

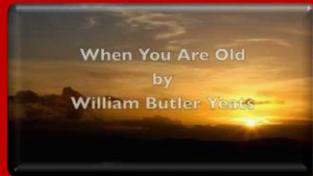
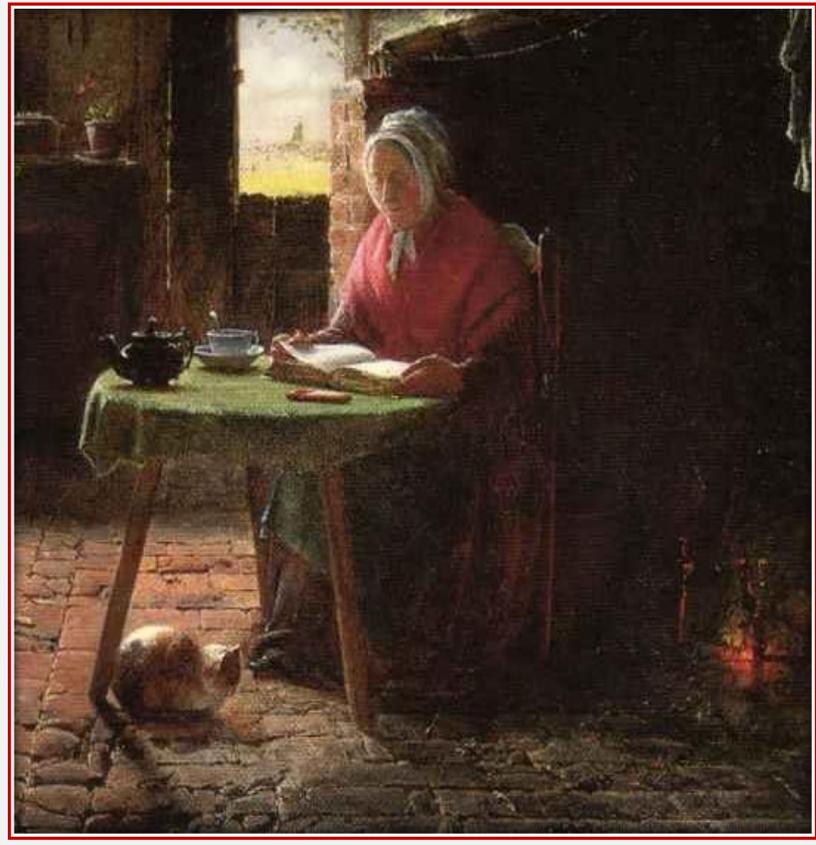
WILLIAM B. YEATS
incontra
FABRIZIO DE ANDRÈ

I FIORI DI MAGGIO



BABYLON
Lingue Straniere

by Riccardo Zambon



WHEN YOU ARE OLD

By William Butler Yeats, 1892

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

And bending down beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.



W.B. Yeats 1865-1939

QUANDO SARAI VECCHIA

Quando sarai vecchia e grigia, e assonnata,
col capo tremolante accanto al fuoco
prenderai questo libro.
E lentamente lo leggerai, e ricorderai sognando
dello sguardo che i tuoi occhi ebbero allora,
delle loro profonde ombre.

Di quanti amaronò la grazia felice di quei tuoi momenti
e, d'amore falso o a volte sincero, amaronò la tua bellezza.
Ma uno solo amò di te l'anima irrequieta,
uno solo allora amò le pene del volto tuo che muta.

E chinandoti sui ceppi ardenti,
sarai un poco triste mentre mormorerai
di come l'Amore se ne volò via
e oltrepassò in volo questi alti monti
e per sempre poi il volto suo nascose in una folla di stelle

STANZA 1

The poem begins "When you are old..." rather than "Now that you are old..." which suggests that **it is a warning**, and he refers to a future time. The poet wants the addressee, after she has become aged (old and grey) and is «full of sleep» to **take down this book** (He projects that his poem will appear in a collection of his published poems), read his poem and **think back on his love for her**.

Reading, then, these words, **she begins to dream about the past** and her own youth in a self-reflective way. nodding by the fire = *seduta accanto al fuoco col capo tremolante*. He asks her to remember the "soft look / [Her] eyes had once," but he also wants her to remember "their shadows." His love for her would remain unfulfilled, especially because those shadows were "deep."

STANZA 2

The second stanza is **descriptive of her dream of the past**. The poet then refers to the situation that is galling him, that many more men have "love[d] [her] moments of glad grace" and they have also loved her beauty (with love sometimes false, sometimes true). **These lines work to contrast** those who loved these general aspects of her with **the only "one man"** who loved her pilgrim soul.

He alone can "love the pilgrim soul" she is and, no doubt, will continue to be. He loves her inner beauty as well as her outer beauty. This suggests **a love willing to journey into age** as a companion with her, still loving the "sorrows" of her "changing face" as she shifts through the years.

