

## Soliloquy of the Solipsist

I?  
I walk alone;  
The midnight street  
Spins itself from under my feet;  
When my eyes shut  
These dreaming houses all snuff out;  
Through a whim of mine  
Over gables the moon's celestial onion  
Hangs high.

I  
Make houses shrink  
And trees diminish  
By going far; my look's leash  
Dangles the puppet-people  
Who, unaware how they dwindle,  
Laugh, kiss, get drunk,  
Nor guess that if I choose to blink  
They die.

I  
When in good humor,  
Give grass its green  
Blazon sky blue, and endow the sun  
With gold;  
Yet, in my wintriest moods, I hold  
Absolute power  
To boycott any color and forbid any flower  
To be.

I  
Know you appear  
Vivid at my side,  
Denying you sprang out of my head,  
Claiming you feel  
Love fiery enough to prove flesh real,  
Though it's quite clear  
All your beauty, all your wit, is a gift, my dear,  
From me.

### Comment [S(1):

Yellow: personal singular nouns, possessive adjectives, possessive pronouns  
Green: verbs – shows the activity present in the section  
Red: images of her power  
Light blue: color images

**Comment [S(2):** Opening with the question of who the persona is foregrounds the main focus of the section. That being the persona who is a solipsist. Furthermore, every stanza starts with "I" by itself and this also brings the focus of the poem to the persona and structurally shows a separation between the persona and the rest of the stanza.

**Comment [S(3):** Sense of solitude and a strong pride in being alone. Furthermore, the description of how the street "spins itself from under my feet" and houses "snuff[ing] out" create an illusory image and a dreamlike scene. The fact that the houses are described as "dreaming" exemplifies this dreamy image Plath tries to portray.

**Comment [S(4):** Contrast between simple action with harsh consequences. Through something as menial as a whim, even the moon will be created and will hang high in the sky. Furthermore, in the next stanza, through the simple act of blinking, the result is the death of the "puppet-people".

**Comment [S(5):** Emphasis of how such a menial task like blinking leads to a harsh result of death. This contributes to the sense of power that the persona believes she holds.

**Comment [S(6):** The natural images in this stanza is used to accentuate the persona's power since the colors of nature, the green grass, blue sky and the gold sun are "endow[ed]" by the persona and shows that her power stretches to the realms of nature

**Comment [S(7):** This enjambment of "Absolute power" and "To be." Clearly separates them from the rest of the stanza and draws emphasis on the power she holds even to nature

**Comment [S(8):** In the last stanza, a new character is introduced and this is her lover who denies to be a mere creation of the persona and the intensity of his love for her is accentuated through the line "love fiery enough to prove flesh real". The "fiery love" emphasizes the intensity of his passion and compares it with that of a flame. However, the persona denies this and believes that it is evident that everything her lover possesses is all a "gift" from her.