

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repetition, emphasising how second coming sounds like irrational folly, Yeats uses quasi-frozen, religious language - Exclamation, sounds like he's preaching/sermonising <p>'A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pitiless God, indifferent to cruelty - God/sun is what we rely on to survive <p>'The ceremony of innocence is drowned;'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Idea of baptism <p>'Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cradle = birth image, Jesus's birth was meant to bring love/redemption, but instead brought horror/suffering - Vexed to nightmare = subverting ideas about pacifism/christianity, those who aren't Christian/clouded by Christian beliefs are living nightmare <p>'And what rough beast... slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new ideology being born which is a subversion of Christianity - Could refer to fascism being born 	<p>drowned;'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inescapability of it, 1418 WW1 men go out to war + die at sea <p>'The darkness drops again;'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eclipse, darkness descending - In Shakespeare eclipse represents terrible things happening and darkness - Idea of dark ages 	<p>power of the nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personification of blood dimmed tide represents a relentless force - Idea of Luna cycle, it waxes and wanes held by the forces of nature - How war has tainted nature w/ destruction and anarchy, there's an inexorable quality to it <p>'Troubles my sight: some were in sands of the desert'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sibilant dream-like alliteration <p>'A shape with lion body and the head of a man'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sphinx, merciless, those who cannot answer the sphinx's riddle suffer fate of death - Poem acts as a riddle
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