

The Soldier by Rupert Brooke

The poem *The Soldier* is a wonderful sonnet in which the poet glorifies the England during the First World War. He speaks in the guise of an English soldier as he is living home to go to war. The poem represents the patriotic ideals that characterised pre-war England. It portrays death for one country as a noble end and England as the noblest country for which to die. In the first stanza, the octave of the sonnet the poet talks about how his grave will be England herself, and what it should remind the listeners of England when they see the grave. In the second stanza, the sestet, he talks about this death (sacrifice for England) as redemption, he will become a pulse in the eternal mind. He concludes that only life will be the appropriate thing to give to his great motherland in return for all the beautiful and the great things she has given to him, and made him what he is. The soldier-speaker of the poem seeks to find redemption through sacrifice in the name of the country.

The speaker begins by addressing the reader, and speaking to them in the imperative: “think only this of me”. This sense of immediacy establishes the speaker’s romantic attitude towards death in duty. He

suggests that the reader should not mourn. Whichever corner of the field becomes his grave; it will also become forever England. He will have left a moment in England in a foreign land, figuratively, transforming a foreign soil to England. The suggestion that English dust must be richer represents a real attitude that the people of Victorian period actually had.

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The speaker implies that England is mother to him. His love for England and his willingness to sacrifice is equivalent to a son's love for his mother.