

OZYMANDIAS

Percy Bysshe Shelley

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said— "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away."

OZYMANDIAS - Analysis

Rhythm (Meter):

The poem follows an iambic pentameter, which consists of five pairs of unstressed and stressed syllables per line.

Each line typically contains ten syllables, with the stress falling on the second syllable of each pair.

Rhyme Scheme:

The rhyme scheme is ABABA CDCDC EFEFE for the three quatrains.

The final couplet diverges from this pattern, with the rhyme scheme GG.

Layout:

The poem consists of fourteen lines, divided into one octave (eight lines) and one sestet (six lines).

The volta (shift in tone or focus) occurs between the octave and sestet.

The poem is a sonnet, but it deviates from the traditional Petrarchan or Shakespearean sonnet structure.

Tone:

The tone is ironic, emphasizing the contrast between the grandiose inscription and the ruined statue.

There's a sense of detachment and moral reflection as the traveler recounts the scene.

