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S. No 23 B.A.Part-1 English Hons, Topic: Theme of *Youth and Age* Dr Umesh Prasad Singh, Assistant Prof of English, D. B. College Contact No 7250460920, Email-ID drumeshsingh131@gmail.com

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Coleridge's speaker laments the losses that come with age as the poem begins:

"Verse, a breeze mid blossoms straying,
Where Hope clung feeding, like a bee—
Both were mine!"

to establish that when he was younger, poetry and hope were in his realm of being.

In the second stanza, the speaker characterizes his youthful physical state as strong and effortless. He was impervious to the elements as "Nought cared this body for wind or weather/When Youth and I lived in't together." The speaker is unwilling to accept the loss of his youth when he cries "It cannot be that Thou art gone!"

As the poem continues, the speaker decides that he will deny the truth of his aging. He recognizes that his hair is gray and that he is smaller and more bent, but he avers that life actually takes place in the mind. He resolves to think of himself as young, concluding that without this hope, the rest of his life becomes a cheerless wait for death.

Themes within this interpretation of the poem include the power of purpose and hope in our lives to keep us going, and that though our physical bodies will eventually fail, our youthful outlook can be retained in spirit.