

Frank Lentricchia: On "Desert Places"

Probably no poem of Frost's so well accommodates the wide emotive swings of self which he probed from early on in his career. In "Desert Places" we watch the speaker go to the brink in his projection; then he comes back to normality, withdraws from dark vision, and rests in the stability of a balanced ironic consciousness. As well as any poem of dark vision that he wrote, "Desert Places" gives evidence of Frost's ability to achieve aesthetic detachment from certain sorts of destructive experience.

. . . .

The figure in "Desert Places," . . . understands that he "scare[s himself] with [his] own desert places"--that the desert places belong peculiarly to him because they are projections of the self.

From Robert Frost: *Modern Poetics and the Landscapes of Self*. Copyright © 1975 by Duke University Press.

Publication Status:

Excerpted Criticism [1]

Publication:

- Private group -

Criticism Target:

Robert Frost [2]

Author:

Frank Lentricchia [3]

Poem:

Desert Places [4]

Source URL: <http://modernamericanpoetry.org/criticism/frank-lentricchia-desert-places>

Links

[1] <http://modernamericanpoetry.org/category/publication-status/excerpted-criticism>

[2] <http://modernamericanpoetry.org/poet/robert-frost>

[3] <http://modernamericanpoetry.org/creator/frank-lentricchia>

[4] <http://modernamericanpoetry.org/poem/desert-places>