

The Road Not Taken

IX By Robert Frost

This is a well-known poem about making choices that shape our future. Robert Frost (March 26, 1874 – January 29, 1963) is an American poet who writes insightfully about common, ordinary experiences of life. He is known for his realistic depictions of daily life. This poem describes the poet who is standing at a junction in the road in a yellow wood. He is uncertain which road he should take. The poet has used the road as a metaphor for the journey of life.

The poet tells that he was at a junction in the road in a yellow wood. He is sorry that he could not travel both roads and become one traveller of one road. He stood to decide which road he should take. He looked down one road as far as he could see it bent in the undergrowth.

Then the poet took the other road which is equally fair and has the better claim to walk. It seemed like no one had gone that way. He was curious about where the other road would lead him to.

The poet tells the readers that that morning when he was to decide to take one of the two roads in the yellow wood both equally lay in leaves. The poet decided to give up the first road and be a traveller on the second road. The poet had doubt if he ever should come back to travel the first one. He knew that one road leads to another road. He had no way of knowing where he was going to end up so to take the other road really didn't matter much. He thought that he might come back another day and try out the other road. He also felt that his chosen road would lead him to new places and people and he might not return. He tells that one part of him today regrets his decision. He also realizes that it was his decision or direction which helped him to see new things he had an unknown fear that

he might have to face unpleasantness or uncertainty but he welcomes it. He ends up with good feelings.

This poem published in 1916 is actually a poem about the journey of life. Robert Frost's choice about which road to take denotes the different decisions the readers have to make and how those decisions shape their future. The poet has made a connection between life and travelling. He produces the uncertainty about making decisions. He takes the road less travelled by. The second road was grassy and wanted wear namely it did not look like anyone had travelled it before. The poet decides to take it as a challenge. In other words Robert Frost encourages readers to overcome the fear of travelling the unknown roads. Somebody has to be the first traveller to try a new thing.

Glossary

Diverged	-	separated
A yellow wood	-	a forest of autumn when trees drop dry, yellow leaves
Undergrowth	-	dense growth of plants and bushes, unknown roads or fears
Wear	-	use or walk

Note

The final lines, 'Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and I - I took the one less travelled by, And that has made all the difference' are frequently quoted as inspiring words that encourage us to welcome difficulties in the journey of life.

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