

Critical analysis of the poem *Ozymandias*:المحاضرة السابعة

By Ins. Alaa Muzahim.

General Meaning: The speaker is the poet himself remembered that he met a traveller told him a story about the ruins of a statue in the desert of his native country.

Detailed meaning: The poet says that he met a traveller from an ancient land who told him of statue he had once seen in the desert. It's huge trunk less legs stood in the desert and broken head was lying near them on the sand. It's face was frowning and sneering with a wrinkled lip because Ozymandias was giving a command, the traveller says that the feelings expressed on the statue's face have outlived both the artist's hand that carved them and ozymandias heart that felt them. On the pedestal of the statue the traveller could read an inscription describing Oz as the king of kings and urging the on looker to contemplate the works around the statue. When traveller looked around, however he did not see any work. They all must have either crumbled to dust or buried up in the sand. All what he saw around the remains of the statue was the empty and seemingly endless desert stretching far into the distance.

Poet's Intention: Shelly expresses the idea that nothing in the world lasts forever. Everything has an end, human life and everything around him. He wants to express the idea of the vanity of human wishes, dreams, achievements, happiness, sadness. Also he wants to show us the importance of art because by art you can expose the features of any human beings everywhere and every time.