STANZA 3

In the final quatrain, the dream continues and **the poet dramatizes the future moment** when she will be reading this heartfelt poem addressed to her, and it will make her sad as she bends down to tend to the fire "down beside the glowing bars" (*chinandoti sui ceppi ardenti*) perhaps seeking warmth or comfort. She murmurs, "a little sadly".

He foretells that she will "murmur" in her melancholy that "Love fled / And paced upon the mountains overhead / And hid his face amid a crowd of stars". From this concrete image the dream again expands, and we see Love, capitalized as an absolute, fleeing into mountainous distances: fled and paced

She did not accept the love when it was offered to her, and **it escaped like smoke** that rises and dissipates into thin air. His face hid "amid a crowd of stars" an abstract image issuing from a more concrete description of loneliness and regret. **He wants her feel sad now for what she will have lost** if she does not recognize and reciprocate his love.



The Nobel Prize in Literature 1923 was awarded to William Butler Yeats "*for his always inspired poetry, which in a highly artistic form gives expression to the spirit of a whole nation.*"



YEATS'S MUSE AND UNREQUITED LOVE: MAUD GONNE

The two first met in London in 1889 Yeats was immediately infatuated with her and the two spent a lot of time together. Gonne left London after just nine days but it was enough time for Yeats to have fallen madly in love with her. She was the inspiration for much of Yeats poetry.

Yeats proposed marriage in 1891 but was rejected. He vowed to win her round and had proposed to her another three times by the early 1900s. Each time he was rejected and his heart was broken in 1903 when she agreed to marry another man. Gonne wed Major John McBride but their marriage was short lived. They had a son together but separated shortly after the birth.

Gonne continued her contact with Yeats throughout this period and the two finally had a night of passion together in Paris in 1908, though Gonne again insisted that there would be no relationship between them.



W.B. Yeats 1865-1939



F. De André 1940-1999

VALZER PER UN AMORE (1969)

When you are old...

Quando carica d'anni e di castità
Tra **i ricordi e le illusioni** and dream of...

Del bel tempo che non ritornerà

Troverai le mie canzoni

Take down this book...

Nel sentirle ti meraviglierai

Che **qualcuno abbia lodato**

Le bellezze che allor più non avrai

E che avesti nel tempo passato

How many loved ...with love false or true

Ma non ti servirà il ricordo

Non ti servirà

Che per **piangere il tuo rifiuto**

Del mio amore che non tornerà

Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled

Ma non ti servirà più a niente

Non ti servirà

Che per piangere sui tuoi occhi

Che nessuno più canterà

(2 volte)

paced upon the mountains overhead

Vola il tempo lo sai che vola e va

Forse non ce ne accorgiamo

Ma più ancora del tempo che non ha età

Siamo noi che ce ne andiamo

your changing face

E per questo ti dico amore, amor

lo t'attenderò ogni sera

Ma tu vieni non aspettare ancor

Vieni adesso finché è primavera



LOVE



BEAUTY

HOPE

TIME

SADNESS

OLD AGE

REGRET

DEATH

HOW DID THEY MEET?

