

Waiting

Serene, I fold my hands and wait,
Nor care for wind, nor tide, nor sea;
I rave no more 'gainst time or fate,
For lo! my own shall come to me.

I stay my haste, I make delays, ⁵
For what avails this eager pace?
I stand amid the eternal ways,
And what is mine shall know my face.

Asleep, awake, by night or day,
The friends I seek are seeking me; ¹⁰
No wind can drive my bark astray,
Nor change the tide of destiny.

What matter if I stand alone?
I wait with joy the coming years;
My heart shall reap where it hath sown, ¹⁵
And garner up its fruit of tears.

The waters know their own and draw
The brook that springs in yonder height;
So flows the good with equal law
Unto the soul of pure delight.

The stars come nightly to the sky;
The tidal wave unto the sea;
Nor time, nor space, nor deep, nor high,
Can keep my own away from me.

--John Burroughs

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Questions:

Research and Discussion Questions

What can you do while being patient?

How do you feel when you have to wait for someone?

QUESTIONS

1. What is the theme of this poem?

2. What is the purpose of the poem?

3. What is the person doing in the poem?

4. What is the tone of this poem?

5. According to the first stanza, what is the speaker doing?

6. At the end of the poem, what is the reader encouraged to do?

7. Why do you think the speaker claims "I stay my haste, I make delays,"(line 5)?

8. How does the poet's beliefs on:

a. Friendship?

b. Solitude?

c. Love?

9. What is meant by the line "My heart shall reap what it hath sown"(line15)?

10. What figure of speech is used in the fifth stanza of this poem?

11. What two facts are stated in the last stanza?

12. Do you like this poem? Why?
