

## Lady Lazarus

I have done it again,  
One year in every ten  
I manage it----

**Comment [S(1)]:** The use of **repetition** of certain phrases throughout the poem accentuates the persona's constant struggle against living.

A sort of walking miracle, my **skin**  
Bright as a Nazi lampshade,  
My right foot

**Comment [S(2)]:** **Skin**: There is a recurring references to the persona's external appearance. Most of the words used to describe her appearance are used with words that accentuate the lack of identity.

A paperweight,  
My face a **featureless**, fine  
Jew **linen**.

**Comment [S(3)]:** The word **linen** here gives the impression of a rough and blank surface as the feature of her face. She compares her face with this material which further accentuates the lack of identity the persona has.

Peel off the napkin  
O my enemy.  
Do I terrify?----

The **nose**, the **eye pits**, the full set of **teeth**?  
The sour **breath**  
Will vanish in a day.

**Comment [S(4)]:** The descriptions of the persona are simple and generic. This shows how similar and not special she is compared to others. The features described are all common between everyone else. The sour breath is a specific description is isolated from the other generic descriptions. However, the difference is soon to vanish in one day, which gives the impression that her individuality is slowly fading away.

Soon, soon the **flesh**  
The grave cave ate will be  
At home on me

And I a smiling woman.  
I am only thirty.  
And like the cat I have nine times to die.

This is Number Three.  
What a trash  
To annihilate each decade.

What a million filaments.  
The peanut-crunching crowd  
Shoves in to see

Them unwrap me **hand** and **foot**  
The big **strip** tease.  
Gentlemen, ladies

**Comment [S(5)]:** The use of hand and foot here to describe the persona gives the impression of a complete revelation from top to bottom. The exposure of the character is accentuated through the use of hand and foot.

These are my hands  
My knees.  
I may be **skin** and **bone**,

**Comment [S(6)]:** The words skin and bone emphasize the emptiness the persona is experiencing. There isn't anything between the internal and external of the persona. Creates the image of a lifeless skeleton, rotting away after death.

Nevertheless, I am the **same, identical** woman.  
The first time it happened I was ten.  
It was an accident.

The second time I meant  
To last it out and not come back at all.  
I rocked shut

As a seashell.  
They had to call and call  
And pick the worms off me like sticky pearls.

Dying  
Is an art, like everything else,  
I do it exceptionally well.

I do it so it feels like hell.  
I do it so it feels real.  
I guess you could say I've a call.

It's easy enough to do it in a cell.  
It's easy enough to do it and stay put.  
It's the theatrical

Comeback in broad day  
To the same place, the same face, the same brute  
Amused shout:

'A miracle!'  
That knocks me out.  
There is a charge

For the eyeing of my scars, there is a charge  
For the hearing of my heart----  
It really goes.

And there is a charge, a very large charge  
For a word or a touch  
Or a bit of blood

Or a piece of my hair or my clothes.  
So, so, Herr Doktor.  
So, Herr Enemy.

I am your opus,  
I am your valuable,  
The pure gold baby

That melts to a shriek.  
I turn and burn.  
Do not think I underestimate your great concern.

Ash, ash ---  
You poke and stir.  
Flesh, bone, there is nothing there----

A cake of soap,  
A wedding ring,  
A gold filling.

Herr God, Herr Lucifer  
Beware  
Beware.

Out of the ash  
I rise with my red hair  
And I eat men like air.

**Comment [S(7)]:** The repetition of the word same emphasizes the lack of change of the persona despite the major events within the Persona's life. The lack of change makes the persona seem frustrated, emphasized by repeating the same word.

**Comment [S(8)]:** Blood could be here as a symbol for her suffering or life. As in relation with the whole poem, there is a lack of life in the descriptions of the persona. Which explains the "bit" of blood that precedes the blood.

**Comment [S(9)]:** The persona is compared to ash. Ash is what is left after a fire, they are the remains of what is left behind. The comparison between the faceless, dull, grayness of the persona indicates current feelings of being left behind.

**Comment [S(10)]:** Someone is attempting to find something within the remains of the persona perhaps in an attempt to deceive the persona that there really is something in there.

**Comment [S(11)]:** The word flesh is referenced specifically here as compared to above during the time when she compares herself with skin and bone, specific reference by Plath that her flesh is no longer there. Flesh is used in this context as perhaps the essence of her life.