**TENNYSON’S “ULYSSES” ANALYSIS**

Reading the title the intelligent reader may suppose the poetry is set in the ancient Greece for the noun Ulysses, who is an epic hero. Ulysses differently from many of the other Greek heroes is “human”, in fact he has not some divine power and he is characterised by curiosity and intelligence, which are typical of man. Indeed the intelligent reader may suppose the text speaks about voyages, adventures, will of knowing, in cause of how is described Ulysses and what he does in Odyssey. The text is organised in five sections.

The first one introduces the scene, there is not a external narrator, but Ulysses is the speaker. The character is old, it is not young outwardly. He after lots of years and after getting launched lots of adventures is finally come back to his homeland: Ithaca. The reader may expect he is happy, instead he is very sad because all is changed, nothing is the same, in fact he has an old wife, he has no desire, people doesn’t know him (“a savage race, That hoard, and sleep, and feed, and know not me”), so he doesn’t find an identification with Ithaca. He does not feel part of the country, so he feels alienated. Indeed his heart is dead, because he has no desires. The writer uses the alliterations to focus reader’s mind on some words, for example he uses the alliteration of “no” (“know not me”) to focus reader’s mind to the word “me”, which is very important, because underlines the solitude of the character.

The second section deal with Ulysses’ reflection on what he did, so his experiences, what he was and what he is become, so his essence and finally the desire to continue his life in searching of new adventures, so the refusal of sedentary and monotone life, typical of the Victorian Age.

At the beginning of the section he asserts he needs travel ““I cannot rest from travel” and he wants to live very deeply his life “I will drink Life to the lees: all times I have enjoy'd ”. In addition he says he goes through his adventures both with his friends and alone. Then he says he is become a name. Tennyson uses the metaphor of the hungry heart to create in the reader’s mind the idea of someone who wants always more and who fight to reach his objectives. So he narrates he travelled a lot and he knew lots of things as cities of men, manners, climates, councils, governments the battle (Troy) and even himself. It is important that Ulysses affirms that he knew himself, because this mean we have to relate to others to know ourselves, we have many identities “I am a part of all that I have met”. Indeed he compares life to an arch and he says it is boring to make an end, so he invites people to never stop. He express the will of knowing always something new, it is never too late to undertake an adventure, he wants to go over the human limit.

In the third section Ulysses speaks about his son: Telemachus. He wants to leave him to rule Ithaca, because he is not interested in travelling like him. Telemachus is the prototype of the model king, in fact he is centred to conduct king’s common works. Ulysses instead wants to travel. In the section there is the contraposition between the model king, the Victorian vision (materialistic) represented by Telemachus and the spirit incarnated by Ulysses.

Section 4 begins with the image of the port and the vessel ready starting. They represent Ulysses’ desires, in fact he doesn’t want to stay in Ithaca, he wants to go around the world searching new adventures. He is not alone in undertaking the voyage, there are his mariners, too. The image of the mariners represents the research of freedom (“opposed free hearts, free foreheads”). Ulysses is aware he and his mariners are old, but he adds that the old age is not an insuperable obstacle or something negative which impedes yourself to realize your desires (“old age hath yet his honour and his toil”). He thinks that only death is an insuperable obstacle, which destroys everything (“death closes all”), so before it you can always do something (“but something ere the end, some work of noble note, may yet be done”). Ulysses tells his mariners that their time is not finished, they can start and finding new adventures once again. Ulysses uses a metaphor to describe the landscape which alludes to their situation “The long day wanes: the slow moon climbs”. Day stands for their youth, while moon stands for their old age. It is interesting Ulysses uses the figure of the Moon and not the figure of the night, because while the night is characterized by dark, Moon is characterized by light, which represents life force and is connected to Ulysses’ idea that they can still go on travel. Ulysses underlines more than once that it is never too late to begin a travel and find something new (“'T is not too late to seek a newer world”). He wants to go over the limits (“to sail beyond the sunset, and the baths of all the western stars”), he will stop himself only when he die.

Section 5 is the final one and it begins with Ulysses, who shows the reader he is old in physical appearance, but young in spirit (“tho' much is taken, much abides”). They have no longer the physical strength typical of young people, but they still have the only important thing, which allow man to have success: the strong will (“Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield”). The intelligent reader understands that man to make a sense of his life has to own a strong will, has to be never satisfied about what he do, but he has to find always new incentives. Only men like Ulysses lives effectively life.