

Shanice Watters  
ENG360 English Lyric Poetry  
Professor Sue Talley  
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**Christian Themed Poetry**

***They are all Gone into the World of Light***  
**BY HENRY VAUGHAN**

They are all gone into the world of light!  
And I alone sit ling'ring here.  
Their very memory is fair and bright,  
And my sad thoughts doth clear.

It glows and glitters in my cloudy breast,  
Like stars upon some gloomy grove,  
Or those faint beams in which this hill is drest,  
After the sun's remove.

I see them walking in an air of glory,  
Whose light doth trample on my days:  
My days, which are at best but dull and hoary,  
Mere glimmering and decays.

O holy Hope! and high Humility,  
High as the heavens above!  
These are your walks, and you have show'd them me  
To kindle my cold love.

Dear, beauteous Death! the jewel of the just,  
Shining nowhere, but in the dark;  
What mysteries do lie beyond thy dust  
Could man outlook that mark!

He that hath found some fledg'd bird's nest, may know.  
At first sight, if the bird be flown;  
But what fair well or grove he sings in now,  
That is to him unknown.

And yet as angels in some brighter dreams  
Call to the soul, when man doth sleep:  
So, some strange thoughts transcend our wonted themes.  
And into glory peep.

If a star were confined into a tomb,  
Her captive flames must need burn there;  
But when the hand that lock'd her up, gives room,  
She'll shine through all the sphere.

O Father of eternal life, and all  
Created glories under thee!  
Resume thy spirit from this world of thrall  
Into true liberty.

Either disperse these mists, which blot and fill  
My perspective still as they pass,  
Or else remove me hence unto that hill,  
Where I shall need no glass.

### **Poem Explications**

The poem above is a beautiful representation of lyric poetry and I believe I choose this as my favorite poem because I could immediately identify with the elements discussed in class as a unit. However, the style of writing stood out and sparked my interest to read further. *'They are all gone into the world of light.'* By Henry Vaughan has ten stanzas which is set in four lines (quatrains) and uses an obvious rhyme of ABAB throughout the poem. Additionally, the meter that establishes this poem is iambic pentameter which is a line or verse with five metrical feet each consisting of one short syllable (unstressed) and a long syllable (stressed). At the glance of evidence, even though most of the lines are structured in this pattern they are moments where iambs are less, and the lines are written in Iambic trimeter (three feet instead of five).

Subsequently, the poem explains the despondency of the speaker to understand death and where his loved ones went? In the first stanza the reader would come across that he is lonely and the only comfort he can find is creating an image of the memories he once shared

with the people he loved. They are described as having gone, “into the world of light!” This is a clear reference to Heaven, a topic that is debatable within the speaker’s mind. It is not just the deaths of those he loved which bothers him, but the fact that he is still alive and may one day join them again. In the second stanza, the speaker reviews what the memories have on him. They are so strong that they become more than simple thoughts. They are images and visions made incarnate which follow him throughout the day. They are “glowing” with light and “glittering” within his “cloudy” or depressed, “breast.” The speaker compares the happy thoughts of better times to the stars which light up a “gloomy grove” within a forest.

Additionally, the memories he is fascinated with are becoming more real every day. They appear in his mind, and he sees them “walking in an air of glory.” Their extremely presence is so strong, that they eventually “trample” his days. They are worth much more to him than the sad experiences he is living out today. In stanza four, the speaker talks about “hope” and “humility.” The appreciate of having had the opportunity to share great memories with his loved ones is shown when he thanks God for where the “visions” came from. In the final lines of *‘They are all Gone into the World of Light’*, the speaker concludes by asking that God clear up the misunderstanding of death or submit him to the afterlife. He is tired of doubting about desires and different perspective.