

William H. Pritchard: On "Never Again Would Birds' Song Be The Same"

Though it is probably wrong to speak either of wildness or a "joke" in relation to "Never Again Would Birds' Song. . .," still the "eloquence so soft" with which Frost unrolls this quietest and most discreet of his sonnets, has about it the air of a tour de force. Like his heroine Eve, he has added "an oversound" to the world of created sounds--bird calls, love calls, sonnets, in which he lives. The sonnet's cunning phrasing, with its artfully polite phrases--"Admittedly," "Moreover," "Be that as may be," all at the beginning of lines--suggests the impressive blend of delicacy and firmness with which the case is made for Eve's persistence in song. . . .

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