

Interpretation of 'Stars'

Stars	Sterne
O'er our tumultuous snow, Which flows in shapes as tall as trees When wintry winds do blow!–	vor rüber unser stürmischer Schnee, der in Formen hoch wie Bäume flog Wenn Winterwinde wehen!–
As if with keenness for our fate, Our faltering few steps on To white rest, and a place of rest Invisible at dawn,–	Als wenn die Härte/Präzision unseres Schicksals unsere schwankenden Schritte hin zu weißer Ruhe und einem Platz zum Ruhen unsichtbar in der Morgendämmerung,–
And yet with neither love nor hate, Those starts like some snow-white Minerva's snow-white marble eyes Without the gift of sight.	Und jetzt mit weder Liebe noch Hass, diese Sterne einige schneeweiß Minerva's schneeweise marmor Augen Ohne die Gabe des Sehens.

Robert Lee Frost, the author, was born in 1874 in San Francisco. His first literary work was published in 1894 (My butterfly). The poem "Stars" was published 1915 in the anthology "A boy's will". In the 22. April of 1915 Germany is the first country which used biological weapons in the First World War. The poem deals with the helplessness in the face of our fate, and also with the problem to find the right moment to rest for a time.

The poem is structured in three stanzas. Three is the cipher of divinity (eg. The Holy Trinity). This could be a metaphor for the from god appointed fate. Every stanza got four lines. These lines symbolise the mundane things (e.g. the cardinal points). This interaction symbolises that we are not free in, really, everything we do, but that we are not dependent in our fate.

The word "o'er" is a synonym for "over" and describes a period of time. The first stanza describes with the metaphor "How countless they congregate", that you got a lot of possible roads to go in your life. But you can see this opulent possibility first, if they are gone, if you haven't to take anymore a decision. The force of nature, the time is symbolised in the snow as tall as trees.

The time is the keenness fate that let us faltering. We want to take a break, to look over the possibilities. But this places are invisible at the time, we stand before them. After we went over them we see the whole thing. The place of white rest isn't real, because we are in a permanent war against the time and white is the color for peace.

The last stanza is a conclusion of the stanzas before. Frost describes a balance between love and hate and good and evil in the kingdom of stars. He describes this place as a mundane place. To clarify this he put the Italian god Minerva in. Minerva is the defendgod of the craftsman and better known as Athene. Later Minerva became also the god of the poets and teachers. But Minerva is also a star, to be exact a comet.

"Without the gift of sight" is a metaphor therefore that not even gods can see the furthermore decisions. And they are blind to see which decision is good and which bad. Maybe it's a hint on the first world war, Minerva couldn't protect the craftsman because Minerva is one of this snow-white stars. To conclude this a bit in the context, the snow-white stars and eyes, could stand for the wintry wind and tumultuous snow from the first stanza.

Robert Frost paint here a picture of the stars as decisions. You can see types of this picture in many cultures. For example the Egyptians got the Big Dipper as a symbol of reborn, in the rite of the 'opening of the mouth ceremony'. My opinion is that everybody got a fate and now one can runaway from it, but everybody got the chance to drive this fate in a good or bad direction.