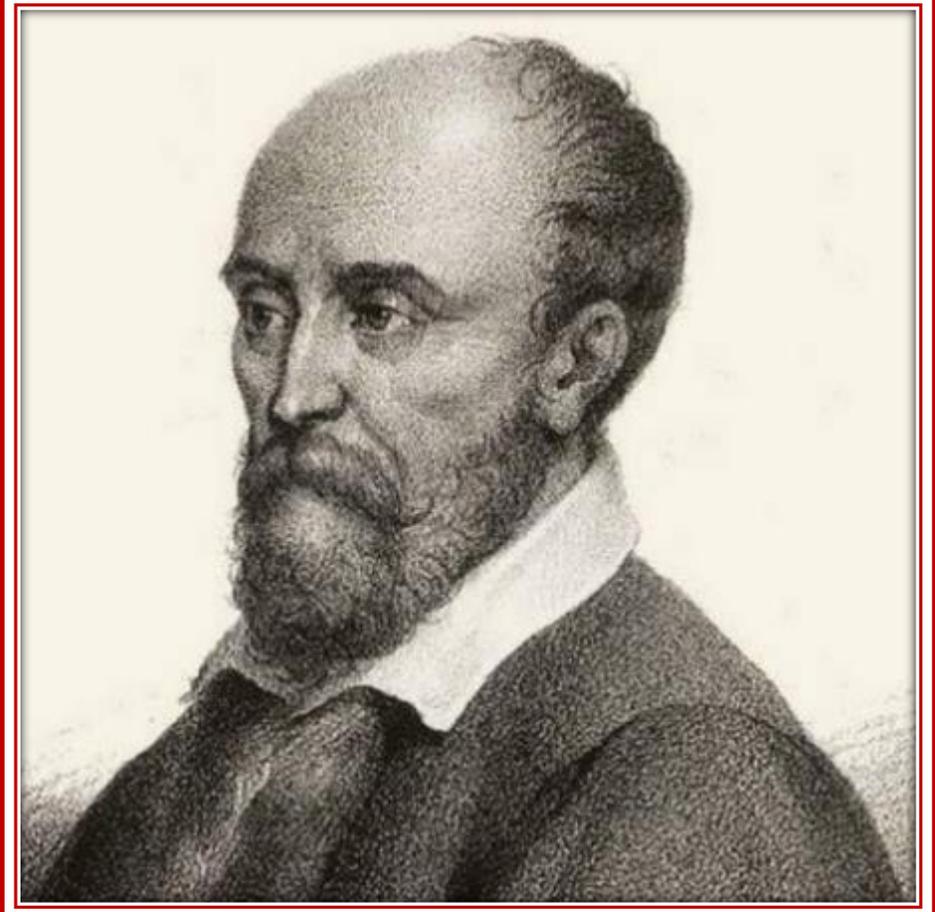
Pierre de Ronsard - Sonnet

Quand vous serez bien vieille, au soir, à la chandelle,
Assise auprès du feu, dévidant et filant,
Direz, chantant mes vers, en vous émerveillant :
" Ronsard me célébrait du temps que j'étais belle. "

Lors, vous n'aurez servante oyant telle nouvelle,
Déjà sous le labeur à demi sommeillant,
Qui au bruit de Ronsard ne s'aïlle réveillant,
Bénissant votre nom de louange immortelle.

Je serai sous la terre, et fantôme sans os
Par les ombres myrteux je prendrai mon repos ;
Vous serez au foyer une vieille accroupie,

Regrettant mon amour et votre fier dédain.
Vivez, si m'en croyez, n'attendez à demain :
Cueillez dès aujourd'hui les roses de la vie.



Pierre de Ronsard

French poet 1524-1585

**Quand Vous Serez Bien Vieille,
« Sonnets Pour Helene » (1578)**

Quando sarai vecchia, alla sera, alla candela,
seduta di fianco al fuoco, avvolgendo e filando,
ricanterai le mie poesie, meravigliandoti:
Ronsard mi lodava al tempo in cui ero bella.

Allora, non avrete serva che ascolti tale novella,
già **mezzo addormentata** per la fatica,
che al suono di Ronsard non si svegli,
benedicendo il vostro nome di lode immortale.

Io sarò sottoterra, e, fantasma senza ossa,
tra le ombre di mirto prenderò il mio riposo:
tu sarai **al focolare una vecchia accovacciata.**

Rammarico del mio amore e del tuo orgoglioso disprezzo.

Vivi, se mi credi, **non aspettare a domani:**

Cogli oggi le rose della vita.

LIFE AND WORKS

1865	William Butler Yeats b. 13 June, Sandymount, Co. Dublin, the eldest child of John Butler Yeats and Susan Yeats Pollexfen.
1867	The Yeats family moves to London (July).
1881	Family returns to Ireland and settles at Howth, nr. Dublin (Summer).
1884	WBY enrolls at Metropolitan School of Art, Dublin (May).
1885	WBY publishes first poems in Dublin University Review (April).
1887	WBY returns to London with family (April)..
1888	WBY meets George Bernard Shaw; meets Lady Wilde (Oscar's mother (Sept.). Fairy and Folk Tales of the Irish Peasantry (1888) edited by WBY. WBY spends Christmas Day by Oscar and Constance Wilde.
1889	The Wanderings of Oisín and Other Poems (Jan. 1889). He meets Maud Gonne
1891	Representative Irish Tales (1891), edited by WBY. John Sherman and Dhoya (Nov. 1891), [two novellas].
1892	Irish Fairy Tales (May 1892), ed. WBY; WYB and others found Irish Literary Society, Dublin (August). The Countess Kathleen and Various Legends and Lyrics (August 1892). WYB writes "When you are old" (publ. 1893 in The Rose)
1893	The Works of William Blake (Jan./Feb. 1893), ed. by WBY with Edwin Ellis. The Poems of William Blake (Nov. 1893), ed. by WBY. The Celtic Twilight (Dec. 1893), stories & prose pieces.
1894	The Land of Heart's Desire is produced privately in London (March).
1895	A Book of Irish Verse (March 1895), ed. by WBY; Poems (August).
1897	The Secret Rose and The Adoration of the Magi (April / June 1897), stories.
1899	The Wind Among the Reeds (April 1899), poems.
1900	His mother dies (Jan.).
1901	Diarmuid and Grania , originally planned with George Moore, staged in Dublin (Oct.).
1902	WBY meets James Joyce (Summer). The Pot of Broth staged by Irish National Theatre Society (Oct./Nov.1902). Where There is Nothing (Nov. 1902).

