
Ozymandias

by – Percy Bysshe Shelly

- In this sonnet, Shelley illustrates the vanity of human greatness and the failure of all attempts to immortalize human achievements.
 - Ozymandias was a great Egyptian King.
 - A lifelike statue of the king was made to immortalize him. But now the statue lies broken and disfigured in a desert.
 - A traveler from Egypt reports that Ozymandias' statue lies broken and neglected in a desert.
 - The broken statue is surrounded by a vast desert.
 - The poem reflects that human glory and pomp are not everlasting.
 - Time plays havoc with monuments and statues.
 - Thus, the poet gives a moral in a suggestive manner.
 - The poet meets a traveler from an ancient land.
 - The traveler tells the poet that he has seen two huge trunkless legs of stone standing in the desert.
 - The face of the statue showed signs of contempt and cold command on it.
 - Only boundless and bare sand is spreading all around the broken statue and the shattered face of Ozymandias.
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