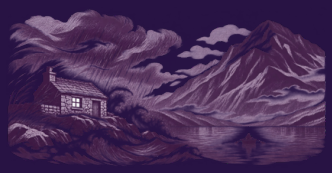
LOVE'S PHILOSOPHY

Percy Bysshe Shelley



WHAT HAPPENS? A speaker uses examples from nature to argue for physical closeness.

BIG IDEA **A speaker turns the apparent harmony of nature into a persuasive argument for intimacy.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

"The fountains mingle with the river"

Recurring verb

Different elements seem to participate willingly in union.

"All things by a law divine"

Religious diction

The appeal claims a higher authority for the speaker's desire.

"See the mountains kiss high Heaven,"

Personification

The landscape is made to model human intimacy.

"If thou kiss not me?"

Conditional question

The argument ends by making nature's apparent harmony depend on a personal response.

FORM

Two eight-line stanzas with alternating rhyme; each ends in a direct question to the beloved.

CONTEXT

Shelley's Romantic attention to nature becomes a rhetorical strategy. The speaker's claim is an argument, not an objective natural law.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Sonnet 29: longing for presence. Porphyria's Lover: unequal ideas about desire.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Water and wind

PLAYFULLY ASSURED

Examples of mingling present togetherness as the normal condition of nature.

First question

PERSONALLY INSISTENT

The general principle becomes a request involving the speaker and addressee.

Mountains to last question

INTENSIFYING

Kissing imagery accumulates until the practical desire is made unmistakable.

FULL POEM: use your anthology. Evidence fragments are prompts for close reading.

EXAM STASH · examstashhq.com