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Emily Dickinson as a Spiritual Guide



Emma Carlsen, Gabbi Shumway, Connor Coles

How Does Dickinson Invite Her Audience To Follow A Religious Journey?



This World is not Conclusion.
A Species stands beyond -
Invisible, as Music -
But positive, as Sound -
It beckons, and it baffles -
Philosophy, dont know -
And through a Riddle, at the last -
Sagacity, must go -
To guess it, puzzles scholars -
To gain it, Men have borne
Contempt of Generations
And Crucifixion, shown -
Faith slips - and laughs, and rallies -
Blushes, if any see -
Plucks at a twig of Evidence -
And asks a Vane, the way -
Much Gesture, from the Pulpit -
Strong Hallelujahs roll -
Narcotics cannot still the Tooth
That nibbles at the soul -

“This World Is Not Conclusion”

- Five distinct sections:
 - a. Affirmation that something exists beyond
 - b. Allure of the world beyond
 - c. Strength of faith
 - d. Fickleness of faith
 - e. Criticism of religion

“Within My Garden, Rides A Bird”

- A poem about overcoming faith and doubt
- This poem is not explicitly about religion but can argue that it touches on religious questions because it on the same sheet as “This World”
- Discovers evidence and overcomes doubt

“And I rejoin my Dog,-And He and I, perplex us- If positive, ‘twere we-Or bore the Garden in the Brain-This Curiosity- But He, the best Logician,-Refers my clumsy eye- To just vibrating Blossoms!- An exquisite Reply!”

McIntosh:

Nimble believing= “Belief for intense moments but not subscribing to a received system of belief, what she has faith in is left undefined and assumes it as untouchable.”

“Is Bliss Then Such Abyss”

- Is about taking risks in order to discover the bliss associated with spiritual discovery
- The main point in this poem, though, is that the speaker does not risk soiling her boot. She doubts her own ability and retreats to safety.
- The speaker is so doubtful of achieving bliss that she refuses not run the risk of attaining it. She decides instead to live a safe life.

“But Bliss, is sold just one.-The Patent lost-None buy it any more-”

-An experience or opportunity cannot be replaced

- There were many risks associated with publicly declaring one’s religion.

“After Great Pain, A Formal Feeling Comes”

- About trauma
- The speaker is not experiencing trauma but rather an observer who comments of the trauma associated with uncertainty regarding the presence of Jesus. Evident in lines 3 and 4 “The stiff Heart questions ‘was it He, that bore,’-And ‘Yesterday, or Centuries before?”
- The person described is spiritually at sea, in the thralls of doubt.
- The speaker experienced deep suffering and has doubts about Jesus’ presence as a source of spiritual nature.
- Dickinson’s lack of following social norms result in emotional isolation. Reflection of her feelings of being spiritually lost and frustrated.

Other Fascicle Sheets - Sheet One

Theme: If people let themselves settle, they will never truly be content, they must let themselves be present.

It's thoughts—and just One Heart—

“It's thoughts—and just two Heart—

And Heaven—about—

At least—a Counterfeit—

We would not have Correct—

And Immortality—can be almost—

Not quite—Content—”

Other Fascicle Sheets - Sheet Two

Theme: The desire to keep going despite the pain.

He strained my faith—

“He strained my faith—

Did he find it supple?

Shook my strong trust—

Did it then—yield?”

Other Fascicle Sheets - Sheet Three

Theme: Why one desires to have a relationship with God.

I envy Seas, whereon He rides -

“That gaze upon His journey—

How easy all can see

What is forbidden utterly

As Heaven—unto me!”

Other Fascicle Sheets - Sheet Five

Theme: Recognizes the distance individuals feel from God.

My Reward for Being, was This -

“When Thrones accost my Hands—

With "Me, Miss, Me"—

I'll unroll Thee —

Dominions dowerless — beside this Grace —

Election — Vote —

The Ballots of Eternity, will show just that.”

Other Fascicle Sheets - Sheet Six

Theme: The complexities of music and how there is new music to be found.

Better — than Music!

“Better — than Music!

For I — who heard it —

I was used — to the Birds — before —

This — was different — 'Twas Translation —

Of all tunes I knew — and more —”

Conclusion

- Dickinson refused to diminish the importance of the spiritual journey.
- Understanding of the spiritual may change but do not compromise in the pursuit of truth.
- Dickinson warns her audience that it will be hard and painful but worth the price.
- “This World Is Not Conclusion” talks about the journey of faith and through the rest of the poems Dickinson shows how we can make that journey.

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