

Town of Finding Out About the Love of God

(monte)

What first struck me in this poem is that the first line uses the verb “had made” which is past perfect and means that the action was done and completed in the past. So the speaker committed a mistake before this day, and that mistake was completed before this day. I think that is important because the mistake is not something that is continuing into this day, therefore the mistake is at least not immediately directly responsible for the result stated in this poem. That result is that “my suitcase is ready.” This means that the speaker is now prepared to leave, or go on the journey. The next line, “two hardboiled eggs” could likely be read as both renaming what the speaker’s readied suitcase is, and also being the subject of the next line, “for the journey are stored.” Hardboiled eggs are pictures of stagnant and greatly mutilated life. So the speaker committed a mistake sometime in the past, and now he is ready with his two-hardboiled eggs that are being stored – present progressive tense, insinuating that they have been there for some time. These preparations are stored in places where his eyes were like a current carrying a twig. I connected these four lines in my interpretation, because I made a connection between eyes and current. These preparations are stored in the same place that once housed the speaker’s tears. These past tears are the things that made the speaker audible to you. I do not understand who the “you” could be in this line, if not God, as mentioned in the title.

This poem is saying that the speaker made a mistake at some point in the past, and it resulted in great sadness. Either as a result of the mistake or as resentment from the pain, the speaker replaced his tears with a lifeless condition – so as to not feel the pain again. This notes irony in the title, because if the “you” is God, then the speaker is in resentment of being made known to God, because it was not His love that brought the speaker there.

Amendments

Town of Finding Out About the Love of God (abby)

There should be some consideration of "God" since he is in the title. It sounds like the character in the poem is going on a journey and since he is "Finding out about the love of God" somehow he is most likely going to be going on a pilgrimage or some kind of travel that would enhance his knowledge of God. This is something he wants, because he is prepared (suitcase, eggs=food). Also, he has "made mistakes" before, so that must mean he either has not been a "christian" all his life or he is changing his ways now.

Town of Finding Out About the Love of God (tiffany)

I agree with Monte in that the mistake the speaker of the poem made was definitely in the past and provoked the present situation. It is my supposition that this "mistake" is the previous shunning of God and His love. "Now my suitcase is ready" does allude to a journey. I get a picture of someone dressed in a suit, a suitcase packed with Bibles, ready to go out and spread the Word because he/she has been enlightened. Totally reminds me of those people who go door to door informing people about various religions and faiths. Monte's allusion to "stagnant" and "mutilated life" could definitely work in this context. Interesting interpretation. I likened the hardboiled eggs with eyes, since there are two.

Being constantly open denotes continuous, unwavering sight; taking everything in through sight is important during journeys, right? "My eyes were. / Like a currant. / Carrying a twig." I agree with Monte in that the current signifies tears flowing from the speaker's eyes in the past (perhaps during enlightenment, the finding out about the love of God?). The idea that this river is carrying a twig suggests that the river is supporting the twig (since it's floating) and yet, a twig in a current would be flailing around, in need of a savior. "The sobbing made me. / Audible to you." This ties in with the idea of crying (out). The acceptance of God made Him audible to the speaker of the poem. This is where the connection with God occurred.

Town of Finding Out About the Love of God (tom)

I have a hard time placing the title in the Poem also. Perhaps the title is sarcastic and the speaker is really venting some frustrated bitterness. I think the hardboiled eggs here have replaced the eyes. I'm not sure what they represent, eggs as eyes but I feel that this is what is going on. Then again the eyes could be sobbing eyes flowing like a current and thus the speaker comes to sense God's love somehow in a time of sadness. This is one of the more difficult poems to pin down.

Town of Finding Out About the Love of God (mike)

I'm not sure if I'm buying the two hard boiled eggs as suitcases. Not only is the sterilization and extreme mutation of symbolized in the eggs but I think that the eggs stored in her eye sockets are more a representation of her new outlook of her blindness and representation of her human ignorance. What journey is it that she is going on, is this a pilgrimage being made, is she the twig in God's omnipotent current. The sobbing is probably prayers but it also could be the human pain and suffering that fills the world.

Town of Finding Out About the Love of God Amendment: (matt)

I think you could spend a little more time on the allusion to God in the poem, because although it could show resentment, it could also show repentance and acceptance. "The sobbing" made "Audible" could be admission of guilt and repentance rather than rejection. While I think Carson is more inclined towards irony when it comes to God, all interpretations should be examined because she also likes to leave things very open and ambiguous.

Town of Finding Out About the Love of God (craig)

The way that I read this poem is of a person that was left by a lover and could do nothing but lament the loss until the day this poem was written. At first, she apparently cried all the time over the lost lover, but has replaced her eyes with "hard boiled eggs", which suggests anger and callousness if "hard boiled" is read as two separate adjectives rather than a single noun. Or maybe she hasn't left this person yet, but relied on them for love until this point. Upon finding the love of God, she may have seen that this particular relationship was not worth while. Maybe she was abused. Maybe she became a nun. Anyway, during the relationship, only her crying got her noticed, so it must not have been a happy existence anyway. I would have to assume it was a situation in which a husband was abusive in an attempt to gain control over a woman (often the case) but would stop abuse when he saw that he was dominant, or she began to cry (a sign of weakness to an abuser). I fear that this also is all too common. Her eyes being like a current suggests the

regularity and force with which she cried.

Town of Finding Out About the Love of God (martin)

Your penchant for grammar strikes again. I agree with the past-perfect observation of the verb, and this does mean the mistake can't be continuing since it's in the past and completed in the past, so if Carson does mean it to be continuing, she picked the wrong verb. The mistake might be in the next line where it leads. Her packing her suitcase could be the mistake. Carson seems like the type who'd like travel based on her poetry in this book, so I figure she meant the mistake to be crying in front of those she was leaving. In the present, she's on her journey and wondering why she was ever sad at leaving what was there in her past. It's a making peace with herself type of poem. She was probably crying to a lover about saying bye to him, but the poem's title is about finding out about the love of God. Now, this does not mean she loves God, but just knows about it and how some people think about it. This learning is highly valued by the speaker. Just as a counter-read on the poem. I agree on the way Carson constructs her end punctuation and lines.

Town of Finding Out About the Love of God (marina)

Quite obviously as Monte rightly points out, there is a sense of going on a journey going on in this poem, perhaps a journey to finding out about the love of God, as the title suggests, for the journey does not actually have to be as literal as the hard-boiled eggs in one's suitcase. However their presence in someone's eye sockets not only makes for a creepy image but kind of suggests either blankness or death, I think, or maybe even drowning, which would then maybe paint an image of a dead body flowing in a river - a journey of death, that lasts until the body is found, kind of echoing the finding of the love of God. The sobbing then may reference the death and the current and the twig are also definitely river attributes, so I guess this crazy theory of mine kind of does have the right to exist, especially if one thinks about the river Styx with respect to death or even the fact that one gets to really meet God in Christianity after one's death.

Courtney (none)

Town of Finding Out About the Love of God (casey)

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Town of Finding Out About the Love of God (Allison)

In light of the past holiday, the hard boiled eggs reminded me of, well, coloring Easter eggs. It seemed to me this poem could be alluding rising of Jesus Christ, and, until Thomas had seen Jesus, he did not believe he had risen from the dead. I took the audible sobbing to you (who I interpreted as God too) to be a positive thing though. Like

somebody was weeping for forgiveness or something like that. I liked the connection between eyes and current because it could be read two different ways, "My eyes now see this way," or "The tears streaming down my face like a current." I also would have liked to see the "journey" mentioned, which I saw as either a pilgrimage or some kind of journey to God.