

The Works of Stephen Crane

(1) I Met a Seer

I met a seer.
He held in his hands
The book of wisdom.
“Sir,” I addressed him,
“Let me read.”
“Child ---” he began.
“Sir,” I said,
“Think not that I am a child,
For already I know much
Of that which you hold.
Aye, much.”

He smiled.
Then he opened the book
And held it before me. ____
Strange that I should have grown
So suddenly blind.

(3) A Man Said to the Universe

A man said to the universe:
“Sir, I exist!”
“However,” replied the universe,
“The fact has not created in me
A sense of obligation.”

(5) The Wayfarer

The wayfarer
Perceiving the pathway to truth
Was struck with astonishment.
It was thickly grown with weeds.
“Ha,” he said.
“I see that none has passed here
In a long time.”
Later he saw that each weed
Was a singular knife.
“Well,” he mumbled at last,
“Doubtless there are other roads.”

QUESTIONS

1. What is the statement?
2. What is the contradiction?
3. What is the turning?
4. What is the “thrust of irony?”
5. Explain the point Crane is trying to make?

(2) I Saw a Man

I saw a man pursuing the horizon;
Round and round they sped.
I was disturbed at this;
I accosted the man.
“It is futile,” I said.
“You can never---”
“You lie,” he cried,
And ran on.

(4) Think as I Think

“Think as I think,” said a man.
“Or you are abominably wicked;
You are a toad.”
And after I had thought of it,
I said, “I will, then, be a toad.”

(6) There Were Many

There were many who went in huddled
procession
They knew not whither;
But, at any rate, success or calamity
Would attend all in equality.
There was one who sought a new
Road.
He went into direful thickets,
And ultimately he died thus, alone;
But they said he had courage.

(7) Tell Brave Deeds

“Tell brave deeds of war.”

Then they recounted tales---
“There were stern stands
And bitter runs for glory.”

Ah, I think there were braver deeds.