

Dust of Snow

About the poet: Robert Frost was born in San Francisco on March 26, but his family moved to Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1884 following his father's death. Frost graduated from Lawrence High School. Frost's first book was published around the age of 40, but he would go on to win a record four Pulitzer prizes and become the most famous poet of his time, before his death at the age of 88.

Frost demonstrated an enviable versatility of theme, but he most commonly investigated human contacts with the natural world in small encounters that served as metaphors of large aspects of human condition. He often portrayed the human ability to turn even the slightest incident or natural details to emotional profits, seen at its most economical form in 'Dust of Snow'. Robert Frost died in Boston on January 29, 1963.

Central Idea of the Poem

'Dust of Snow' is a small poem written by the famous American poet, Robert Frost. The poem is set on a wintry day. In the first stanza, the poet describes a simple natural happening. The snow is falling heavily. The snowy flakes have covered the top of the trees. The poet is standing under a hemlock tree. The movement and alighting of a crow on that tree, make the dust of snowfall on the poet. The crow, a symbol of ill omen and the hemlock tree, represents sorrow. However, in the second stanza, the falling of snowflakes and the scene leave a tremendous effect on the mental state and mood of the poet. So far, the day has been quite gloomy and wastage for him. But this ordinary natural happening suddenly brings the desired change in his mood. It gladdens his heart. He realizes that the falling of snowflakes on him has saved the day. Now he has no regret as the whole of the day has not gone waste. The moments of the snowfall and their effect have saved the day. They have brought a change in his mood and gladdened and uplifted his spirits.

Answer the following questions (30 - 40 words)

- (a) What changes the poet's mood?
- (b) What does Robert Frost want to convey through the poem 'Dust of Snow'?
- (c) 'And saved some part of a day, I had ruled. Explain.
- (d) What side of nature do 'crow' and 'hemlock' represent?