

“The Hind” by Sir Thomas Wyatt

Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503-1542)

He is known for introducing the sonnet form (as used by Petrarch) into English poetry . He was also a diplomat in the service of king Henry viii . He is said to have been in love with Anne Boleyn before her marriage to the king . Wyatt was imprisoned for his affair with Anne , and imprisoned a second time for treason after the fall of Cromwell . There is no good reason for rejecting the supposition that the poem refers **allegorically** to his pursuit of Anne and to giving up the chase when she married the king. •

Appreciation

In this poem , Wyatt expresses personal disappointment and weariness in his great chase for Anne who is now possessed by a greater man (**Caesar**). •

The poem takes the form of a sonnet , Petrarch an sonnet • which has typically 14 lines . The first 8 lines or octave introduces a problem or some issue for contemplation and the remaining 6 lines or sestet offers a resolution.

Appreciation

The poet's love for Anne was based on futile hope from the beginning and he expressed his discouragement in "**Who so list to hunt**". He uses **an extended metaphor** so we see him immediately as a hunter and his dear as a deer, **an implied pun**. Since hunting was a pastime in the court of king Henry VIII, the poet used it as a theme which pervaded the sonnet. •

The poet opens his sonnet with a question to the readers asking who enjoys the hunt and pointing out that he knows a worthy hind (invitation). This invitation implies that the poet regrettably no longer up to the chase. All his efforts to win is her favour proved to be "**vain travail**". •

Appreciation

Thus he tells of his weariness in hunting the deer .He asserts • that he is not giving up just falling further behind ; his tired mind is still thinking as if he were a hunter .He admits that he is physically no longer courting this woman , but his thoughts still wearily follow the course of her flight from other lovers(hunters).. But as she continues to flee he finally leaves off recognizing his hunt to be as futile as seeking to catch the wind in a net. The word “**fleeth** ” **meaning to fly**, suggests that Anne did not entirely welcome Wyatt’s intention , and some of her contemporaries confirmed it . This is important because Anne was found guilty of adultery and executed for it .Wyatt was one of the men she was accused of having been with , and history has speculated on this ever since.

Appreciation

In either event , no one was able to provide a proof that she had ever committed adultery or had a premarital affair with Wyatt or with any one else. The word then validates her claim of innocence . However, Hunting this woman is like Trying to “ hold the wind “ in a snare and with this the octave ends. In the sestet , the poet returns to the metaphor of hunting a deer and repeats the same invitation if anybody wishes to hunt that deer. But this time , he warns other young men that they too will fail to catch her and spend their time in vain . Wyatt, closes the sestet with an **allusion to Caesar’s herd of tame deer** . Like Caesar’s deer , this woman belongs to a ruler (Henry viii). She has a bejeweled collar

-
-

Appreciation

Indicating that she has already an owner . Her collar is adorned with Latin phrase , “ Noli me tangere “ which means “ touch me not “(an allusion to Christ’s words to Mary Magdalene in the Bible).These words indicate a warning to stay a way as spoken in the woman’s voice . Indeed , the woman the poet has been pursuing is “tame “ by appearance but in reality she is “wild for to hold “.The poet employs **paradox** here by using the words “tame &wild” to illustrate the woman’s attitude towards her lovers and how she neglects them . The words are engraved with diamonds which obviously indicate the price the king has already paid to have her.

Devices

1. Extended metaphor •
2. Alliteration •
3. Assonance •
4. Rhyme •
5. Allusion •
6. Paradox •
7. Caesura •
8. Enjambment •

Poetic Devices

Allusion : a reference to a familiar literary or historical person or event , used to make an idea easily understood. •

In “ The Hind “ , the poet uses allusion (religious) when he uses Christ’s words (L 13) •

He uses another allusion (historical) when he refers to King Caesar (L 13).Both kings were strong and handsome young men in their late teens. They were influential having a significant role in the political changes and development of their realms . The poet may also be alluding to less appealing qualities of the two young kings regarding sexuality and unsuitable choice of women. •

Poetic Devices

Enjambment : the running over of the sense •
& structure of a line of verse or couplet into
the following verse or couplet.

Caesura : A pause in a line of poetry , usually •
occurring near the middle . It typically
corresponds to a break in the natural rhythm
or sense of the line but is sometimes shifted
to create special meaning or rhythmic effects. •

Poetic Devices

Paradox : a statement that appears illogical or contradictory at first , but may equally point to an underlying truth . •

Oxymoron : a condensed form of paradox in which two contradictory words are used together , as in “**sweet sorrow**” . •

Poetic Devices

Alliteration : The repetition of the same initial sound at frequent interval. •

Assonance : the repetition of the same vowel sound in the same line or closely adjacent lines of poetry. •