1903	Ideas of Good and Evil (May 1903), essays. In the Seven Woods (August 1903), poems. WBY leaves for first lecture tour in USA (Nov.).
1904	WBY returns from America (March). Where There is Nothing produced by Stage Society (June).
1905	WBY occupied with theatre business & lecturing
1907	WBY's father settles permanently in New York .
1910	The Green Helmet and Other Poems (Dec. 1910).
1911	WBY Meets Ezra Pound in Paris (April). WBY meets his future wife George ["Georgie"] Hyde Lees [GHL] (May).
1912	The Cutting of an Agate (Nov. 1912), essays.
1913	Poems written in Discouragement (Oct. 1913). WBY rents Stone Cottage in Ashdown Forest , Sussex , with Ezra Pound as his secretary (Nov.).
1914	WBY leaves for USA lecture tour (Jan.). Responsibilities (May 1914), poems.
1915	At Stone Cottage with Ezra and Dorothy Pound (Jan.-Feb.). WBY refuses a British knighthood (Dec.).
1916	Reveries over Childhood and Youth (March 1916), autobiography. At the Hawk's Well , first of his Noh plays, produced privately in London (April).
1917	WBY marries GHL [henceforth GY]. Honeymoons in Ashdown Forest ; GY begins automatic writing (Oct.). WBY and GY [henceforth Yeatses] move to Stone Cottage; The Wild Swans at Coole (Nov. 1917), poems. Yeatses move to London but return to Sussex during Zeppelin raids.
1918	Yeats move to Oxford (Jan.). Per Amica Silentia Lunae (Jan. 1918), an essay.
1919	Two Plays for Dancers (Jan. 1919). A dg. Anne born to the Yeatses in Dublin (Feb.).
1920	Yeatses leave for lecture tour in USA (Jan.).
1921	Michael Robartes and the Dancer (Feb. 1921). A son Michael born to the Yeatses at Thame in Oxfordshire. (August) Four Plays for Dancers (Oct. 1921). Four Years (Dec. 1921), autobiography.
1922	His father dies in New York (Feb.). WBY receives Honorary degree from Trinity College , Dublin (July). The Trembling of the Veil (Oct. 1922), autobiography. WBY appointed to the Irish Seanad [Senate] (Dec.).

1923	WBY awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature (Nov.). Plays and Controversies (Nov. 1923), plays and essays. Gives Nobel Prize acceptance speech at Stockholm (Dec.).
1924	Essays (May 1924).
1925	Yeatses in Italy , where WBY completes "The Gates of Pluto" and "Dedication" for A Vision.
1928	The Tower (Feb. 1928). O'Casey's The Silver Tassie rejected by WBY for the Abbey (June). WBY resigns from Seanad (Sept.). The Winding Stair (Oct. 1928), poems.
1929	A Packet for Ezra Pound (June 1929).
1931	WBY finishes revising A Vision (publ. 1937). WBY makes his first radio broadcast for BBC in Belfast (Sept.).
1932	Yeatses move to his last Irish home, Riversdale at Rathfarnham (July). WBY leaves for his last US lecture tour (Oct.). Words for Music Perhaps (Nov. 1932), poems.
1933	WBY becomes involved with Blueshirts [Fascists] in Dublin (July-August). The Winding Stair and Other Poems (Sept. 1933), incorporating The Winding Stair (1929) and Words for Music Perhaps and Other Poems (1932). Collected Poems (Nov 1933.)
1934	Wheels and Butterflies (Nov. 1934), essays and plays. Collected Plays (Nov. 1934).
1935	A Full Moon in March (Nov. 1935). Dramatis Personae (Dec. 1935), autobiography. Yeatses In Majorca; WBY working with Sri Purohit Swami on translation of Upanishads (pub. 1937).
1936	WBY collapses, GY summoned to Majorca ; WBY makes slow recovery (Jan.-April).
1937	The Ten Principal Upanishads (April 1937). Essays 1931-1936 (Dec. 1937). Irish Constitution adopted: Irish Free State becomes Éire (Dec.).
1938	New Poems (May 1938). Purgatory staged at the Abbey Theatre (August) - WBY's last public appearance . Yeatses leave for South of France (Nov.).
1939	WBY dies at Cap Martin (24 Jan.); buried at Roquebrune. Last Poems and Two Plays (July 1939). On the Boiler (Sept. 1939), essays. World War II begins(Sept.).

THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING!
GRAZIE DI AVER PARTECIPATO!
MERCİ DE VOTRE PARTICIPATION!

Riccardo Zambon



BABYLON
Lingue Straniere