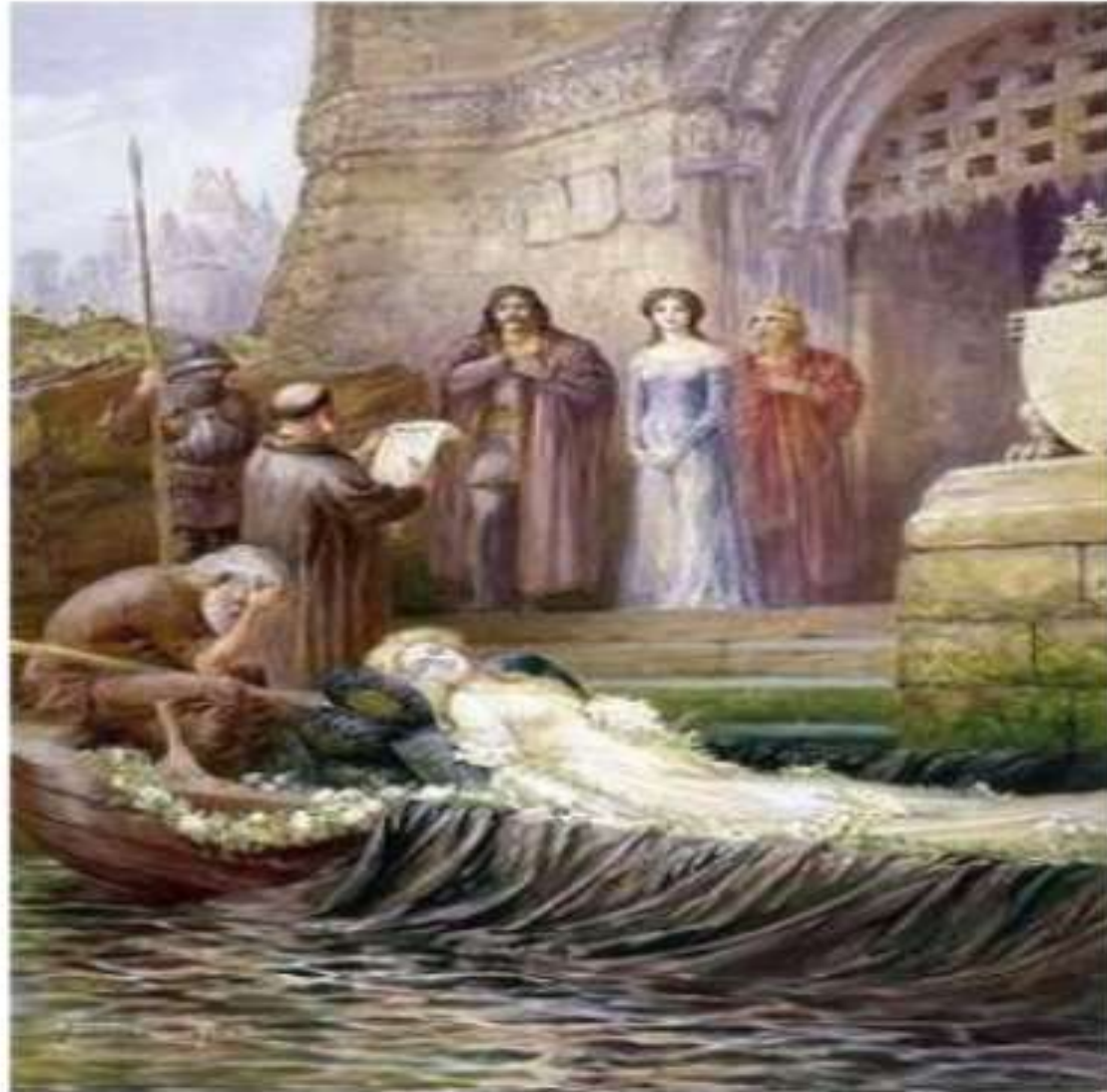
But Lancelot mused a little space;



He said, "She has a lovely face;



God in his mercy lend her grace,



# The Lady of Shalott.”





**Thank you**