**Glory of Women**

You love us when we're heroes, home on leave, (1)

Or wounded in a mentionable place. (2)

You worship decorations' you believe (3)

That chivalry redeems the war's disgrace. (4)

You make us shells. You listen with delight, (5)

By takes of dirt and danger fondly thrilled. (6)

You crown our distant ardours while we fight, (7)

And mourn our laurelled memories when we're killed. (8)

You can't believe that British troops 'retire' (9)

When hell's last horror breaks them, and they run, (10)

Trampling the terrible corpses-blind with blood. (11)

O German mother dreaming by the fire, (12)

While you are knitting socks to send your son (13)

His face is trodden deeper in the mud. (14)

Reading the title, right from the start the reader comes across the addressee of the poem itself and he or she may wonder what their glory is referred to.

The poem is written in the Petrarchan sonnet form, with a rhyme scheme of A B A B C D C D E F G E F G. It has a rhythm of Iambic Pentameter and it is made up of an octave and a sestet.

It is full of strong images regarding the war and mainly about the atrocities of the conflict. Such description is possible because the speaking voice lived such experience and so he is able to provide the reader vivid and realistic portraits of how the war was for the soldiers. The pronouns “us and “we” make the reader conscious that the speaking voice is speaking on behalf of not only himself, but of all his comrades. On the other side, “you” stands for women, namely the soldiers’ wives, sisters, mothers or everybody else, who are “distant” from the fighting and whose thoughts and feelings are built up in the poem, even if in a sarcastic way. Indeed the poet uses the strategy of ironic language in order to overturn the reality and so being able to convey a deeper message, more suitable to be stocked into the reader’s mind.

The first octave focuses on how women love men that are heroes, how they take delight in hearing dangerous war experiences, how they crown their beloved or close person for his acts of courage, and how women mourn the memories of those who perished in the war. The theme of death in the battle field is not omitted as it is evident from the related semantic field which contains words as “disgrace”, Danger, “Thrilled”, killed”, “Blood”. It follows that the poet’s aim is to bring how grisly war is and also what it results in, into clear view.

Sasson so clearly expresses his point of view regarding the war exploiting women and their condition, their unawareness and lack of true information. He is so efficient to overturn their hypothetical worries, thoughts or conjectures and so he shows the war not as a something deserving honour and glory, but it only brings about pain, loss and death. He displays what the soldiers had effectively to face in order to survive the war and he underlines how he and his comrades survival was different, extremely distant from the women expectations. I think the poem has also the function of teaching, educating about the war. Such instructional and pedagogical feature is surely enough addressed to the ones who were and are still strangers to the horrors of the conflict and who limit theirselves to glorify the ones who really experienced them. The poem is of course a criticism to the violence and the uselessness of the war; a criticism which exploits literary, and in particular the poetic language.