

DUST OF SNOW

Dust of Snow

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

ROBERT FROST

ABOUT THE AUTHOR- ROBERT FROST

Robert Frost was a famous American poet. He was born in San Francisco on March 26, 1874. His father belonged to New England, and his mother was a Scottish immigrant from Edinburgh. By the 1920s, Frost was the most celebrated poet in America. His poetical works 'A Boy's Will' (1913), 'North of Boston' (1914), 'New Hampshire' (1923), 'A Further Range' (1936) 'Steeple Bush' (1947) and 'In the Clearing' (1962) increased his fame and honor. The poem 'Dust of Snow' was published in 'New Hampshire' in 1923. This collection gave him the Pulitzer Prize.

INTRODUCTION

Robert Frost, a well known American poet of nature, in this poem presents a moment that seems simple but has a larger significance. It is a highly symbolic poem. One day the poet was in a depressed mood. A pleasant thing happened in a tree. It changed the poet's mood. It saved the rest of the day for the poet.

CENTRAL IDEA OF THE POEM

'Dust of Snow' is a small poem written by the famous American poet, Robert Frost. The poem is set on a wintry day. In the first stanza, the poet describes a simple natural happening. The snow is falling heavily. The snowy flakes have covered the top of the trees. The poet is standing under a hemlock tree. The movement and alighting of a crow on that tree, make the dust of snowfall on the poet. The crow, a symbol of ill omen and the hemlock tree, associated with a person, is not auspicious things. However, in the second stanza, the falling of snowflakes and the scene leave a tremendous effect on the mental state and

mood of the poet. So far, the day has been quite gloomy and wastage for him. But this ordinary natural happening suddenly brings the desired change in his mood. It gladdens his heart. He realises that the falling of snowflakes on him has saved the day. Now he has no regret as the whole of the day has not gone waste. The moments of the snowfall and their effect have saved the day. They have brought a change in his mood and gladdened and uplifted his spirits.

Word-Meaning

Way—manner, **Shook down** — shook the snow dust down, **Hemlock** — a poisonous tree, **A change of mood** — a change in the present condition of mind, **Saved** — saved from being wasted, **Part** — portion, **rectal Rued** — regretted deeply, felt deeply sad,

SHORT SUMMARY

The short poem by Robert Frost throws light upon the unimaginable healing power of nature and tiny things. From a bad mood to ill-health, there is nothing that can't be cured by nature.

Dust Of Snow

The author was experiencing one such bad day when a crow's movement near a hemlock tree dusted snow upon him. The snow instantly makes him happier. His day gets a lot better. Thus, the supremacy of nature as a whole made him realise how petty his problem was. The fact that hemlock tree is poisonous combined with crow being the indicator of doom and fear are used in the poem as the carriers of happiness in the life of narrator is ironical.



The poet, through these objects has tried to highlight that sometimes creatures linked with negative aspects of life can be the bringer of change and happiness. Being outdoors in nature, with all its unpredictability can benefit anyone, anywhere at any time.

DETAILED SUMMARY

'Dust of Snow' is an awful poem of nature by Robert Frost. In this poem a symbolic incident is present. The poet is standing under a hemlock tree. He is in a sad mood. He thinks that his day has been lost then a crow shakes the hemlock tree and the dust of snow falls on him. This little incident brings about a sudden

change in the state of the poet's mind. His mood has changed. He thinks that it has saved the rest of his day and gets busy with his work like the crow.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. Flakes of Snow: It was a day of winter. It was snowing all around. A fine dust of snow had covered the tops of the trees. A hemlock tree was standing there. The top of the hemlock tree was all covered with the fine dust of snow. The poet was standing under that hemlock tree.

2. Sudden Arrival of a Crow, Falling of Snow Dust on Poet: A crow from nowhere came and perched on the top of the tree. The sudden movement of the crow made the dust of snow fall down. The flakes of snow fell on the poet who was standing under that tree.

3. Simple Natural Happening: The arrival of a crow and its sitting on the hemlock tree is just an ordinary happening. There is nothing great about the incident. On the other hand, the crow stands for an ill omen and the hemlock tree is associated with poison. But these seemingly simple things of nature leave a deep impact on the mind and mood of the poet.

4. Change in the Mood: This ordinary incident leaves a deep impact on the poet. So far it has been a very dull and disappointing day for the poet. The day has not gone well for him. But the falling of the flakes and dust of snow on him are welcome signs for the poet. His mood changes for the better and his spirits are uplifted. Now he realises that the whole day has not gone waste. Those moments while he is enjoying the fall of snow dust on him are his happy moments. They lift up his mood and gladden his heart. Now he realises that at least some part of the day has been spent happily. In the end, satisfaction replaces regret.

(OR)

Main Points of the Poem

1. It is a winter's day.
2. The treetops were covered with masses of snowflakes.
3. The poet was walking under one such snow covered tree.
4. This tree was a hemlock tree, a conifer associated with poisonous qualities.
5. A crow alighted on the hemlock tree suddenly.
6. The sudden movement of the crow, the mass of snowflakes started falling down the tree.
7. The snowflakes fell down upon the poet who was standing under the tree.
8. The mass of snowflakes was so light and fine that it looked like the dust of white snow.
9. The sudden movement and arrival of the crow and the falling of the flakes of snow look like just ordinary happenings.
10. But the falling of fine snowflakes on the poet leaves a tremendous effect on him.
11. Before this, the poet was in a gloomy or despairing mood.

12. However, this simple beautiful act of nature has a very comforting effect on him.
13. The fall of snow over him changes his mood and mental state.
14. It gladdens his heart.
15. Before this incident, that particular day was not going too well for him.
16. He had decided in his mind that day would go waste.
17. However, the fall of snowflakes on him makes him realise that the whole day has not been wasted.
18. At least, this part of the day when he is enjoying the snowflakes has been saved.
19. At least, some part of the day has been pleasant.
20. If he had not experienced such a pleasant experience, he would have regretted at the wastage of the whole day.
