

May 30, 2020

B.A Part-2,S.No23,English Composition, Summary of *The Wild Swans At Coole*

Dr Umesh Prasad Singh, Assistant Prof of English, D .B .College Jaynagar

Contact No: 7250460920, drumeshsingh131@gmail.com

Summary of the poem *The Wild Swans At Coole*.

The first stanza of the poem presents fifty-nine swans in a beautiful natural setting that reminds us of William Wordsworth and other Romantic poets. It is autumn and the leaves have fallen. The trees are bare and the paths are absolutely dry. In the October twilight, the poet sees the water mirroring the sky. And upon the over flowing water and among the stones of the lake the poet sees the 'nine-and-fifty' swans. This stanza is indeed superbly descriptive of the tranquillity of nature.

The second stanza presents swans in the background of passing Time. It was exactly nineteen years ago that he had seen these swans in the same lake. But before he could finish counting the swans, they had flown upward and spread themselves in rings upon their noisy wings. The movements of the birds perhaps parallel the flight of the imagination.

The third stanza presents the poet lamenting over the change produced in him due to the passing of Time. Everything has changed since he last saw the swans. The poet has grown old though the swans have maintained their grace and beauty.

The fourth stanza focuses on the habit of the swans, fine 'companionable streams' expressing the warmth he envies. The phrase 'lover by lover' superbly expresses the envy of the swans that have mated, compared with the poet who has not mated with his beloved. The hearts of these swans have not grown old.

The last stanza is a little enigmatic, but there is a terrible sensation of loss, as if the swans were passing away from the poet's to be enjoyed by

others – providing perhaps a glance at the fact that youth and the experience of love have passed away, too.

Thus the poem *The Wild Swans At Coole* , with a mournful lyricism, appears to be a commentary on the personal life of the poet and the unhappiness generated in him by the passing of Time.