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اسم المحاضرة الأولى باللغة العربية: تحليل قصيدة السوننتية(34) للشاعر ادموند سبنسر

اسم المحاضرة الأولى باللغة الإنكليزية: *An analysis of Sonnet 34 like a Ship by Edmund*

*Spencer*

### **An analysis of *Sonnet 34 like a Ship* by Edmund Spencer**

This poem is part of Amoretti (a collection of poems written by Spencer after his marriage to his second wife , Elizabeth Bolye at the age of 56. This sonnet appears to describe a break in his relationship with his wife and how he is left astray(lost) waiting for her forgiveness. Spencer uses the analogy of a ship losing its way during a storm to convey the idea of the separation between him and his wife.

#### **Summary**

The poet says my position is like a ship that sails through the wide ocean with the help and guidance of some star; but when that star is dimmed by a storm, the ship wanders astray from her course and thus loses the true direction. My condition is similar; the bright star that used to direct my way is now overcast with clouds, and I wander in darkness and dismay with hidden dangers surrounding me all around. Yet I am hopeful that when this storm is over, my Helice, the pole star of my life will shine again and look on me with lovely light and the clouds of grief will disappear. then I wander, full of comfortless in secret sorrow and pensiveness.

#### **Analysis**

Spenser draws heavily on Petrarch as regards the metaphors of sea voyages, sea storms and ships. As the ship goes astray when the pole stars disappears behind the clouds, so is the condition of the lover whose guiding star has disappeared leaving him in the stormy seas. Clouds of doubts, indecision and indifference have dimmed her sight. Perhaps she

has lost all interest in him. The ship of his life is now in turbulence caused by desire and greed. He is surrounded by darkness and frustration.

Through the images of the sea and the storm Spenser tries to present sensual temptations that separate the lover from his beloved and destroy the bodily ship. Spenser uses the traditional allegory of the tempted ship of the body. Hidden perils recall Homer's Odyssey where Scylla and Charbydis endanger the passage of Odysseus's ship. The beloved is the bright star, God-figure or Christ who guides the lover, ennobles him so that he can attain divinity and be united with his beloved—with his God.

There are many temptations which do not enable the lover-ship to see the guiding star. Like storm-ridden ship, the lover is surrounded by doubts, despair and dismay and thus has drifted away from her and finds himself in a precarious situation. Here the poet combines or mixes the Platonic concept of an ideal woman (as the courtly lovers believed and presented their beloveds as angels, goddesses etc.) and the Christian concept of the union of the Christ and the Church. In order to attain divinity, the lover must check his passions and desires and become pure and virtuous. The hidden perils that now checkmate him will disappear as the guiding star reappears with the same glory and splendor. He hopes that the storm will soon blow over and his Helice will shine again as brightly as it did.

Thus there is note of optimism with which the poet consoles himself. However till the storm lasts, he has to bear with the tragic and miserable situation, full of cares and worries. Patience is the need. His guiding star will reappear and shine on him once again. But before that the lover has to undergo the ritual of purification—of all base and low sensual desires and appetites. Once his heart and mind are purified, his soul will be

purified—and this ritual will pave the way, clear the storm, and bring his Helice once again original brilliance.

**In line 1** the poet used simile 1 when he compares himself to a ship in the ocean. This visual image sets a tone of loneliness.

**In line 2**, Spencer goes on to tell the reader that the ship has been getting on its way by following a bright star in the sky.

**In lines 3 and 4** the poet says that a storm has rolled in and the weather became dark (dimmed) and the ship lost its way because of the storm. The sky is dark and cloudy therefore the ship could not see its way in the ocean and it wanders far astray. We notice that astrology plays a big part in the poem.

**Lines 5-8** Now the poet wander around in darkness because his guiding light has been concealed by the dark clouds of the storm. Without the light of the star (his wife),he is left vulnerable to the changes round him. He misses her bright ray , personality and her guiding soul. He is consumed with sadness that he lost his way and left defenseless. The perils that the ship faces in its journey represent the problems which the poet faces in his life during the absence of his wife (his guiding star).

**Lines 9-12** Here the poet shows his optimism. He hopes that when the storm passes, the light of the star (his wife) will shine on him again and guide him back to the port so that they could be together once again. He calls her *Helice* ( a mythical name of a wood nymph).

**Lines 13-14** These last two lines are known as the rhyming couplet which sums up the entire poem in a few words as possible. Spencer is telling his wife that until she forgives him, he will wander aimlessly all alone with sorrowful thoughts

