

A decorative border with intricate floral and vine patterns in a light grey color, framing the text. The border is composed of swirling vines, leaves, and circular floral motifs.

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Assignment: 02

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Question 1 – Poetry

Worthless

I'm broken inside and can't feel.
The damage is done, I can barely breathe.
Ripped apart and torn to pieces,
My once strong heart is now deceased.

I keep recalling the messages in my head,
Making me wish that I was dead.
So much of anger, so filled with hate.
I must be the reason for our love to dissipate.

I never wanted it to end this way,
theres so much more i needed to say.
but i guess he just had enough of me,
even after apologising immensely.

So here I am alive, yet dead inside.
All I know, my best, I have tried.
Left feeling completely worthless.
Falling apart and still nobody notices....

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Image of poem from www.poetrysoup.com

In this essay, I am going to discuss the poem entitled *Worthless* which was written by the poet Sasha Maharaj. The poem was published in 2016 and focuses on the emotional devastation faced by the poet as her relationship ended. Below, I will examine how the poet uses language and poetic devices to illustrate the destructive effect of her broken relationship on her emotional state, as it has on many people. The poem consists of four quatrains. The rhyme scheme for each quatrain is AABB. The title of the poem is a single word,

which may have been deliberately used to place emphasis on the overall theme of the poem. The word worthless is an adjective which is used to describe a person or object that lacks value. When used to describe a person, it usually carries a negative connotation along with its negative denotation. In the poem, the speaker describes herself as worthless and writes about why she feels this way.

In stanza one, the speaker uses hyperbole several times, to emphasise her emotional state. Examples of such are “broken inside”, “ripped apart” and “now deceased”. None of these terms have literal meanings in the context of the poem, but are used as tropes to highlight the speaker’s feelings. The use of words such as ‘broken’, ‘damage’, ‘ripped’, and ‘torn’ create a mood of despair and melancholy. It creates the imagery of the aftermath of a violent event that has resulted in catastrophic levels of destruction, such as a war. The speaker describes her emotional trauma in terms of physical occurrences. In line two, “I can barely breathe”, tells us that the speaker is being suffocated by her misery. The speaker chose to use the word ‘deceased’ instead of ‘dead’. Normally this would be interpreted as a euphemism; however, it is not the case here. The speaker is not trying to be gentle or polite in her description of the situation. An alternative interpretation of the implied sense of eloquence may be an indication of her level of maturity. She shows that she isn’t just a scorned lover or a little child writing about a lost love, she is a woman who has had her emotions destroyed.

In stanza two, the speaker conveys her feelings of self-loathing, self-blame, anger, hatred and regret. In lines one and two, she conveys that her memories taunt her and make her wish that she was dead. In line two, the messages which she mentions, could refer to messages that she received from her lover, which may have been nasty and leads to her feeling worthless, hence wishing that she was dead. Alternatively it could refer to messages that she had sent to her lover, which were too harsh on him and due to her feelings of regret, she wishes she was dead. Examining lines three and four, it is difficult to ascertain which of the above scenarios, is the more plausible one. The anger and hatred spoken of in line three could have come from either or both parties. In line four, she takes the blame upon herself, claiming that she “must be the reason for their love to dissipate”. This may lead the reader to find the latter scenario is more plausible; however, it is important to note that she uses the words “must be” rather than “am”. This statement could also be interpreted as bitter irony, in which case she blames her lover for the dissolution of their relationship and for her current state. This ambiguity in this stanza provides another insight into the speaker’s emotional state, as she experiences various emotions. Again, she uses the words “recalling” and “dissipate” in place of simpler words, indicating her maturity. The use of these words also provides emphasis on the scale of the emotions that she is experiencing.

In stanza three, the speaker tells us that she tried her best to save her broken relationship. The theme of worthlessness starts to come into focus in this stanza. The speaker continues to convey her feelings of regret for not having been able to restore her relationship. In line one, she states, “I never wanted it to end this way”. Here the writer could mean that she did not want the relationship to end on a bad note, or at all. It could also mean that she may have expected the events to occur differently, perhaps in a more pleasant way. The use of alliteration in line two, ‘much more’, serves to highlight the magnitude of her repressed feelings and her regret for not saying what she wanted to. In line three, the word “I” is not capitalized as it normally is. This could be an attempt to emphasise the speaker’s feelings of worthlessness. The use of the word “immensely” in line four emphasises the measure of the speaker’s apologeticness. The rhyming words at the end of each stanza, highlights the speaker’s message that her efforts to mend the relationship were in vain.

In the last stanza, the speaker starts off with a paradox, ‘so here I am alive, yet dead inside’. This line serves to further emphasise the intensity of her pain and suffering. “Inside” refers not to her physical body, but her mental and emotional self. The constant reference to death and destruction tells us that the relationship is now irredeemable. In line two, the syntax is changed. Normally it would read, ‘All I know, I have tried my best’, however, the reordering of the words in this line serves to highlight the mental instability of the speaker, due to her ordeal. Line three makes a powerful statement as it is here that the speaker sums up the entire theme of the poem in a single line. This line ties together the rest of the poem which was a build up to this climax. Everything that she has experienced until now has led to her feeling “completely worthless”. In the final line, the speaker tells us that she is “falling apart”. This assertion further advocates that her mental self is

disintegrating from the emotional turmoil. She goes on to state, 'still nobody notices', which indicates that the speaker is also experiencing feeling of neglect and isolation. It could also mean that her outward appearance is like that of a mask, hiding the true pain and misery beneath. She ends the line off with an ellipsis which is used to make the reader ponder over the points in poem.

Throughout the poem, the speaker takes the reader through each emotion and uses several poetic devices to create emphasis and to convey the magnitude of the speaker's emotions. Through the use of strong emotive words and a variety of figures of speech, the speaker evokes the reader's emotions. She successfully conveys her feelings throughout the poem. She is able to draw the reader into her mind, allowing the reader to view things from her perspective. The speaker gives the reader a "front row seat" into the depths of her mind and misery, ultimately providing the reader with a view of what can be experienced when a relationship ends.

(1183 words)

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Signature 

Date: 06/09/2015

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