

THE RETREAT

1. It is a metaphysical devotional poem by Henry Vaughan.
2. The poet expresses the glory of childhood and his earnest desire to step backward to his childhood. He says that in the time of angel infancy no sinful thought to stand in the way to his divine communion with god.
3. The poet wants to look forward to the heavenly bliss and peace which he knows very well that only childhood can confer upon him. So he wants to go back step to his pollution free childhood where there was no material pleasures and entertainments which can provoke him to do any further wrong.
4. The poet with broken heart yearns for that divine glorious state of childhood as he becomes very tired of his present profitable life. He feels horrible among this gross pleasures.
5. The word Retreat means a period of time when somebody stops his usual activities and goes to a quite place for prayer and thought.
6. The poet uses the word to express his point of view. Here he wants that kind of retreat where he can again

see the glorious train of angels in the shady city of palm trees. After a long painful journey he wants to go back to the original home heaven.

7. It is thirty two line poem which is contained within one stanza of text. The poet follows the scheme of aabbccdd....

8. The poem begins with the speaker mourning for the lost days of his youth. He longs to return to a time when he was in his angel infancy.

9. In the present time he worries about his own emotions and the sinful nature of them. He is concerned over his own being in a way which was not even considered when he was young.

10. Finally the speaker describes the end of his life and how he will return to the dust of the earth. This will be penultimate ending for a man who longs for his previous life.

11. The author uses the theme of pre-existence as souls in heaven before we are born and the theme of innocence and purity by retreating to being a baby.

