

A critical Appreciation of
The Second coming

The Second coming, composed by W.B. Yeats in 1919, is a very mystic, symbolic and intellectual poem. It has been written about the fast changing world. It is one of Yeats' most famous poems. After the end of the first world war, it describes a deeply mysterious and strengthful substitute to the Christian idea of the second coming - Jesus Christ predicted return to this Earth as a saviour announcing the Kingdom of Heaven.

The poem's first stanza narrates a world of tumult, illusion and pang. It anticipates the dreadful history of coming violence and savagery of the second world war, when this poem was written, the poet's mind was filled with darkness and depression as a result of the widespread killing, and bloodshed and massacre in Ireland in course of the Easter rebellion in 1916.

In the first stanza of the poem, the poet elaborates the present condition of the world - its political ups and downs, the chaos and cynicism of modern civilization of the twentieth century. The first image of the falcon losing control of its keeper or the master - the disaster is certain. Herein, the falcon is the soul or conscience. Science, technology and intellectualism are too much with us, and they

are leading human beings to annihilation'.
 As a consequence of it, sheer and mere
 anarchy has been let loose upon the
 world. there is a cancerous environment
 of violence and bloodbath everywhere in the
 world. The body of a lion with head of a
 human being is seen coming out of some
 distant desert and proceeding gradually
 towards Bethlehem, the sacred birth-place of
 Jesus christ. this strengthful poem displays
 the vision of the poet that the christian
 civilization was nearing the end of its
 limited span of ~~two~~ two thousand years
 and the new phase is about to begin
 soon.

on the second stanza, the poet
 announced that all the chaos, disintegr-
 ation, anarchy and illusion must surely
 be a sign of revelation. The poet witnesses
 an extraordinary vision. He happens to
 see a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi.
 A sphinx like creature, a shape with a
 lion body and the head of a man

is moving across the desert. The
2000 years story of pre christian
man was roused and tormented by the
first coming of the Christ in another shape.
The poet feels a rough beast slouches
towards Bethlehem to be born.

The second coming is based on year's
cyclic theory of history. The second coming,
mentioned here is not really a second
coming of Christ himself, but of a new
figure. A cruel, bestial and pitiless
creature will represent the new era as
Christ symbolized the spiritual one.
In this way, a new rough beast is going
to take Christ's position in the cradle of
Bethlehem. The second coming is based on
the philosophy of gyres and reincarnation,
but it can be treated as a direct prediction
of imminent calamity. The rape of Leda
and Swan gives a birth to two beautiful
girls. This conception will help rise a
bestial civilization, which is symbolic
ally a destructive civilization. It
symbolises the fall of the Greek and
the Babylonian civilizations.