**The Unquiet Grave**

BY ANONYMOUS

“The wind doth blow today, my love, MAN

And a few small drops of rain; (WINTER WEATHER)

I never had but one true-love,

In cold grave she was lain.

“I’ll do as much for my true-love MAN

As any young man may;

I’ll sit and mourn all at her grave

For a twelvemonth and a day.”

The twelvemonth and a day being up, NARRATOR

The dead began to speak:

“Oh who sits weeping on my grave, (PAIN) WOMAN

And will not let me sleep?”

“’T is I, my love, sits on your grave, MAN

And will not let you sleep;

For I crave one kiss of your clay-cold lips,

And that is all I seek.”

“You crave one kiss of my clay-cold lips, WOMAN

But my breath smells earthy strong;

If you have one kiss of my clay-cold lips, (DIRT)

Your time will not be long.

“’T is down in yonder garden green, MAN IN THIRD PERSON

Love, where we used to walk,

The finest flower that e’re was seen (NATURE, BEAUTIFUL SETTING) PAST MEMORIES

Is withered to a stalk. PRESENT (RUIN, DECAY)

“The stalk is withered dry, my love, WOMAN

So will our hearts decay; FUTURE

So make yourself content, my love,

Till God calls you away.”

The object of the present work is to analyse the ballad “The Unquiet Grave”. In particular I will start giving some information about the plot of the story, and then I will analyse the single stanzas of the ballad.

The ballad consists in a conversation between a young man and the ghost of his beloved.

First of all, the title creates a dark atmosphere because the grave reminds me of the idea of death, and I’m curious to find out the reason why the grave is connoted by the adjective unquiet, which means a mentally or emotionally istart. In addition, just considering the title I expect the ballad to be a supernatural one, because while the grave is made of stone, “unquiet” is an adjective referring to a person.

Considering the layout I notice that the ballad has a regular pattern, indeed it is organized into seven stanzas, in particular quatrains. The dialogue form is also used and reports the speaking voice’s words in the first person and is accompanied by the use of narration

After reading the first stanza I understand that the speaking voice addresses a woman, and therefore I suppose the speaker is a male.

Most words in the first two stanzas, like “Wind”, “Dropped”, “Rain” and “Cold belong to the semantic field of the winter weather, that immediately suggests feeling of despair. The semantic field also anticipate that the ballad will be a tragic love story, indeed the speaker is a young man who is mourning on the grave of his love, who is defined as “true love”.

In the second stanza the speaking voice promise to sit and mourn on her grave for longer than on year. The expression “My true love” is repeated even in the second stanza thus highlighting the deep relationship between the two protagonist, that appears clear even after reading the promise the young men did ,connoted also by the alliteration of the sound “M” that reminds of a lament.

In the first two lines of the third stanza the narrator is speaking, so there is a translation from dialogue to narration: the narrator inform the reader that after one year the dead body of the man’s beloved started to speak after one year, asking who’s the one tormenting her.

In the fourth stanza the man presents himself as T and answers asking for a kiss of the beloved: the pleading is connoted by the alliteration of the sound “c” that underlines his immortality.

The woman’s insecurity for her condition occurs in the fifth stanza when she refuses to kiss the boy because she is ashamed of his smell, as I understand by the expressions “smells earthy strong” and ”clay-cold lips”, belonging to the semantic field of dirt.

The ballad ends with the men’s pain after remembering his happy memories with the girl, where most words belong to the semantic filed of beautiful settings and contraposition with the present, connoted by expressions that reminds the reader of ruin and decay .

In the last line there is a reference to God’s arrive, indeed the women invites his beloved to make himself content and enjoy his life.

CAMPI SEMANTICI

SCELTA DELLE PAROLE

REGISTRI DELLE PAROLE

USI DEI TEMPI VERBALI