

terms, however it is more than that, which shows that the speaker does not have full knowledge of the afterlife; they are only aware of the stereotypical representation of heaven. The next line 'close to the two I lost' introduces a new topic; as the speaker cannot think of heaven without being reminded of previous grievances. This conveys the beautiful quality of heaven which allows people to reunite with loved ones. Further on the poem, the afterlife seems to be glorified, 'The smallest robe will fit me, And just a bit of Crown'. The use of the concrete nouns 'Robe' 'Crown' in both lines adds to the physical aspect of heaven and presents the image of a ceremonial dress for a glorious occasion of accepting God's grace.

However, at the end of the poem Dickinson seems to be doubting the afterlife. The first lines of the 3rd stanza 'I'm glad don't believe it, For it would stop my breath-' displays the playful irony in the idea that believing in heaven would knock her dead. This shows that Dickinson is mocking the thought of the afterlife and she's pleased that she doesn't believe in the idea of it either. Dickinson would rather spend time appreciating the worldly life, 'And I'd like to look a little more, At such a curious Earth' which displays her lack of faith and that she's opposed to the Calvinist idea of Earth being only a temporary resting place, rather she believes this world is similar to heaven. Similarly, this links to her other poems; "my labor and my leisure" (because I could not stop for death) and the distracting fly in 'I heard a fly buzz'. Dickinson uses aspects of worldly life to emphasize her fragile faith as she would rather focus on these, than having a connection with God and reaching the afterlife.

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