

Dante Gabriel Rossetti

"Barren Spring"

Once more the changed year's turning wheel returns:
And as a girl sails balanced in the wind,
As now before and now again behind
Stoops as it swoops, with cheek that laughs and burns, –
So Spring comes merry towards me here, but earns
No answering smile from me, whose life is twin'd
With the dead boughs that winter still must bin,
And whom to-day the Spring no more concerns.
Behold, this crocus is a withering flame;
This snowdrop, snow; this apple-blossom's part
To breed the fruit that breeds the serpent's art.
Nay, for these Spring-flowers, turn thy face from them,
Nor stay till on the year's last lily-stem
The white cup shrivels round the golden heart.
Points for Discussion:

1-Summary:

The poet describes spring as a girl who stretchES her hands joyfully and looks active and colorful laughs and burns. The girl in the boat moves forward and backward. He wants to reflect that there is no progression in human happiness . Every joy is deadened by sudden sadness. The poet fails to share this joy because he can't get red from the dry branches of winter. He cannot feel its beauty to the extent that he does not tastes the beauty of the crimson crocus. Even the Lilly which is symbolizes life and beauty has dried and its white leaves died.

2-Allusion:

The poem refers to the story of Adam fall and the snake.

3-The poem reveals that anterior sadness to beloved can be hinder his exterior one. The poet is sad because his loss of his woman. Thus spring reminds him of his despair.

