

1817

# Ozymandias

I met a traveller from an antique land  
 Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
 Stand in the desert ... Near them, on the sand,  
 Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,  
 5 And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,  
 Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
 Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,  
 The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed:

And on the pedestal these words appear:  
 10 'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:  
 Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!  
 Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
 Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare  
 The lone and level sands stretch far away.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

removed from direct attack on George  
 enormous - contrast to power of nature  
 semantic fields: vast  
 desert etc  
 boundless, colossal  
 simile = destruction of shape  
 Rule of 3: allit of e (heart)  
 - long vowel of sneer = emphasis  
 - connotation of waste  
 vs church  
 punctuation - commanding  
 caesura - emphasises insignificance  
 alliterations emphasise  
 emptiness and distance

elipsis + caesura

double meaning

juxtaposition after command

Sonnet form

- mix of Petrarchan + Shakespearean
- ironic structure
- perfection is corrupted.
- ostensible power of Ozymandias is futile