

I find no peace – First period

Right from the start, the intelligent reader can hear the repetition of the sound “y” that is an anaphora. “I find no peace” underlines the sound “y” which may recall the sound of a cry of help. This is what the title may suggest and the reader may be curious to find out why the speaking voice cannot find no peace. The title itself underlines the frustrated search for peace of the speaking voice since there is an absolute negation: the poet doesn't say he does not find any peace; rather, he asserts (means to state vigorously) that there is no peace in his life, so the question that might move the reader in reading the text is to find an answer to his question.

The layout clearly shows that the text is a sonnet since it is organized into four stanzas: two quatrains and two tercets, the typical structure of the Petrarchan sonnet. Therefore, he expects he will discover about the poet's complex situation in the octave, that is in the first two stanzas (two quatrains) and the possible solution in the two tercets. Indeed, the sextet ends the poem, which is, of course, a lyrical one: just looking at the text, without even reading it, the reader will see the high density of the subject pronoun “I” and this is what makes him or her expect to read something lyrical, something personal and private.

In the first quatrain, the speaking voice seems to have come to a sort of resignation after a long battle with himself in order to find peace. But it sounds, as if, he hadn't been able to. To tell the truth, he says that he hopes, burns and freezes thus conveying contradictory emotions. He also says something that might sound absurd: he flies, but he cannot arise. At the same time, he says he has “naught” (line 4) and “All the world” he seizes on. After the denotative analysis of the first stanza the intelligent reader realizes that all the lines are based on contrast as the organizing principle: “find no peace” is in contrast with “war is done”, “fear” is in contrast with “hope” and “burn” and “freeze” are opposite. The principle chosen helps readers almost to feel the complex emotional situation the poet is leaving. In addition, the poet relies on hyperbole both in lines 3 - 4 to make his mood more living and involving: how can a person “fly above the wind” and at the same time being unable to “arise” (line 3)? This is a paradox, and the same paradox comes back again in line 4 where the language deviations “And naught I have” seems to be in total contradiction with the second part of the line, where the speaking voice says “all the world I seize on”.

The analysis of the stanza perfectly helps understand the almost vivid emotional suffering of the speaking voice in that, the reader feels he can almost perceive the pain of the speaker. The stylistic choice is based on contrast, bring together opposing words and feelings, that are typical of an inner struggle. Therefore, the next step he/she wants to take is to find out what the matter is with him and he has to read on as far as line 11 to discover the mystery since/as only there he will come across the reason of his tragic situation “I love another, and thus I hate myself”. The curiosity of the reader to be satisfied has to follow the climatic construction of the sonnet since it is only at line 11 that the poet unveils the reason and the mystery of his apparently contradictory feeling, one which all lovers may experiment.