

Short description: your fire and ice

[Literature](#), [Poem](#)



In Fire and Ice Robert Frost uses the elements of fire and ice very symbolically. While he could be speaking literally of the destruction of the world by fire or ice, I believe he is using the two elements to describe the two types of people in this world. Fire, or “desire”, would be the type of person filled with love, passion, and bliss. Robert Frost knows from personal experience, that these powerful emotions are strong enough to turn our world into a huge fireball of emotion, ultimately destroying humanity as we know it. Then there is ice, also known as the harsh emotion of hatred. While love may get all the praise, hatred is equally as lethal. It, too, has the power to destroy our world with its cold emotions. Robert Frost could also be speaking of something like war, where these two emotions go against each other, and ultimately end up destroying each other, and everything around them. Fire could additionally be described as the animal side of our nature. The emotions associated with fire are instinctual for us. We don't think, we just do. Therefore, in Robert Frost's opinion, fire would win, and end up destroying earth. The “ice” emotions are far more complicated. They need deliberation and thought. In line 3 Robert writes “From what I've tasted of desire” meaning he has definitely experienced the emotions that go along with fire. He seems much more hesitant on the subject of hatred or “ice” for example in line 4 he writes “I think I know enough of hate”. We don't know what hate he knows from this line. Has he merely observed hate, has he been the victim, or has he been the one hating?

When I think of hate, I think of rage, which is associated with the color red, like fire. So why doesn't Robert Frost portray hate as fire? Maybe he is speaking of the type of anger that lingers in your mind, beneath the surface

of it all. Eventually that anger is pressured to show its self in one way or another. Imagine a lake frozen over, if you hit it hard enough it cracks and the water underneath it all shows itself.