

## Hawks Monologue(poem )

### Reference

These lines have been taken from the poem "Hawks Monologue" by Ted Hughes.

### Context:

Ted Hughes is a famous English poet. Death, destruction, violence and savagery loom large in his poetry. The poem Hawk's Monologue is a speech of a hawk. Hawk thinks that he was a matchless bird in creation. But all powerful often forget that their limited power lies in the seeds of death and destruction.

#### *Stanza # 1*

*I sit in the top of the wood, my eyes closed,*

*Inaction, no falsifying dream,*

*Between my hooked head and hooked feet,*

*Or in sleep rehearse perfect kills and eat*

### EXPLANATION

Ted Hughes, using the persona of a wild bird, discusses the psychology and cruel nature of the power drunk. A man in power is on top of all affairs. He says his "eyes are closed". He is indifferent. He is careless. He is playing the game of life even while dreaming, called "rehearse" to kill.

#### *Stanza # 2*

*The convenience of the high trees,*

*The air's buoyancy and the sun's ray,*

*Are of advantage to me:*

*And the earth's face upward for my inspection*

### **EXPLANATION:**

Nature or Fate, has provided him the "convenience of high trees"; trees resemble high status and position. Things are favorable for him to rule. He claims the earth is has opened it for him to prey. All is made for him. Power often corrupts man. He is very proud.

#### *Stanza #3*

*My feet are locked upon the rough bark,*

*It took the whole of Creation,*

*To produce my foot, my each feather;*

*Now I hold Creation in my foot.*

### **EXPLANATION-**

He believes his "feet are locked upon" the position he holds. No one can remove him. He is the most important among creation. He is the most superior. Therefore, ironically, he seems right in saying "now I hold creation in my foot".

#### *Stanza # 4*

*Or fly up, and revolve it all slowly,*

*I kill where I please because it is all mine,*

*There is no sophistry in my body;*

*My manners are tearing off heads .*

### **EXPLANATION;**

He is contemptuous of the creation except himself. He deems himself all powerful. He will prey where he pleases. His body is designed for the tasks of cruelty.

He is neither weak nor gentle. He is a warrior and smooth decision maker.

*Stanza # 5*

*.The allotment of death,*

*For the one path of my flight is direct,*

*Through the bones of the living,*

*No arguments assert my*

**EXPLANATION..**

"Allotment of death" is his right that he may pierce the bones of the living. Nobody can argue over his right. His superior position and the power he holds are backed up by some design of nature.

History is evident that man becomes blind to his faults and errors while in power. He holds people in contempt and he crushes the rules and regulations under his feet. He is above law.

*Stanza # 6*

*The sun is behind me,*

*Nothing has changed since I began,*

*My eye has permitted no change,*

*I am going to keep things like this*

**EXPLANATION,**

He has a firm belief that the source of life and power "is behind" him. His power remains unchallenged since he began. He has not permitted any change. Captured in the illusion of his pride and power, he is confident that he is "going to keep things like this".

The Hawk says that his eyes do not allow any change. He claims that he is going to keep things as they are. He will not allow any one to reduce or minimize his powers. The hawk says that he enjoys absolute power and authority. In his solitary domain, there is no change. His act of hunting and plundering would continue as usual. He would not permit any change in them.

## **THEME**

The theme of the poem, "Hawk's Monologue" is the delusions of the power-drunk. The powerful people think that they are the monarch of all they see. They walk over the earth very proudly. They are vain of their power resources and possessions. They imagine that others have been created just to serve them. They believe that they can award death to others. They feel delight in killing others. In their period of great vigour, prosperity and fame, they have no idea of their downfall. They often forget in their unlimited power, lies the seeds of death and destruction. But time is a great power. With the passage of time, all the powerful people lost their power and glory. Apparently, the poem is the monologue of an old hawk. He talks 'to himself and thinks of his glorious past which is now no more. The poet says that a hawk is sitting on top of a tall tree in the wood. Perhaps he is in sleep and has dreams of the past. He deceives himself by saying that he will remain as powerful and dominant as ever.

## **Summary**

Ted Hughes is a modern English poet. His philosophical views are based on his deep observation and study of human nature. Death, destruction, power and violence are the main themes of his poetry. "Hawk's Monologue" is the speech of a savage bird of prey who takes pride in his unchallenged power to kill and destroy. The poem also exposes the attitude and misconceptions of power-drunk persons in this world.

This poem is a dramatic monologue delivered by the 'hawk' who boasts much of his superiority over other birds. He thinks that he is the most powerful creation of Nature and has complete right to kill others. The poet has painted "Hawk" as a symbol of absolute power, authority and destruction. The poem has symbolic significance. In fact, it is a satire on those dictators who wish to have unlimited powers for them. They develop misconceptions about their power and status.

They do not listen to any reason and believe that are the greatest on earth. They treat others with contempt and do not hesitate to torture or destroy them for their pleasure. But they forget the fact that they also have to face death and destruction. They do not accept the reality that, no one in this world is permanent, everything changes and declines here. Sometimes they realize their mistake but too late.