

ENGLISH

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

~Summary~

-by Robert Frost

Stanza- 1

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Explanation: The poet has come into the deep autumnal wood where two roads have diverged into two ways like a fork. Immediately the poet understands that as a traveller, travelling both the roads is impossible. Here the two roads symbolise two ways to go in life. The poet first thought of travelling both the roads and then discarded the idea. Then he finds himself in dilemma into able to decide about the choice of roads. He found that the first road has bent in the undergrowth bush). The undergrowth here represents the unknown world.

Stanza- 2

Then took the other, just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.

Explanation: The poet selects the road that appears at first glance to be less travelled. This stanza suggests that he has an independent spirit and does not wish to follow the crowd. After a moment, he changes his mind, concluding that both roads are equally worn out.

Stanza- 3

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

Explanation: Leaves cover both roads equally. No one this morning has yet taken either path, for the leaves lie undisturbed. This symbolises that the choices in life open to the poet are both unknown to him. The poet remains committed to his decision to take the road he had previously selected, saying that he will save the other road for another day. This symbolises that he will make the other choice in life only if he is not satisfied with the results of the first choice. He observes, that he will probably never pass this way again, as one path leads to another, and thus will never have an opportunity to take the other road. This symbolises that he will not be able to take the second choice in life at all.

Stanza- 4

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence;
Two roads diverged in a wood and I
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Explanation: In years to come, the poet says, he will be telling others about the choice he made, meaning that he will talk about what decision in life he took. While doing so, he will sigh, either with relief that he made the right choice, or with regret that he made the wrong choice. Whether right or wrong, the choice will have had a significant impact on his life.

Conclusion of The Road Not Taken

The poem's concludes with ".....and that has made all the difference.". The concluding lines conveys that the decision taken make all the differences. Meaning, right or wrong decisions at life's stage have huge bearing in shaping the individual's life.