

The road not taken and journey to the interior english journeys



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It's the journey and not the arrival that matters. A journey is a movement from one point to another where in you gain knowledge through experiences by overcoming obstacles. The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost and Journey to the Interior by Margaret Atwood portray the concept of journeys to a great extent. These poems will show a whole other perspective of a literal inner and imaginative journey and a metaphorical physical journey. In the poem "The Road Not Taken", Robert Frost provides a look at the choices one has in life, how one comes to decide which choices are better, and what the consequences of these choices are.

In "Journey to the Interior", Margaret Atwood uses the physical terrain of the Canadian landscape as a metaphor for this psychological exploration of the self. The persona is embarking on an imaginative and inner journey. Many people can relate in many ways to these two poems. In The Road Not Taken, Frost uses the paths as a metaphor for life in general. He says "Two roads diverge in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveler, long I stood." In these phrases, Frost is explaining that he is in a situation where he has to make a decision.

This hints that some of us spend time deliberating over which would be the best decision when we are put in a situation where we have to choose one thing or the other. This also explains how the protagonist was procrastinating in which road to take, the road that was less travelled by or the road that has certainly been walked on. Atwood's persona is experiencing issues that are very similar to each other. "I notice: that the hills which the eyes make flat as a wall, welded together". The hills are obstacles and represent her

emotional challenge. The personas problems and issues are very intricate and one issue of hers leads to another.

Both personas seem to be having difficulties and although they are very different to one another, both are trying to reach a solution and overcome their obstacles. Decisions should always be carefully thought out. In the second stanza Frost writes “ Then took the other, as just as fair. ” In this line Frost is explaining how he took both paths and gave them the same amount of thought and concentration. Here, Frost explains that one shouldn't look at his or her choices without careful thought and that one must examine both choices equally and in a sense figure out the pros and cons of both.

The persona in “ Journey to the Interior” has come to the decision that she wants to seek help and overcome depression. “ A compass is useless; also trying to take directions from the movements of the sun, which are erratic; and words here are as pointless as calling in a vacant wilderness”. This explains that depression varies in every individual and that the sun reflects light; the persona could possibly be treated by a psychologist but nothing is consistent for her. She is calling out for help and is unable to understand the depth of her suffering.

They are both wise and their decisions are based on their instincts and what they think is right for them. Some journeys do not have a destination, but more can be gained from such a journey. At the end of the poem Frost writes about how the persona is relieved and positive that he had chosen the right path and that at the “ end it made all the difference. ” The persona at times questioned if he had made the right decision but in the end, these decisions

had brought the persona far in life and his story will be told many years from now.

The destination was not reached in Atwood's poem but the persona had gained knowledge from their inner journey. " Whatever I do I must keep my head. I know it is easier for me to lose my way forever". This persona is now determined to be brave and take control of her life even though her problem is not solved and she is still suffering from depression; but has learnt to try and see the light in life. Two totally different poets, but both have an extraordinary gift for poetry. Two mind blowing and deceptive journeys, that are misunderstood and misjudged by many and therefore need to be looked deep into.

Things are not always what they seem, things don't always end the way we might want them to and we can't predict the future, that's why each and every one of us undergoes many journeys in life in order to find ourselves or simply undergo journeys for the pleasure and fun of it. More is gained from the journey than the destination itself; many obstacles present themselves on the way and in order to reach our destination we need to overcome those obstacles and through experience, newfound knowledge is surely going to be present itself.